

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MOSAICS

Commencement May 11, 2013

Commencement, Student
Awards and Rho Kappa

8



Housing is a Basic Human Right

Kelly Patterson on fair and
affordable housing policy

10



Indigenizing Academies

Promoting Native
American presence in
higher education

4



Community Leadership Award

Sister Janet DiPasquale
creates family at TRY

13



Faculty Awards and Appointments

Yunju Nam, associate professor, was awarded the Best Poster Award (co-authored with J. Huang) at the 20th International Association of Gerontology and Geriatric World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Nam was also selected for this year's BCSR's Excellence in Research Award for her work on the SEED OK project featured in the Spring 2012 issue of Mosaics.

CSWE Commissioners: **Barbara Rittner** was appointed to the Research Commission for a second three-year term, **Nancy J. Smyth** was invited to serve on the new Committee on Human Rights and **Laura Lewis** was appointed to the Council on Field Education, a council of the Commission on Educational Policy.



Ana Niculaes, a lecturer at Pedagogical State University in Chisinau, Moldova and a Carnegie Research Fellow, spent the spring semester 2013 as an affiliate visiting professor at the School.

Promotions

Assistant Professor **Yunju Nam** was recently promoted to associate professor. Her dedication to increasing understanding about asset building capacity and social welfare policies has made her an invaluable resource to not only the School but to Buffalo's individuals and families living in poverty as well as the region's growing immigrant and refugee populations. She has extensively researched and published on these issues and has a popular podcast entitled "Asset-Based Policy: A New Direction in Social Welfare Policy."



Podcast: "Asset-Based Policy: A New Direction in Social Welfare Policy"

Orientation

This Fall's incoming class profile reflects the changing demographics of our programs. Twenty-five percent of all MSW applicants were non-residents of New York, including a growing number of international applicants. The MSW program enrolled the inaugural cohort of students into its newly approved part-time online MSW program. **Diane Elze**, MSW program director, noted, "We are starting small with a highly select group of students and will build over time. The online program offers all of the strengths of the MSW program, including affordability, to students with caregiving obligations, complex employment schedules or geographical distance from the UB campus."



Speaking on Violence on Public Radio:

Clinical Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care **Sue Green** was interviewed by Buffalo's NPR station following a domestic violence incident involving a man shooting his wife in the face before turning the gun on himself. Green told WBFO News, "It's normal for any one of us to want to try to make sense out of what just happened...and it's possible that we're not going to be able to do that unless we know the full story for each of these cases." The holidays, Green says, can be a risky time for partner violence because there can be more pressure on some individuals who can't handle that pressure. **Dean Nancy J. Smyth** and Clinical Associate Professor Sue Green were interviewed at length in a Social Work Today magazine article on the ways trauma-informed social work education is evolving in the wake of incidents like the December 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. "[W]hat we're learning from the trauma literature that is emerging is that there are specific interventions that a trauma patient needs," Dean Smyth observed.



Students Winning Awards

JD/MSW student **Bradley Loliger** was awarded an Elder Law Scholarship from the New York State Bar Association. Anthony Enea of Enea, Scanlan & Sirignano and chair of the Elder Law Section of the New York State Bar Association noted that Bradley has had a "passion and commitment to the rights of seniors and the disabled throughout his law school career while at the same time maintaining the highest academic standards. He truly embodies the prototype for the elder law attorney of the future."

Sarah Nesbitt, JD/MSW graduate, won the MSW student poster abstract award at the *Global Health and Well-Being: The Social Work Response* conference co-sponsored by Silver School of Social Work at New York University. Her poster title was "Addressing Mental Health Stigma Amongst Refugees From Burma."

President Barack Obama visited UB on Aug. 22 to announce reforms related to the cost of higher education.



MSW/PhD Program Admits First Students

PhD in Social Welfare Program Director **Lai-na Bay-Cheng** oversaw admission of the first cohort into the MSW/PhD Dual Degree Program. This program, intended for highly competitive MSW students interested in research careers, combines MSW and PhD studies into a five-year program for traditional students. They combined MSW and PhD required courses in advanced curriculum year of the MSW program before moving into full-time focused doctoral studies.



PhD student **Dieuveut Gaity** met **Les Brun** (BSW '74) and his family to, in part, say thank you for the donor-funded fellowship he receives that helps support his doctoral education.

FROM DEAN NANCY J. SMYTH

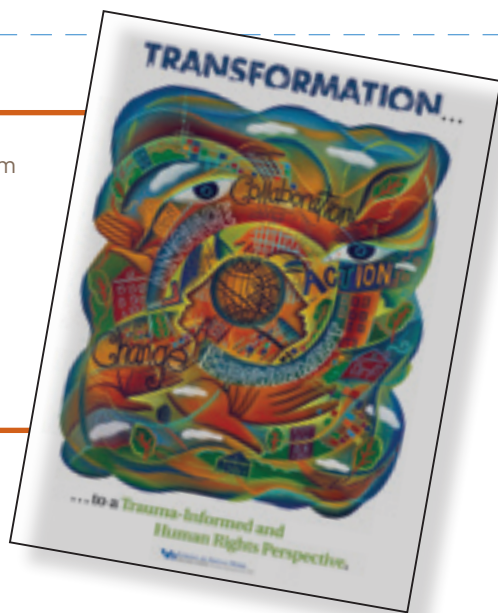
Excellence. It's a word often mentioned but rarely defined. Seth Godin, author, entrepreneur and marketing guru, proposes that being excellent means that you are "indispensable. At least right now, in this moment, there's no one else I would choose but you." Excellence, he continues, isn't about meeting a standard, it's about setting the standard. And he observes that in order to achieve excellence one doesn't create a written standard and then meet it. Instead, one needs to connect with others and change things for the better in a way that sets the standard -- that's excellence.

