Huamin Research Center Established at School of Social Work

First-Ever Student-Run Fundraising Campaign
Message from the Dean

As acting dean of the Rutgers School of Social Work, I am pleased to share with you our Fall, 2012 newsletter. In this edition you will learn how the school continues to make a positive impact on the profession of social work and on the communities, families, and individuals served by our graduates.

You will find updates on our innovative new programs, such as the Addiction Counselor Training (ACT) certificate and the doctorate in social work (DSW) degree. Both help meet the critical and growing need for qualified practitioners with special expertise. Also in this issue you will read about the school’s expanding relationships in China. The Huamin Research Center was established as the result of a strong collaboration with a private Chinese donor whose generous gift will stimulate research at Rutgers on social welfare and social work education issues in China.

In addition, you will also read about the unprecedented mark left on the school by the MSW Class of 2012’s “Students Supporting Students” campaign. This successful effort to raise funds for student scholarships allowed the class to make a difference by helping to keep open to others the same opportunity it has enjoyed, by furthering support for the production and dissemination of new knowledge, and by helping assure a well-educated and competent social work workforce in our state and beyond. The spectacular level of participation will also be noticed outside our community and help to improve the national stature of the school and the value of its diplomas.

That stature is already on the upswing. I am excited to share with you that in the 2012 U.S. News & World Report survey of the best graduate schools of social work, Rutgers climbed in the rankings with a gain exceeded by only three other schools in the entire top 40. I am proud to say that we are getting the message out that we are a school where top-tier research and education is taking place.

These are but a few of the many exciting initiatives covered in this issue. Whatever your affiliation with the school – be it faculty, staff, alumni, student, or friend – I hope that as you read about the activities and accomplishments happening here, you are as proud of your school as I am.

Kathleen J. Pottick, MSW, MA, PhD, LCSW
Acting Dean and Professor

Huamin Research Center Established at School of Social Work

By Judith Alfano

It’s only been a few months since the Huamin Research Center was established at the Rutgers School of Social Work, but Dr. Chien-Chung Huang, Associate Professor and Director of the Center, is already seeing tremendous growth in strategic exchange partnerships with universities in China and new opportunities for faculty and student research and fellowships.

The Huamin Research Center supports research projects that relate to nonprofit organizations and social welfare issues in China, promotes exchanges between China and the United States, and provides fellowships to students studying nonprofit and social welfare issues in China. It was established at the School of Social Work in January 2012 through a major gift from Dr. Dehzi Lu of the Huamin Charity Foundation, one of China’s largest privately funded charitable organizations.

The center provides a unique opportunity for Rutgers faculty to draw on their expertise in nonprofit management and governance, in partnership with universities in China, to be at the forefront of social policy research, emerging nonprofit organizations and social welfare issues in China.

“Not many schools in the US have faculty with strengths in the area of nonprofit research, which is very attractive to the Huamin Foundation,” said Dr. Huang, who, along with thirty School of Social Work faculty and students, recently returned from a two-week trip to China. “The length of the trip allowed for a meaningful exchange with our partners, who recognize that we are committed to research, exchange and fellowships. We are the only school of social work in the US that brings substantial faculty and students to China on a consistent basis.”

Current research was presented at two faculty exchanges – “Workshop on Leadership of Nonprofit Organizations in Current Economy,” co-sponsored...
Huamin Research Continued

with the Philanthropy Research Institute, Beijing Normal University and “Conference on Social Work Education and Research in China and United States: Comparison and Innovation,” co-sponsored with Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Science, Beijing, China.

At these exchanges, Drs. Richard L. Edwards, Ronald Quincy, Chien-Chung Huang, Jeffrey Longhofer and Jerry Floersch, Bill Waldman and Andy Germak gave presentations on topics ranging from “The Use of SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats) Analyses in Evaluating Nonprofit/Civil Society Organizations” and “Exploring the Social Enterprise Organization Business Model” to “The Working Alliance and Therapeutic Relationship in Mental Health Case Management.”

Rutgers students traveled as part of the China Study Abroad Program, a 3-credit course that combines online study with two weeks of in-country instruction. Students received a comprehensive view of the social welfare system in China through visits to mental health institutes and community centers, as well as the China Social Work Association and university partners. This year’s program was expanded to include new universities and agencies, such as the Narada Foundation, which provides high quality education to low-income children who have migrated from rural to city areas. When not studying, Rutgers students were introduced to local and traditional foods and visited landmarks, such as the Forbidden City and Great Wall.

In addition to the recent visit, Drs. Huang and Judy Postmus co-organized “Ending Violence Against Women,” a two-day international conference and workshop, held in December 2011. Drs. Sara-Beth Plummer and Christopher Allen also attended the event and together, the Rutgers faculty made seven conference presentations and led six workshops.