The end of our academic year includes many celebrations of excellence, some of which are highlighted here: outstanding alumni and students and faculty and staff. Every school celebrates these, but we think that our celebrants truly rise to the standard proposed by Godin. Each person has made a unique impact, one which sets a standard to which others then aspire. I am humbled when I hear the stories of the accomplishments of our alumni, our students, and our faculty and staff, knowing we are constantly setting standards of excellence for our profession. Our goal as a school is to provide education, research and service that is excellent, that is, that connects with others, changes things for the better, and sets the standard. And it's in the accomplishments of our community — alumni, students, faculty, staff and agency partners — that our excellence shines.



NANCY J. SMYTH, PHD, LCSW

"We transformed our MSW curriculum to a **Trauma-Informed and Human Rights Perspective** in 2009. After collecting feedback from our stakeholders, we captured the magnitude of this change in impact statements and an original image."



MOSAICS

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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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Photos c

INDIGENIZING ACADE

HILARY WEAVER AND SSW PLAY LARGE
ROLE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
TO PROMOTE NATIVE PRESENCE IN HIGHER
EDUCATION

They came to a roundtable from around the world — 24 academic representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States gathered on unceded Native land at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver for five days in May 2013 to discuss Indigenizing the International Academy.

Hilary Weaver, professor and associate dean for academic affairs in the UB School of Social Work, led the U.S. delegation as the school co-sponsored this landmark inaugural conference to explore the need to create a straighter path to universities worldwide for indigenous populations.

“This conference was planned with the four countries that were the most resistant to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” says Weaver, who was on the conference planning committee as a Co-PI. She terms the state of indigenizing universities in general as “pretty dismal.”

Weaver’s keynote address, “The Rez, the Ivory Tower and the Spaces In Between: Bridging Academia and Indigenous Communities,” portrayed universities as the proverbial ivory towers in terms of being very separate and hierarchical in their connections to communities, particularly indigenous ones.

Among the four nations present, New Zealand was acknowledged for its significant efforts in building this bridge with its indigenous people, the Maoris, although the connection has receded in recent years.

Weaver spotlighted UB for its bridge building 10 to 30 years ago. “There was a time when UB had more Native PhD graduates than any other university east of the Mississippi,” she says. “We have a tremendous record, but, like New Zealand, we have lost ground. I spoke of UB as a case example in my presentation and how the community had reached out to the university and engaged with it.”

She refers in particular to UB’s American Studies Program and indigenous scholars John Mohawk — a beloved campus figure who was an inspirational force behind the development of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian — and Barry White (both deceased), and Distinguished Service Professor Oren Lyons (retired).

“The fact that that has happened in the past gives us hope for the future that it really could be done, in spite of all the barriers,” Weaver declares.

A commitment of faculty to attracting indigenous students was also emphasized at the conference. “We need to have this holistic perspective — students are where faculty come from. It’s a pipeline issue. We’re part of the same system of indigenizing academies,” Weaver relates.

Students from the Canadian and Australian delegations attended the conference. “We talked about how to bring in more students and to make sure they are graduating. The graduation rates for Native students are abysmal. The support for Native culture in education at all levels is very, very mixed, and in some places there is no support whatsoever. We in higher education must be concerned with things at the primary education level or we will not get students who are prepared to engage with higher education. We see dropout rates that are astounding,” she observes.

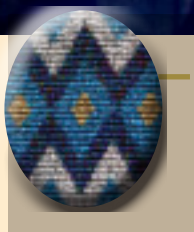
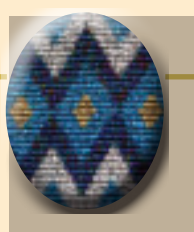
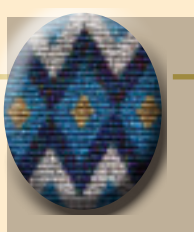
To that objective, Weaver will be developing an initiative over the next year for students who have the potential but have not had the opportunity of a strong educational background to prepare them for the rigors of a social work degree program. “I see this certainly with indigenous students and with many students of color, as well as with the refugee population in the community,” she notes.

“We are missing out on people who could add so much to our profession if there was some way that we could work with them. If we can combine social work training with their cultural knowledge and grassroots experience that they can take back to their communities, then we can make a difference.”

— JIM BISCO



“We need to have this
holistic perspective —
students are where faculty
come from. It’s a
pipeline issue.”





MIES

SOCIAL WORK AND NURSING, FUNDED BY A **UB 3E FUND GRANT**, ARE JOINING FORCES IN THE **UB PARTNERSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN VETERAN CARE (UBPEVC)** TO BRING MORE COMPREHENSIVE CARE AND ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



Associate Professor Lisa Butler

NO MAN/ WOMAN/CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Both University President Satish K. Tripathi's E Fund Grant, which finances collaborative projects that grow the university's community impact while enriching student education, and First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden's nationwide Joining Forces initiative, which aims to improve care for military service members, share the philosophy that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.



Improved
care
for
military
service
members

Recognizing the need for a synergistic approach to the long-standing problem of gaps in care for veterans and their families, the School of Social Work (SSW) and the School of Nursing (SON) are uniting in the UB Partnership for Excellence in Veteran Care (UBPEVC) to analyze the current state of care, develop a comprehensive veteran care educational program for nursing and social work students, and improve training and service delivery for health care providers who serve veterans and military families.

One of the best ways to do that, according to the project's principal investigator, SSW Associate Professor Lisa Butler, is to develop a competency of military culture so that students and practitioners can more effectively relate to the veteran population. "Though we're not yet at the stage of analysis, we hope with our focus groups to gain more nuanced information to be able to highlight areas practitioners may not have considered emphasizing previously."

Training students now means a greater output of military culture-sensitive practitioners later. "Equipping graduate students with the knowledge and skills to work in a way that is reflective of the needs veterans are facing is one of our main goals. If the learning curve once they're in their professional careers is not as great, they can make a difference in the quality of services veterans and their families experience," observes Katie McClain-Meeder, UBPEVC project manager.

The development of this training is collaborative, and though there will be some overlap across the schools in terms of how the training is integrated, the specialization will be molded to fit the curricula and requirements of each program. The ultimate focus, though, is best practice in service delivery to veterans and their families, regardless of the particular military branch or conflict the individual served.

"Understanding on a more sophisticated level both military culture and individual experience — what veterans have faced and reactions and responses they may have having faced combat in addition to issues surrounding reintegration — is part of being trauma-informed when it comes to serving this population," observes Butler. "Recognizing the impact of those life experiences allows us to better understand and address underlying needs."

One of those too often veiled needs is service delivery to families of veterans. That's why project members aim to train students to identify and address the needs of veterans, but also with spouses, children and other family members in mind. "Anticipating the unthinkable is a powerful, painful state to live in," says Butler. "Coping with this and adapting to the possible mental and physical changes of a loved one is tremendously important."

The effects may be immediate or distant, faced by close and extended family. "If a health care professional can recognize this 'ripple' effect, they can better identify issues and intervene," advises Susan Bruce, School of Nursing clinical associate professor and the project's Co-PI. "It's more than just adapting — every family member must learn a different approach to their role and their place in the fold."

Politics aside, these individuals, whether veterans or their families, sacrifice tremendously and deserve complete, considerate, competent care. "The reality is," says McClain-Meeder, "that men and women are putting their lives on the line. This is a tremendous opportunity to be a part of a project that could serve the needs of this population in a much broader and more comprehensive way."

-SARAH GOLDTHRITE

Julia Szprygada (MSW '13) was honored in the spring as UB Intern of the Year.

A great intern knows not only what she wants out of a placement, but also goes above and beyond a field contract to make an exceptional contribution to the organization and community being served.

Aaron Maracle, one of Szprygada's Sub-Board I, Inc. (SBI) at the University at Buffalo supervisors, recalls Julia as having an active, ambitious approach to her work. "Julia knew what she wanted from our placement and let me know early on the things she wanted to do. She was never afraid to put herself out there if it meant she would learn something or if she could provide a service to others."

During her advanced year in the SSW MSW program, Julia made an indelible impression in the university and the community as an executive board member for Rho Kappa Honor Society while also making significant contributions in her field service placement at SBI, a student-founded not-for-profit organization whose goal is to provide services to students in an educational and practical way.

"My colleagues called me the bridge between sexual health services and safety services because I endeavored to bring those areas together," Julia says of her role with SBI. On top of facilitating workshops, training staff, doing prevention work, and helping to plan events, she also sat on socially significant committees and coalitions in the community and on campus. "My major role," she says, "is heading the executive board for the NYS chapter of the bystander intervention group No Woman Left Behind. UB has the only chapter in the state, and it's run through SBI."

These demanding positions served as a conduit to several other invaluable contributions. Julia developed bystander intervention training for students and promoted trauma-informed care within the agency by conducting intra-agency analysis of the staff policy handbook and creating staff training on trauma-informed environments. She designates her experience organizing a Take Back the Night rally on campus in particular as phenomenally rewarding. "It makes you realize that what you do actually matters to people and affects them."

Her recognition of the value of applying learning to produce a real-world impact particularly struck her mentors. "Julia has a wonderful balance of confidence and maturity, along with approachability and sense of humor," recalls Jane Fischer, one of Julia's SBI supervisors. "She engages in active learning, taking in information and combining that with her existing knowledge. That integration allows her to internalize the learning, thereby making, developing and delivering workshops from a genuine, centered place."

Being able to integrate education and real-life application is hallmark of many social work interns, Maracle observes. "They are so successful because not only do they have professional experience in their field and a broadened knowledge of their field placement agencies, but also because they can provide knowledge in frameworks."

These skills, experiences and accomplishments in hand, Julia is excited to have recently begun a community education and outreach position with Planned Parenthood of WNY, where she reaches out to communities and schools to educate individuals about sexual health, healthy relationships and self-esteem. She brings with her not only her classroom learning, but her real-world experience gained through Rho Kappa and SBI. "The first time you apply these things you learned throughout your education to your career," Julia relates, "you realize it's real. It all makes sense. It actually works."

— SARAH GOLDTHRITE



Greetings!

Our School of Social Work graduates are recognized nationally as among the very BEST, and with our reputation soaring, you will tell our story as professionals who universally ensure human rights, safeguard social safety nets, develop vital resources, and offer support to those who need it most. As practitioners and educators of a helping profession, we seek and capture every opportunity available to assist our clients and our communities.

At graduation, I had the privilege of welcoming the UB School of Social Work Class of 2013 to our professional ranks. I felt such pride as an alumna of the School in introducing this outstanding group of professionals prepared to have a profound impact on our communities.