“We were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with colleagues doing similar work in Taiwan,” said Dr. Judy Postmus, Director of the Center on Violence Against Women. “The experience left all of us appreciating the cultural differences between our countries as well as the similarities in addressing the problem of domestic violence or sexual assault.”

To expand research and contribute to a growing body of knowledge, Rutgers faculty collaborated with faculty from Renmin University on a book titled “Comparison of Social Welfare in China and United States.” Topics by Rutgers faculty included Mental Health Services and Policy in the U.S., by Associate Professor Beth Angell; Overview of the Nonprofit Sector in the U.S., by Interim Executive Vice President and former SSW Dean, Richard Edwards and Executive Director of the Center for Nonprofit Management, Ron Quincy; U.S. Disability Policy and Welfare System, by Assistant Professor Patricia Findley, and Development of Child Support Enforcement in U.S., by Associate Professor Chien-Chung Huang.

The Huamin Research Center is part of the broader Rutgers in China initiative, a program launched in May 2011 to expand international opportunities for Rutgers students and increase research collaboration between Rutgers faculty and their Chinese counterparts.

In February 2012, Dr. Jianfeng (Jeff) Wang was appointed as Director of Rutgers China Programs and Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs to substantially expand the university’s global reach by building strategic partnerships with leading Chinese educational institutions. Dr. Wang also holds an academic appointment as Lecturer in the School of Social Work.

Dr. Wang will work closely with Rutgers’ deans, faculty, staff and students to expand Rutgers’ existing programs in China and to develop a new range of institutional partnerships while working to secure external funding to support such initiatives. Dr. Huang is looking forward to a productive and growing partnership with universities in China, with the goal of developing strategic opportunities for Rutgers.

“We want to continue to maintain strong relationships with Renmin and Nankai Universities and develop our partnerships with Beijing Normal University, Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academy of Social Science. The resources provided by the Huamin Research Center enable us to deepen our relationship with our partners in China through concrete and meaningful research and exchange.”
People, Politics, and Policy

This monthly column by William Waldman examines timely and relevant issues that affect the policy and practice of the human services in New Jersey and beyond. To read more, visit socialwork.rutgers.edu.

The Privatization of the Health and Human Services: Parsing the Roles of the Public and Private Sectors

Health and human services delivery continues to shift from the public to the private sector in our nation and in our state. Government has continued its primary role in financing and regulat-ing these domains, yet the actual provision of a vast array of services has been delegated to both nonprofit and proprietary concerns – generally in the absence of clear public policy.

Many states have contracted out the operations of correctional facilities to for-profit organiza-tions. In a growing number of states – and now recently in New Jersey – for-profit corporations are expanding their role in the ownership of hospitals and related health care facilities. Many states have privatized significant components of their safety net programs: child welfare, child support enforcement, mental health, developmental disabilities, public assistance and others. Medicaid, the largest health care program serving the nation’s poor, has been contracted out in the vast majority of states to private, for-profit, managed care corporations.

Clearly, no one on either side of the political spectrum is advocating for larger government but as a society we need to address the attendant critical public policy questions raised by this con-tinuing mega-trend. What are the “core competencies” of government? What services should it retain? What advantages are presented in the private marketplace? Under what circumstances, terms, and conditions should government privatize specific health and human services? Are an-ticipated cost savings and quality enhancement fleeting or permanent? What should be the safe-guards provided to the vulnerable citizens served and to the taxpayers who underwrite the ser-vices when privatization occurs?

These complex questions each require careful analysis. In practice, the decision to privatize is often driven by narrow budget considerations. The nature of government often drives a short time horizon for strategic decisions. The challenges of the next election or budget often trump long-term potential public benefit as criteria for decision making.

As a former senior state official – in three separate gubernatorial administrations – I struggled with this issue in many shapes and forms. Ultimately, I led the efforts to privatize the care of some of the state’s most seriously and persistently mentally ill and those with profound developmental disabilities, by closing state institutions and financing private organizations to care for them in community settings. During my tenure as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, approximately 500,000 Medicaid recipients were enrolled in privately operated man-aged health care programs, and the operation of 22 child day care centers serving hundreds of children was transferred from the auspice of the Division of Youth and Family Services to a variety of nonprofit corporations. Based upon that experience and others, and after further study and deliberation, I would frame the following issues and conclusions to guide decisions relative to the privatizations of the human services.

Initial Determination: When considering privatizing a specific human service one should carefully review whether a competitive private market exists for the service; whether government has the competence to provide or establish the service at competitive cost; and, how the basic rights of vulnerable citizens might be properly safeguarded should the privatization proceed.