You are a graduate of the University at Buffalo, a premier public center for learning, research and discovery, and our School plays an integral role in the University's mission of outreach locally, nationally and internationally.

It is an exciting time for the profession, the School of Social Work and the University. We, like all our alum, are ambassadors for our alma mater and our profession, and maintaining these vital connections is an invaluable source of current practice information, advice and networking.

Please visit www.socialwork.buffalo.edu or www.alumni.buffalo.edu for opportunities to support our School of Social Work and our University and to help further the mission of community outreach, professional and educational growth, and real-world impact.

As always, contact me at GovGirl55@aol.com.

Rita M. Andolina, MSW '88

ADVISOR, UB SSW ALUMNI



Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

This is your first issue of Mosaics as an alumnus of the School of Social Work. We proudly recognize that you have worked with determination and commitment to be transformed into a social work professional with a trauma-informed and human rights perspective. This transformation is fueled with energy, hope and duty.

The ripple from a small change effort can spur a synergy with far-reaching results.

Embarking on a career path ripe with opportunity that is supported by the depth of your knowledge and awareness creates potential. Realizing your potential takes vision, hard work and guidance. Within our field you have much to offer; some of you already are in positions to significantly impact individuals and entire communities. The possibilities to build on and integrate a trauma-informed and human rights perspective are endless.

These possibilities are grounded in the hope you engender: hope for new and different solutions to long-standing problems; hope for courage to raise questions; hope for strength to make unpopular decisions; and hope to consider opinions that contrast with your own. As you experience your hopefulness leading to tangible change, the sense of obligation to the School of Social Work and to your profession will become a sustaining force.

Welcome this force. Transforming a field to be anchored in a trauma-informed and human rights perspective requires a kinetic connection with the broader UBSSW community. The ripple



from a small change effort can spur a synergy with far-reaching results. The School trusts you will make a mark on the profession, on your agencies and with your clients. As you grapple with the challenges that await you and as you celebrate the small successes, we are here to support you. Stay connected and reach out to the School of Social Work. We are your biggest fan!

Denise Krause,

CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

dkrause@buffalo.edu



COMMENCEMENT 20





PHI ALPHA NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

Nineteen students were inducted into the Rho Kappa Chapter at The Garret Club on April 18, 2013.

To qualify, students must have maintained a 3.95 GPA and demonstrated the ideals and values of social work.



13 MAY 11, 2013



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

STUDENT AWARDS RECIPIENTS

2013

ANDREW J. LAUGHLIN AWARD – Sarah Nesbitt

ARCHIE W. SWANSON HONORARY AWARD – Sally Cisek

BERTHA S LAURY AWARD – Jennifer Hayes

DENA P. GOLD MEMORIAL AWARD – Mary Scotland

DOROTHY LYNN HONORARY AWARD – Leena Isac

DREAM AWARD – Danielle Maurice, Mary Scotland

HASELTINE T. CLEMENTS MEMORIAL AWARD – Jackeline Bancayan

JULIAN SODJA MEMORIAL AWARD – Wayne Nuness

KRISTOPHER L. BRASELTON MEMORIAL AWARD – Barbara Robertson

LOUIS H. SWARTZ MEMORIAL AWARD – Amanda Sullivan

LOUISA CIELEN AWARD – Nurit Fischer

NASW AWARD – Erica Murphy

NILES CARPENTER AWARD – Travis Hales



PHOTO BY NANCY J. PARISI

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD – Sarah Nesbitt

ROSE WEINSTEIN SCHOLAR AWARD – Danielle Donner

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD – Travis Hales

TERESE EUSANIO MEMORIAL AWARD – Hillary England



That access to shelter is a basic human right seems to be self-evident, but the reality is that this basic human right isn't always easy to obtain. **"EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO SAFE, DECENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHERE THEY LIVE WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING BARRIERS BASED ON RACE, GENDER, INCOME, DISABILITY STATUS, AGE AND OTHER FACTORS,"** insists Assistant Professor Kelly Patterson, an urban planning expert on fair and affordable housing policy.



Assistant Professor
Kelly Patterson

Her research looks at patterns of where Buffalo residents choose to live when they receive help through Housing and Urban Development's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

"The primary goal of the HCV program is to give low-income families a reduction in housing costs so that they can afford decent living accommodations in neighborhoods of their choice."

The question that drives Patterson's research is whether it is an effective program "at moving people, particularly blacks and other minorities, out of impoverished, segregated neighborhoods that are characterized by declining housing values, high vacancy rates, joblessness, high crime rates and weakened social institutions."

That question matters, she says, because "when individuals are stuck in these neighborhoods, their opportunities for social and economic mobility are severely limited."

Patterson points to Buffalo as a unique community in which to seek answers. While most research is based in urban areas with tight housing markets that limit the availability of affordable housing, "Buffalo and the surrounding metro area

have a slack housing market where there is an inventory of affordable housing," she notes.

The HCV program aims to level the playing field by paying part of the rent directly to the landlord. The renter pays part of the rent — no more than 30 percent of his or her income — and HUD pays the rest.

Rather than being restricted to certain apartment complexes, tenants can choose where they want to live. This, Patterson says, gives them greater mobility and the opportunity to move out of impoverished neighborhoods and into better ones.

Patterson puzzles over why "voucher holders are still locating in patterns that mirror the existing and historical patterns of racial segregation." Her research finds that when people do move out of inner-city neighborhoods, "they tend to recluster in areas that are trending downward on quality of life indicators," which means they often move from bad neighborhoods to neighborhoods that are becoming that way.