Cost Factors – In crunching numbers, one must consider the true and full cost of privatization. For example, when public workers lose their jobs, the public costs of unemployment, public assistance and related safety net services they will require should be factored in – even if they come from a different “pot” within the public budget.

Cost Controls – The taxpayers must be protected from excessive costs and private profiteering in the delivery of services. Reasonable controls must be placed on profit and administrative costs when dealing with for-profit corporations and all costs and fees should be market-based.

Bid Solicitations and Contracts – Documents which are intended to solicit or secure the content, scope, quality, cost and public accessibility of services to be privatized should clearly and carefully detail all relevant requirements. These must include the process for correcting performance deficiencies and imposing consequences (financial penalties, contract termination, etc.) for nonperformance. Government must have the capacity to recruit, train and deploy competent personnel to implement and manage the privatization.

Assuring the Most Needy are Served – In unit cost, fee for service or managed care con-tracts for privatized services, it is likely to the financial advantage of the private company to avoid or discourage service applicants whose care may likely exceed average or established unit costs. Government must monitor performance to assure such applicants receive the services they require and are eligible to receive.

Evaluation and Accountability · Mechanisms must be put in place, preferably involving service recipient feedback, to assure the privatized service is provided in accordance with specified standards and that it delivers the anticipated outcomes.

Given today’s economic and political environment, it is inevitable that government will continue to explore further privatization of what are now public services. Hopefully this will occur not just on a narrow cost basis but with a full examination of the issues and interests of the citizens who pay the taxes and those who require the services.

William Waldman is a Lecturer and Executive in Residence at Rutgers School of Social Work. He can be reached at William@ssw.rutgers.edu.
News from the PhD Program

2012 Dissertations

James O’Dea
Predicting Dropout from an Alcoholism Treatment Program Using a State Database
Dr. Raymond Sanchez Mayers, Dissertation Chair

Mi Sung Kim
The Role of Maternal Verbal Sensitivity During Parent-Child Shared Book Reading in Socio-Emotional Functioning in the Preschool Years
Dr. Judith Baer, Dissertation Chair

Jeong Ah Yoo
The Effects of Domestic Violence on Behavior Problems of Preschool Children
Dr. Chien-Chung Huang, Dissertation Chair

Joelle Zabotka
“How could I have done this?”, A Qualitative Study of Birth Mothers Who Have Children Diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
Dr. Michael LaSala, Dissertation Chair

Other News

Kyle Caler has been selected to participate in the Rutgers Pre-Doctoral Leadership Development Institute, as a 2012-2013 Fellow. This unique Rutgers program is designed to provide an interdisciplinary group of select PhD students with an orientation to current practices and challenges in higher education, and a knowledge of the organizational, communication, and personal competencies recognized as critical to effective leadership.

Katie Findley has been elected as Delegate Assembly member for NASW- NJ in the 2012-2015 term.

Alexis Jemal has received a pre-doctoral Behavioral Science Training in Drug Abuse Research (BST) Fellowship from the National Development and Research Institutes. The BST Pre-doctoral Fellowship supports behavioral scientists in conducting their dissertation research and pursuing scientific careers in the areas of drug use/misuse and HIV/AIDS.

Cory Morton has received a postdoctoral fellowship with the National Development and Research Institute. This Behavioral Sciences Training (BST) program is the largest pre-and postdoctoral training program supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health.

In March, Aleksandr (Sasha) Cheryomukhin presented at a conference organized by the Doctoral Fellowship Program / Global Supplementary Grant Program, Open Society (Soros) Foundation. The presentation was based on his dissertation project, “Validating an Empowerment Scale with Community Participants in Azerbaijan”.

Aleksandr (Sasha) Cheryomukhin was awarded a travel grant from the American Psychological Association to attend this year’s Annual APA Convention in Orlando, Florida, August 2-5. He was invited to the special program for the presidents of the international psychological societies, which will be hosted by the APA’s Office of International Affairs.

Brad Forenza was selected as recipient of the 2012-2013 Eagleton Fellowship. The fellowship provides select Rutgers graduate students opportunities to further their understanding of government and public affairs in their fields of study. After completing his MSW at Columbia University, Brad worked as a senior aide and speechwriter in the New Jersey Legislature, and he had previously worked as an intern in the office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. His research interests include youth development and advocacy.

The following students have received awards for pre-dissertation summer study from the Rutgers Graduate School:

Louis Donnelly:
Longitudinal Analysis and Applied Multilevel Modeling, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan.

Brad Forenza:
Advanced methods courses on hybrid quantitative/qualitative methods, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan.

Hasan Johnson:
Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS), New Orleans; This study focused on group intervention aimed at relieving symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and general anxiety among children exposed to trauma.

Amanda Mathisen:
Multi-level modeling (MLM), Curran-Bauer Analytics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Sheila McMahon:
Multi-level modeling (MLM), Curran-Bauer Analytics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Shrivridhi Shukla:
Has traveled to India to perform pilot work for an exploratory study that seeks to examine men and women’s attitudes, knowledge, perceptions and beliefs in urban and rural areas regarding reproductive health services in India.
It has been a year of tremendous growth at the Institute for Families; we have developed strategic international partnerships, explored new areas of collaboration at the state and national level, and partnered with various groups on leadership and management projects. I am proud of the work of our team as we continue to pursue our vision to become an internationally recognized entity where applied research, training, and a strong knowledge base influence policy implementation and enhance the lives of individuals, families and communities.

A few highlights of our recent work:

• Streaming live-video to an international audience- over 450 people attended “Changing The Story: Bold Solutions to Helping Youth Find Jobs, Open Pathways to Education & Develop Lifelong Self-Sufficiency.” Held in February, this event was a partnership with Fedcap (NYC) and The Moore Center (NH). It examined the disconnected youth population and generated ideas about how to change the story regarding educational and employment outcomes. The keynote speaker was The Hon. S. Pamela Gray, Magistrate Judge, Family Court of the District of Columbia.

• Twenty-five years of Family Preservation Services was celebrated in May as more than 200 statewide staff came together to discuss best practices and highlight their work in keeping families safe together. Dr. Ray Kirk of the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill, founder of the family practices model, was the keynote speaker and the event recognized Kirk’s model as an innovative way to work with families.

• “Clinical Work with the Corporate Employee: Collaborating for a Healthy, Safe, and Respectful Workplace,” a one-day conference, was held in June. The event, co-sponsored by IFF and leading corporations and associations in New Jersey, highlighted best practices in the assessment of workplace concerns, the array of resources provided by many employers and ways human service professionals can partner with corporate programs. Dr. K. Andrew Crichton, chief medical officer at Prudential Financial, was the keynote speaker.

• The Office of Research and Evaluation is partnering with the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America to conduct a national needs assessment to develop new partnerships and programs that build the capacity of human service professionals and organizations, both in New Jersey and beyond.

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• The Office of Research and Evaluation is partnering with the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America to conduct a national needs assessment to understand the needs of people living with MS. This is a tremendous opportunity to participate with an organization at the national level.

Addiction Counselor Training Certificate Program Launched in Spring 2012 Program Open to Current Students and Post-graduates

This spring, the School of Social Work, in collaboration with the Center of Alcohol Studies, launched the much anticipated Addictions Counselor Training (ACT) certificate program, which provides all the education hours and many of the supervised field hours required for the LCADC. Currently, 125 students are enrolled in the program and a new cohort will start this fall. The goal is to enroll 400 students during the three-year period of the grant.

Enrollment in ACT is open to clinicians with a masters or doctorate in a counseling discipline, incoming MSW students who wish to earn their hours while completing their degree. MSW students can complete ACT while completing their MSW coursework. Postgraduates can complete the six hybrid courses on a part-time basis within one year. Classes meet several times each semester and are offered in Newark, New Brunswick, and Camden, on Fridays or Saturdays. All participants completing the program requirements receive a financial award between $3500 and $5500.

For those interested in applying, the next enrollment is period September 15 through October 15. Please visit us on the web at socialwork.rutgers.edu/ACT for an application.

For more information about this program, please contact Heidi Rodrick at ACT@ssw.rutgers.edu. The NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services generously supports the ACT certificate program. Drs. Darcy Siebert and Nancy Violette are the ACT co-directors.
Dr. Judith Baer Retires, Looks Forward to Continuing Research

By Judith Alfano

It was a busy summer for Dr. Judith Baer who, after 16 years at Rutgers, retired in May. She traveled with doctoral student Hillary Mi-Sung Kim to China to present a paper and then returned, for a third time, to La Sarbonne in an official role as an invited lecturer.

Dr. Baer, Associate Professor of Social Work at Rutgers University and an affiliate of the Institute for Social and Psychiatric Initiatives, Department of Psychiatry, New York University School of Medicine, joined Rutgers in 1996 after completing her Ph.D. at the University of Houston.

Since joining Rutgers, Dr. Baer’s work has focused on three major ideas, always with the goal of giving social work more of a voice. Before it was popular, she was studying which aspects of life put people at risk and which protected them. She made it her goal to do work that was published in the broader social sciences and she partnered with Jerome Wakefield to examine the DSM-IV, with their work published in the Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease and American Journal of Psychiatry.