"One of the primary problems is that rents have risen faster than incomes for a growing segment of the workforce." This is mostly because incomes rise faster for people in high-skill, high-wage jobs



than for low and moderate-wage workers. This means the average renter cannot afford to pay full market price for a typical apartment.

The fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Buffalo is \$736 a month. Without paying more than 30 percent of its income for housing, a household would have to earn \$2,453 a month or \$29,440 a year — but with an average hourly wage of \$10.19, the average renter can only afford \$539. “Vouchers directly mitigate this problem and make it possible for this population to afford decent housing without spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities,” Patterson explains.

Patterson may have a doctorate in Urban Studies, but she sounds and acts like a social worker. She serves on the board of directors of Belmont Housing Resources of WNY, which helps people rent or buy affordable homes. “Belmont administers rental assistance programs and offers a variety of housing-related programs and services that promote home ownership,” she says.

Belmont also fixes up existing housing stock and manages several affordable housing projects in the area. “What I am most proud of at Belmont is the fact that we provide direct services to more



HUMAN RIGHT’

than 13,000 low-income households annually and generate rental assistance payments to property owners in excess of \$24 million per year.”

Patterson says the HCV program is vital because the country’s number one housing problem is the lack of affordable housing for extremely low income households, particularly families with children.

“Finding a decent, affordable home is a challenge for all renters,” she said, “but the poorest households are the most likely to be locked out of the market entirely.”

– RONALD ROBERTSON

“Finding a decent, affordable home is a challenge for all renters, but the poorest households are the most likely to be locked out of the market entirely.”

Course project leads to real-world impact

In a programs evaluation course taught by research professor Thomas Nochajski, students Meaghan Barone, Brad Linn and McKenzie Mattison identified an opportunity to directly contribute to county service delivery through the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) Unit at the Erie County Medical Center (ECMC). During Barone’s placement at the CPEP Unit, the group developed their interest in the delivery of care in a system in which the space design was not conducive of the safe, comfortable, private environment necessary for the healthiest client treatment. “Often social work students don’t really feel strongly about the way this space should be designed, but we were really interested in what we could do or how could we learn from it,” Linn says.

Struck by the observation that clients who have experienced trauma are often faced with an uncomfortable series of interviews with various professionals, and that helping systems can thus potentially re-traumatize clients, the students developed an instrument to, as part of ECMC’s intake process, evaluate from a trauma-informed care perspective the trauma history



McKenzie Mattison, Brad Linn and Meaghan Barone at ECMC.

of patients seeking care in an effort to reduce the re-traumatization that can result from reliving traumatic experiences during this succession of retellings. Linn attributes the group’s ability to identify this issue and develop a solution to their growing expertise and familiarity with trauma literature and trauma-informed care. “We never thought it would be something necessarily adopted by them, but they actually changed their intake process so clients meet with a social worker first,” says Linn. “The effort allowed us to have an impact on the way CPEP interacts with patients, and I hope that it’s a beneficial one.”

– Sarah Goldthrite

ALUMNI AWARDS

A COMMITMENT TO STRENGTH

PETER LYONS:

DISTINGUISHED PHD IN SOCIAL WELFARE ALUMNI AWARD

After a long and distinguished career as a social work practitioner in the child welfare field in his native United Kingdom and in Canada, Peter Lyons (PhD '99) arrived at the School of Social Work in 1992 as an adjunct faculty member. Two years later, he entered the school's inaugural doctorate program, and in 1996 he became clinical assistant professor. Collaborative research and deep insight into social work policy characterized the experience.

Doctorate in hand, Lyons proceeded south to Georgia State University where he became founding director of the Center for Collaborative Social Work and, as the principal investigator on the school's Professional Excellence and Child Welfare education grants, has received more than \$14 million in external funding.

A professor in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, School of Social Work, Lyons is currently fully occupied in another role: associate provost for institutional effectiveness. These responsibilities immerse him in accreditation, assessment, university data, policymaking and institutional research measures and surveys. All of this, observes Lyons, is an extension of social work.

The influence of his work at UB prevails throughout, down to the recent publication of what has become a valued reference book for students, *The Dissertation: From Beginning to End*, co-authored with SSW Professor Emeritus Howard Doueck.

— JIM BISCO



Professor Emeritus Howard Doueck
congratulating Peter Lyons

ELISE BLASINGAME

Elise Blasingame (MSW '13) was honored with a SUNY Chancellor Award for Student Excellence recognizing her leadership ability in forming and energizing proactive collaborations across student, professional and community partnerships to achieve larger social goals.

Elise notes that her SSW experiences in classes and in the field directly influenced how she approaches being a social worker. "Although I gained many valuable perspectives and practice behaviors from the Social Work program, the greatest shift has been a new focus on community strengths."

During her time at UB, Elise certainly strived for social change via this strength-based approach. She revived UBSofem, founded and developed the UB Female Sexuality Workshop and interned at the Pride Center of WNY. Most notably she gained invaluable experience as a field student at The Carter Center's Mental Health Program in Atlanta, Georgia.

Following graduation, Elise continues work with the Carter Center in their Monrovia, Liberia office, where her primary role is to coordinate efforts in the creation of the first Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training program in Africa.

"I really recommend MSW students explore field opportunities that may not yet exist," says Elise about The Carter Center placement. "It is truly an honor working for our former President and Mrs. Carter, who are tremendous advocates for mental health."

— SARAH GOTT



Clinical Professor
Denise Krause presents
Bruce Nisbet with award

BRUCE NISBET:

DISTINGUISHED MSW ALUMNI AWARD WINNER

Bruce Nisbet (MSW '74) has a penchant for rallying people of diverse skills and energies toward a common goal, an ability that he first acquired in community organization courses while pursuing his graduate degree in the School of Social Work.

Nisbet has spent a dedicated and notable career in human services administration. Over the years, he has been able to gather wide-reaching support to influence change at legislative, regulatory and practice levels. "I've always found that if you could bring together people for a common purpose and look to organize and mobilize those strengths and relationships, there's a great deal that you could do to impact change."

Under his leadership as President and CEO of Spectrum Human Services, a not-for-profit community mental health agency that operates in three Western New York counties, the agency has doubled its staff, expanded its programming, and recently became one of the first Medicaid Health Homes in New York.

Because of the school's lasting influence on his career, Nisbet remains an involved alumnus, collaborating in research and disseminating best practices to the field through the Buffalo Center for Social Research as a research associate.

He is also helping develop today's students. At Spectrum, he initiated an incentive program to clinicians mentoring SSW students for a semester, which has substantially increased internships. "I think it's part of an organization's responsibility to provide opportunities for students to have field placements and to support their graduate work," Nisbet explains. "We also have hired a number of those students."

— JIM BISCO

SISTER JANET DIPASQUALE:

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

“I have attempted to blend my social worker skills with the administrative. It’s not always easy. As a social worker, I’m the one who’s advocating, helping them to work it through, but then I have to be the administrator in a loving, kind and firm way.”



Community leadership couldn’t have been a more appropriate award for Sister Janet DiPasquale (MSW ’82). Over the past 13 years, she has taken in some 250 young girls who found themselves out on the street and at risk for prostitution, human trafficking, or crime simply because they were homeless and helped lead them to a new life.

The girls arrive from anywhere, from the city streets to the tonier suburbs of Buffalo, New York. They come to a former convent building on Buffalo’s East Side, TRY, the program’s acronym for Teaching and Restoring Youth. Completely disenfranchised from family, the girls try to change their lives as they live in the modest brick structure for anywhere from six months to two years.

Sister Janet is the nurturing force, teaching them independent living skills, how to deal with anger and to be assertive without aggression, and, because many had dropped out of school, getting them back on track with their education.

“It’s emotional in some ways because I realize that I’m not their mom, not their best friend; it’s a varying relationship, a very unique relationship,” she says.

Working with people who had fallen through the cracks was the motivation for the Buffalo native to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph after graduating from high school in 1964. She went on to become a principal of Mt. St. Joseph Academy, a private grade school in Buffalo.

It wasn’t long before she found that being an administrator was not her calling. Being a counselor was, although she didn’t initially see herself as a social worker. “It was my mindset that social workers were those women with buns on the back of their heads,” she recalls with a chuckle.

However, the School of Social Work beckoned and Sister Janet answered the call. “For me, the school was the perfect choice. It really focused my career on what I really wanted to do, to do therapy particularly with the less fortunate, those who have been marginalized in society. It was a great experience. I made wonderful friends, had wonderful courses and great placements. I sucked all the juice out of it that I could,” she relates.

After earning her master’s degree, she proceeded to go to work for Catholic Charities as a marital and family therapist, eventually opening her own private counseling practice, which she still maintains on a part-time basis today.

Sister Janet was on the committee that helped get the TRY program off the ground in 1997. After the first director left not long after the doors opened, a committee member knocked on the nun’s door and implored her to take

the directorial reins. She says she had some initial misgivings about life with 10 adolescent girls at any given time but agreed to try it for three years.

Thirteen years later, Sister Janet is proud of the success of many of the girls who she helps find their way — back to high school, on to college, finding their calling. TRY recently opened a rehabbed building at Fillmore and Jewett avenues in Buffalo to offer girls further support with their first apartment after their original stay.

“We have become the mother ship,” she reasons, musing on the challenges of the two sides of her position. “I have attempted to blend my social worker skills with the administrative. It’s not always easy. As a social worker, I’m the one who’s advocating, helping them to work it through, but then I have to be the administrator in a loving, kind and firm way.”

She particularly remembers her first holiday at TRY when none of the girls received a single call from family. “So I spent Christmas with the girls and it was the most wonderful experience for myself and for them. We have become a real family here at TRY.”

— JIM BISCO



For more information on the TRY Program, please visit <http://www.tryprogram.org/>.



Photo by Angela Connery

Left to right: Jay Friedman, Nancy Wells, Janet DiPasquale, Satish Tripathi and Timothy Lafferty.

CLASSNOTES

40

Angela Lawrence (BA '48, SSW CERT '49)

published the book *20/200 and Pale* with Tate Publishing in November 2012.

50

Pauline Riemer (MSW '57) celebrated her 90th birthday in June with a fundraiser dinner that procured over \$11,000 in donations for the Salvation Army's new Youth Center for "latchkey" children in Collier County, Fla.

70

William Fudeman (MSW '76) combined his social work skills and training with body-mind practices and Chinese medicine in his 2012 book, *Before Pharmaceuticals: Emotional Healing with Chinese Medicine*.

Dennis J. Sajdak (MSW '77) is the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital in Mesa, Ariz. This fourth lifetime career hospital CEO position is no surprise, as Dennis has orchestrated 11 turnarounds of various healthcare organizations throughout the country.