“We are grateful to Dr. Baer for her many distinguished years at Rutgers. She is a credit to the field of social work, an asset to her colleagues and an inspiration to her students,” said Dean Pottick. “She will be missed, but we look forward to her continued work in the field.”

Dr. Baer was honored at a retirement dinner in May, where colleagues spoke of her commitment to academic excellence and what they learned from her.

“I learned that it is important that your work is theoretically based and that it either must confirm, modify or rule out existing theory,” said Michael LaSala, Director of the MSW Program and Associate Professor. “I learned that every article, even rejected articles, has a home. I also learned, by watching her example, the importance and sweet pleasure inherent in mentoring a doctoral student.”

Dr. Baer counts her years at Rutgers a privilege and is grateful for the opportunity to grow and develop at the school.

“It’s a wonderful intellectual environment and I have much gratitude for this place,” said Dr. Baer. “I’ve worked with a lot of wonderful students and great faculty, which made my time at Rutgers very meaningful.”

She is looking forward to a very productive retirement, including lectures, books and continuing research in English Romanticism, which she began as an undergraduate student.

DSW Program Launches with First Cohort Beginning Fall 2012

With equal measures of pride and anticipation, we are thrilled to update the SSW community on the progress of our inaugural DSW Cohort, beginning this fall. Plans have been underway for some time now, and the realization of the longtime dream of bringing the DSW degree to Rutgers is fast-becoming a happy and exciting reality.

With an average of twelve years of post-MSW experience, our incoming Cohort profiles as a diverse array of established, practicing clinicians, whose fields range across many social work disciplines, including: mental health, child welfare, schools, hospitals, addictions, family services and therapy, sexual violence, veterans, homelessness, and faith-based organizations. The ages of our first Cohort range from twenty-six to sixty, with an average age of forty-three. Our Cohorts’ collective post-MSW experience and practice varies nearly as much--some students will be entering the DSW program with two years of field experience and others with as many as thirty-one. Additionally, our Cohorts’ demographics reflect the diverse populations that social workers serve, with nine male students and sixteen female students of Caucasian, Puerto Rican, African American, and other Latino descent. And with students coming to the program from as local as New Brunswick and as far away as Texas and Washington, the Rutgers DSW Program is already establishing a national footprint.

The first year curriculum blends a mix of clinical modules featuring a diverse, interdisciplinary group of faculty members—scholars ranging from anthropologists to literature professors, statisticians to psychoanalysts, from across the disciplines here at Rutgers, as well as from other prominent Universities nationwide. We are especially pleased to have two international faculty members, both from the UK.

Central to the curriculum, and to our innovative approach to the DSW degree, is the implementation of an intensive writing program, modeled on a hybrid of a Writing Workshop and Reading Seminar. The DSW Writing Program will offer students the unique opportunity to engage in guided writing and revision with experienced writing professors. The goal, in the first year, is for cohorts to learn about various models and strategies for composing publishable material as they matriculate in the program.

Pedagogically, the Writing Workshop and Reading Seminar function in tandem, in guiding DSW students to work with specific lenses of reading and responding to example texts from within and outside the field of Social Work, as they develop their own narrativized case studies.

LEARN for GOOD

Fall 2012 Continuing Education catalog now available.

socialwork.rutgers.edu/CE
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2012 BASW Graduates


2012 MSW Graduates


2012 Faculty-Staff Graduation Awards

JUDITH MCCOYD
Most Supportive Professor Award

ARLENE HUNTER
Most Supportive Staff Award

EDWARD ALESI
Innovative and Creative Teaching Award

WILLIAM WALDMAN
Professor of the Year Award

JACQUELINE PHILLIPS
Outstanding Adjunct Instructor Award

SVETLANA SHPIEGEL
Outstanding Doctoral Student Instructor Award

Maris A Chavenson Bo Young Cho Vladimir Jack Christophe Martin Chum Temitope Shakirat Coates Rose Jacqueline Coba

Image: A page from a document featuring a list of names and awards. The text includes names of graduates and faculty staff, as well as awards such as Most Supportive Professor and Professor of the Year. The page is from the School of Social Work at Rutgers University.
2012 Student Graduation Awards