80

Ellen Fink-Samnick (MSW '83) recently collaborated with a colleague on developing a Competency Based Case Management Paradigm. The first two of three articles on the effort, "Duty to Act: A Comprehensive Process in Proceeding with Duty to Warn" and "COLLABORATE®: A Universal Competency-Based Paradigm for Professional Case Management, Part I: Introduction, Historical Validation, and Competency Presentation" were recently published in *Professional Case Management*.

Stephanie McLean-Beathly (MSW '87) returned to Western New York and worked for several organizations serving people with developmental disabilities and children with mental health concerns after spending several years working at the Women in Need Shelter in the South Bronx. She is currently the Individualized and Self-Directed Services Coordinator at the Western New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office.

Laurie Rennie (MSW '89) has served SAY, San Diego for the past 20-plus years and is now the current COO of this private, community-based nonprofit agency dedicated to supporting the positive development of young people and their families and communities.

90

Chris Scozzaro (MSW '92), a recent addition to UB's PhD program in Counseling Education, enjoys a small private counseling practice and working full time as a social worker for the West Seneca School District. He has also served as a field educator for the UB School of Social Work for the past 10 years.

J. Michael Goulding (MSW '95) is currently a partner in a mental health practice in Cary, N.C. Mike also co-owns a life management and coaching business, Victorious, with his wife.

William Sabado (MSW '95) is enjoying his recently earned promotion from Deputy Executive Director to President and CEO at St. Vincent's Services, Inc. in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Patricia Shelley (MSW '95) has served as the Assistant Director of the Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender for the past 13 years. In July 2012, she took on the newly created position of Director of Community Engagement and Expansion at the UB School of Social Work, where her duties range from expanding international connections to developing community-based participatory research opportunities for the school.

Khristopher Decker (MSW '98) is currently an adjunct faculty member and liaison for the UBSSW and Director of Clinical Services for Spectrum Human Services in Buffalo/WNY. Khris is also a valuable volunteer consultant for the UBSSW Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care.

Greg Voltman (MSW '98), who has worked for several mental health clinics in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties, is currently a mental health clinician at Lakeside Clinic in Fredonia, N.Y. where he specializes in adults with substance abuse and mental health issues.

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Kim Ingram (MSW '00) has been employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the past 12 years where she has served in a variety of capacities, including discharge planner and telemental health provider. She also works as a field director there, advising second year MSW students.

Kristy Mangione Barber (MSW '02), who previously served at the WNY CPC in the Day Treatment Program, is currently a licensed clinical social worker at WNY Children's Psychiatric Services in the Intensive Treatment Unit.

Kristen Wilson Weese (BA/MSW '02) began serving as the Supervisory Social Worker and Program Manager for the VA of WNY Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program in January 2013.

Elaine M. Maccio (MSW '98, PhD '04) is currently an associate professor at the Louisiana State University School of Social Work where she is working to develop Louisiana's first graduate certificate in LGBTQ studies. Her 2009 UBSSW podcast episode entitled "Helping Sur-

vivors of Katrina — An Evaluation" is frequently downloaded.

Mary Nathan (MSW '04) is currently working with the Buffalo City School District students as a school social worker and volunteers as an advisor for the district's drill team. She also volunteers as a mentor in UB's School of Social Work.

Andrea Fitzsimmons (MSW '06) began service in the field as a supervisor of the two group homes in the Gateway Longview Residential Program, where she now serves as a residential social worker.

Rachel Bunch McCarley (MSW '06) began working in ECMC's Chemical Dependency Unit following graduation. She currently serves as a social worker at the Sisters Hospital School Health Clinic and is the president of her own community health and wellness organization.

Kathleen Forster (MSW '07) is the Program Director of Syracuse Behavioral Healthcare's Rochester Evaluation Center. The agency is the only OASAS licensed substance use disorder detox facility in the Rochester area and only one of six in New York State.

Mary Salter (MSW '09) is currently a medical social worker in Solid Organ Transplant at University of Rochester Medical Center where she collaborates with medical professionals to assist with patient care through all phases of transplantation.

10

Elaine Rinfrette (PhD '10) is not only excited about her role as an assistant professor, but also about her recent promotion to MSW Program Director at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in just her second year in a tenure track position with the university. **Christine Rine (MSW '97, PhD '08)** has joined her there as an assistant professor.

Lisa Maynard (MSW '11) is currently the director of Family Finding and Adoption Services at Hillside Children's Center in Rochester, N.Y. She also cofounded Adoption Resources Network, a grassroots adoption, information, education and support organization.

Matthew Baker (MSW '12), a veteran of the US Army, currently works as a readjustment counseling therapist at the Buffalo Vet Center where his service includes outreach efforts in the form of educational training related to veterans' issues. This spring, he also began teaching an undergraduate course at a local college.

Tracy Gleason (MSW '12) is a family specialist at the Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth where she provides community-based services to foster care youth and their families. Her exceptional contributions during her field placement helped her secure the position immediately following graduation.

Donna (Joey) Li Puma (MSW '12) currently works as a placement and discharge planner for Batavia, N.Y.'s Department of Veterans Affairs Community Living Center.

Melissa Pietrkiewicz (MSW '12) is a career counselor at the Cassadaga Job Corps Academy where she was recently selected employee of the month. Melissa began her Job Corps employment as a Residential Advisor in 2004 and was promoted to her present position in 2012.

Demetrios Vakertzis (MSW '12) has his LMSW and is a mental health lead at the Bath VA Domiciliary.

Andrew Wilton (MSW '12) is currently the Director of Outreach Initiatives at the Alzheimer's Association: WNY Chapter and the New York State Delegate on the NASW National Delegate Assembly. In addition to these obligations, Andrew generously uses his time to serve on several local coalitions and as a task supervisor for a current MSW student.