**JANIS MCDIAID IKEDA**
Outstanding Student in Nonprofit and Public Management

**REBECCA G. WEINER**
Outstanding MSW Graduate

**RACHEL H. HIMLEY**
Outstanding Student in Clinical Social Work

**PAMELA RAE BURKE**
Outstanding Student in Clinical Social Work

**JEONG AH YOO**
Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation

**SALLY MENDOZA**
Excellence in Baccalaureate Social Work Education

**JAIMEE BROWN**
Excellence in Baccalaureate Social Work Education

Edward J. Bloustein Community Service Award

**EMILY WALSH**
Excellence in Baccalaureate Social Work Education

**ELIZABETH A. TREMBLE**
Excellence in Baccalaureate Social Work Education

**JENNIFER YOUNG**
Brian C. Wright Award in Baccalaureate Social Work Education

**AARON BRADLEY**
James M. Gaffney Memorial Award

**JOHN SETARO**
Rutgers University-Camden Alumni Association Outstanding Adult Senior Award
MSW Provides Rutgers Alumna with Strong Foundation for Spiritual Practice

By Judith Alfano

Eileen Ellis (SSW’02) was a recent graduate of the Rutgers MSW program when she knew it was time to pay attention to a growing spiritual awakening and began a journey that would lead to her life’s calling.

It wasn’t a journey she envisioned for herself when she returned to Rutgers, although in retrospect she could see the path—she had strong intuition and her ancestors were healers. Ellis’ plan was to complete the MSW, obtain the required certifications and become a school administrator.

A brochure, which landed mysteriously on her desk, changed her plan and Ellis spent the next two and a half years training to be an Energy Medicine Practitioner while working as the Supervisor of Special Education for Barnegat Township Board of Education.

“I didn’t know what I was going to do with it,” said Ellis, of her energy medicine training. “But you leap and the net will appear. I have a real certainty that everything will fall into place. And it has.”

Ellis’ practice, Native American Healing, with offices in Bay Head, N.J. and Fort Myers, Fla., includes holistic and spiritual healing consultations, indigenous medicine training. “But you leap and the net will appear. I have a real certainty that everything will fall into place. And it has.”

Ellis’ practice, Native American Healing, with offices in Bay Head, N.J. and Fort Myers, Fla., includes holistic and spiritual healing consultations, indigenous energy medicine techniques and various classes focused on meditation, relaxation and stress reduction.

She’s careful to point out that she doesn’t read minds.

“I’m not a psychic,” said Ellis, of full-blooded Mohawk ancestry. “My gift is a healing gift, so I’m able to find out where people’s energy losses are, what’s going on, on an energetic level.”

Her work is a gentle process, beginning with questions about a client’s past and the issues that are causing them trouble. It could be that a client is struggling with forgiveness or with making a big decision. Following the questionnaire, Ellis uses guided meditation to encourage the client into a relaxed state.

While in this state, Ellis uses healing stones and a pendant, which she keeps in a brightly-colored tapestry bag, to explore the client’s seven energy centers looking for energy blockages.

“When I speak to social work students, Ellis encourages them to integrate spirituality and energy awareness into their work.

“The amazing thing is, that you not only can, but you must, integrate the spiritual aspect of your life into whatever your vocation is,” Ellis said. “This is the piece that will vault you light years ahead, not only for you as a human being, but for the people you’re working with.”

Eileen Ellis can be reached at nativeamhealing@aol.com.

RSSW Moves Up in Rankings of Nation’s Best Graduate Schools of Social Work

The Rutgers School of Social Work has climbed to #26 out of 206 in the 2012 U.S. News & World Report survey of the best graduate schools of social work. It also moved from 13th to 10th in tier ranking, a gain exceeded by only three other schools in the entire top 40.

“While the rise in our ranking provides a visible and public indication of our program’s increasing strength,” says acting dean Kathleen J. Pottick, “we are proud to affirm what everyone in our school knows: that we are constantly and consistently getting better and better.”

The rankings are based on a survey sent in the fall of 2011 to administrators in all schools accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. For more information and to view the results and methodology visit U.S. News and World Report - Best Grad Schools.
On Friday, May 4, 2012, the School of Social Work held a celebration for 2012 MSW graduates during which the Students Supporting Students scholarships were awarded (see page 14). Faculty, staff, family and friends heard Department of Children and Families Commissioner Allison Blake (SSW ’89) give graduates her “Words of Wisdom: Ten Lessons from the Field”.

1. **Your Education is not over today.** Although you might not ever sit in another classroom, I can assure you that you can learn something new every day if you are open to it.

2. **History matters.** Make time to stay in touch and connected to your classmates as you move through your career as they will prove to be invaluable relationships and supports in the future.

3. **There is room in the world for other professions and disciplines – our work depends upon it.** The teams we form must be a kaleidoscope – in order to be effective and best serve a child, an individual or an entire family.

4. Make no doubt about it, **you’re going to make mistakes**, like everyone else, but there is nothing that can’t be fixed, if not by you, then by your supervisor.

5. It’s ok to **forgive yourself** – everyone else will have long before you get around to it.

6. **Supervision is important** until the day you retire. This is a key aspect of our daily work.

7. The **research and evidence is constantly changing** – and so must we, in order to be the most effective in our work.

8. **The small things in life can really speak volumes.** So don’t be late for meetings with staff, clients, or colleagues – it sends a message that you don’t value their time - whether that is true or not!

9. Whatever it is – **it will end** – and you will be able to go home.

10. **Stay connected.** Participate in your professional association – it’s an opportunity for personal growth, networking and connecting to talented and committed individuals like yourself who you can count on.

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**New Jersey Department of Children and Families Employees Earn Certificate in Violence Against Women**

Congratulations to the first class of Department of Children and Families supervisors who graduated with the Violence Against Women Foundation Certificate on June 6, 2012. Given the mix of child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence that Department of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) encounters in the field, staff members who demonstrated an interest and aptitude for working with families where domestic violence is an issue were provided with advanced practice training in assessment, screening, financial empowerment with survivors, domestic violence impact on children and more. Funding for the program was provided by the New Jersey Child Welfare Training Partnership and was a collaboration of the Rutgers School of Social Work Center on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC), the Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships, Division of Youth and Family Services, and the Department of Children and Families Training Academy. VAWC has received funding to continue the program and will provide the same training to another group of 50 students starting in September 2012.
In the Fall of 2011, members of the MSW Class of 2012 Campaign Committee were recruited from their Fundraising and Marketing class to establish a class gift in their name. At this time there was no way these students could have known how much impact their campaign would have on the entire Rutgers School of Social Work.

The Students Supporting Students Class of 2012 Campaign was the first campaign in the history of the Rutgers School of Social Work that requested student support in order to accomplish their dual mission of assisting peers through scholarships, and establishing a much needed culture of philanthropy within the school. The results of this first ever student-run campaign were astounding.

In 2010 only five members of the graduating class made gifts, and in 2011 there were no gifts made by the members of the graduating class. Through this campaign 46% of the students in the Class of 2012 gave gifts. That may not have been possible without the hard work of Katy Sutton and Lindsay Catarzi, students from the Class of 2012, who made phone calls to other students to encourage participation in the Students Supporting Students campaign.

Continued on Page 22

Brunch Reception for Graduates of the Public Child Welfare Intensive Weekend Program

When New Jersey entered its fiscal crisis in 2010, the grant that supported 60 DYFS employees to pursue MSW education was withdrawn. Through the students’ hard work and the close cooperation of the School of Social Work and the Department of Children and Families, Division of Youth and Family Services, 90% of these students were able to continue with their studies. Rutgers provided modest tuition scholarships and books and DYFS allowed 5 days of educational leave each month to permit the students to finish their degrees.

Since the end of the PCWIW program, the School’s revitalized Intensive Weekend Program has branched out, providing an alternative route to MSW education for full time employees of a broad range of human services organizations. DYFS employees continue to be among the program’s student body – but are joined by students from behavioral health, county and municipal social services, corrections, care management, preventive services, and many others.
**Programs on Aging**

In partnership with the Rutgers School of Social Work and their advanced field education agencies, four MSW Fellows in Aging implemented leadership projects in aging this past academic year. Congratulations to the Fellows on their success! For more information, see socialwork.rutgers.edu/Aging.

**An Evaluation of Volunteer Service Use and Quality at Haven Hospice**

Seth J. Antin (sethantin@optonline.net) completed his fellowship internship at Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison, NJ.

Haven Hospice is a comprehensive resource for patients with advanced, life-threatening illness. All aspects of hospice services receive continuous feedback from patient satisfaction surveys completed by families of expired patients; however, questions involving volunteer services are often left unanswered. This project addressed the lack of feedback regarding volunteer services through telephone surveys with families about their satisfaction with volunteer services (e.g., whether volunteers were utilized, which type of services they received, satisfaction with volunteer services, etc.). One-hundred-fifty-six families of 216 patients admitted to Haven between January through 2012 were contacted by telephone, and 119 families responded to the survey. Less than 15% of responding families reported volunteer utilization. The most commonly utilized volunteer service was companionship. In April 2012, the project findings, along with recommendations to enhance volunteer services, were presented to the organization’s Quality Assessment and Improvement Committee. Additionally, the information was summarized in a database, which was provided to the organization to assist with future efforts to evaluate volunteer services.

**Meals on Wheels Cannot End Senior Hunger Alone: The Importance of Collaborations**

Monique Roach (moniqueroach@aol.com) completed her fellowship internship at the United Way of Essex and West Hudson in Newark, NJ.