Elizabeth Kerrigan (MSW '13) will begin serving Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, Calif. in the role of supportive housing case manager. Santa Clara County's increasing homeless population is attributed to in technology companies and the subsequent rise in housing costs. Her work in the program will primarily be with veterans and individuals most at risk for serious harm as a result of untreated illness.

Gulsum Koksall (MSW '13) began serving at Horizon Health Services as an adult mental health counselor shortly following graduation in May.

Courtney Springer (MSW '13), Mary Scotland (MSW '13) and Anne Marie Pera (MSW '13) are colleagues at the Visitation Social Workers at the Catholic Charities Broadway/Bailey location serving the Therapeutic Supervised Parent/Child Access and Monitored Exchange Programs.

Sarah Tasker (MSW '13) began work as a full time counselor for Buffalo's Northwest Community Health Center shortly after graduating in May.

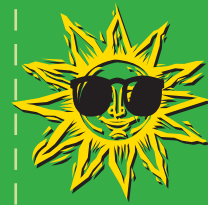
Michelle Wilczewski (MSW '13) began as a case manager at The Matt Urban Hope Center in the rapid re-housing program with chronically homeless adults on the east side of Buffalo.

CALL FOR CLASSNOTES

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

SUMMER CLASS:

Summer 2013 Course Integrates Technology into Clinical Social Work



Designed for MSW students and mental health practitioners, SW988 (Raising Our Technology IQ to Enhance Clinical Social Work Practice) aims to facilitate knowledge of digital technologies, specifically the integration of social media and game design, into the lives of clients and practitioners. Multiple literacies that include technological proficiencies encompassing various digital social environments are imperative skills for staying current on best and emerging practices in social work. It is impossible to develop a comprehensive understanding of the effects of these technologies on behavior without real-world application; the course is therefore highly interactive and experiential, immersing students in multiple literacies in addition to the traditional text-based learning.

Psychodynamically-oriented professor Michael Langlois has over the course of his 20-year clinical social work career integrated a technological awareness into his approach. "Social workers have an ethical responsibility to maintain familiarity with current technologies as they impact the populations they serve," says Langlois. "The purpose is understanding in-world experience and activity rather than pathologizing it." — SARAH GOLDTHRITE

SOCIAL MEDIA



The top three downloaded podcasts of 2012-2013 academic year:

Episode 84:

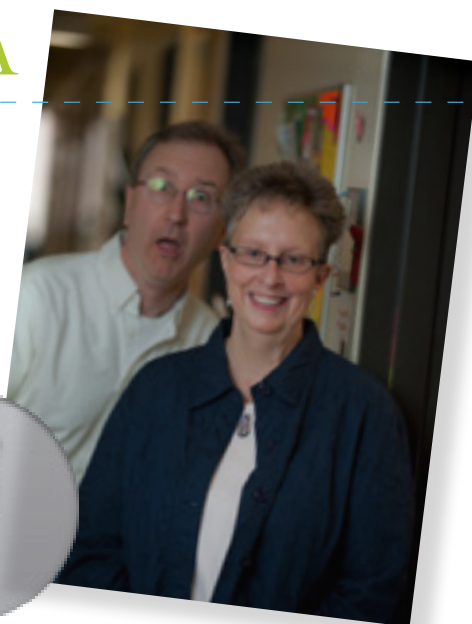
Dr. Joshua Miller: Connection and Hope: Psychosocial Capacity Building in Response to Disasters

Episode 106:

Dr. Yunju Nam: Asset-Based Policy: A New Direction in Social Welfare Policy

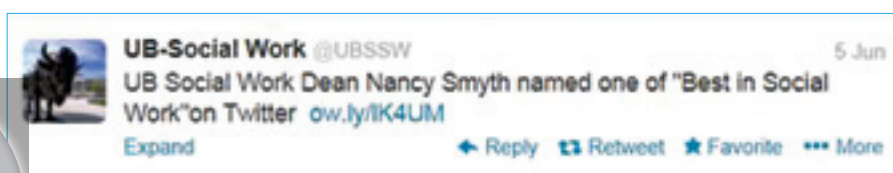
Episode 111:

Marion Bogo: Innovations in Assessment of Students' Competence in Social Work



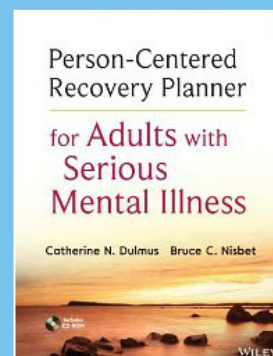
We experienced one of the highest levels of engagement when we posted this photo. **One reason why we love our clinical faculty:** they photobomb each other during a photo shoot. (Peter Sobota and Denise Krause — at UB School of Social Work.)

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Dulmus, C. N., & Nisbet, B. C. (2013). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

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Thanks to you,
I will contribute to social policy in my country.

Dieuveut Gaity has more clearly defined goals than most entering PhD students. First, go home to Haiti to teach and do research and influence social policy. Second, start an organization to engage boys and girls in community causes. And third, resume work, maybe as a consultant, with the International Organization for Migration for which he implemented psychosocial interventions for children and families following the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti. Dieuveut is on the second leg of his preparation as an evidence-based social policy warrior. His first stop was the MSW program at Roberts Wesleyan College. Then the PhD program at UB. Donor-funded fellowship support by the school for Dieuveut's study is contributing to his potential to change the future. **The best reason to support UB is what students like Dieuveut will do in the future.**

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