Meals on Wheels is a community-based senior nutrition program that is located in all 50 U.S. states that works toward addressing food insecurity among seniors. Barriers to accessing Meals on Wheels benefits in Essex County include long waiting lists that cause seniors to contemplate whether to satisfy their nutritional needs or other needs such as rent or medication. The purpose of this project was to gather information to help the United Way of Essex and West Hudson (UWEWH) consider actions to address current challenges facing Meals on Wheels, including reviewing research, searching public data, and conducting interviews with key informants. The project found that (a) public funding for Meals on Wheels has been steadily reduced over the past 20 years, (b) New Jersey ranked the 35th state where seniors are at risk for food insecurity, (c) food insecurity is associated with negative health outcomes and an increase in preventable diseases, and (d) nutritionally adequate foods are oftentimes not available, accessible and affordable for vulnerable seniors. These findings suggest the importance of the UWEWH’s involvement with Meals on Wheels and senior hunger, particularly through collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations.

**Needs Assessment of Senior Housing Complexes in Hunterdon County**

Kristen Hatalla (kbrittanyh3@gmail.com) completed her fellowship internship at the Division of Senior, Disability, and Veteran Services of Hunterdon County in Flemington, NJ.

Staff members of the Division of Senior, Disability, and Veteran Services of Hunterdon County have observed that older adults from three senior housing residences rarely utilize the services offered by the Division. This project addressed this concern by conducting a needs assessment, which involved surveys of 41 residents and focus groups with 32 residents from these residences. Four major themes emerged, including the need for additional services within existing programs (e.g., having more exercise programs offered at satellite locations), the need for additional programs that currently are not offered at all (e.g., an affordable place for older adults to swim), positive feedback about existing program (e.g., the farmer’s market voucher program), and the built environment (e.g., adding speed limit signs in strategic locations). Results were summarized in a brief report, which was presented to the Division’s Advisory Council, housing complexes, division supervisor, and community members who potentially can use this information to develop additional programs to meet the expressed needs.

**Identifying the Needs of Older Caregivers: Implications for Program Development at The Arc of Atlantic County**

Gail Ward-Kajander (kajandergail@comcast.net) completed her fellowship internship at The Arc of Atlantic County in Egg Harbor Township, NJ.

With the advent of de-institutionalization, along with better medical treatment and increased longevity for persons with developmental disabilities (DD), family caregiving for individuals with DD can last well into later life. The purpose of this project was to identify the needs of the older caregiver of children with DD by consulting the literature and conducting a focus group with older caregivers of consumers from The Arc of Atlantic County and to make recommendations for program development. Feedback from the focus group largely paralleled themes from the literature and addressed issues such as caregivers’ feelings of isolation and frustration at dealing with the current local, state and federal system, which creates barriers to obtain help as their child’s medical needs increase. Caregivers also identified difficulty receiving timely information related to the management of their responsibilities, as well as how to plan for their child’s future. The Arc of Atlantic County will use this information to develop a program for the older caregivers that provides a more supportive environment and advocates for this population.
Seventh Successful Summer for SHIP
By Judith Alfano

Forty student-scholars gathered at Douglass Campus Center on Friday, June 8 for the first of two sets of workshops aimed at developing emotional resiliency, job readiness and financial literacy.

The workshops are part of the Transitions for Youth Summer Housing and Internship Program (SHIP), launched in 2006 and coordinated by the Center for Nonprofit Management and Governance in the School of Social Work.

SHIP is a DCF funded program that supports New Jersey Foster Care (NJFC) Scholars between the ages of 18 and 22 by expanding their financial, professional, and social connections and securing safe and stable housing for them during the summer months.

“It’s a dynamic program,” said Lesley Dixon, MSW, LCSW, Senior Project Coordinator. “We have a talented group of young people who are really our future. It’s a wonderful opportunity to be able to invest in these students and provide mentorship and coaching for them and to really help them launch into independence.”

The workshops, developed and presented Dr. Jeffrey Longhofer, Dr. Jerry Floersch, Anthony (Tony) Mack, Dr. Ray Sanchez Mayers and Anita Wemple, are an opportunity for SSW staff and faculty to educate and mentor the SHIP scholars.

“What really strikes me each and every time that I work with these students is their desire to succeed,” said Mack, Training Coordinator at the New Jersey Child Support Institute, who has been a SHIP volunteer since 2009. “They always have great questions and truly want to listen and learn about what you have to offer.”

Each scholar, selected for the program after a rigorous interview process including a four-person panel, will work 24 hours a week at their selected internship and receive a stipend through the program.

“The internships are all in the community, depending on which campus the student is at – New Brunswick, Newark or Montclair,” said Dixon. “We work with community partners to match students up with industries that align with their career field. We have student interests ranging from education to physical therapy, law, medicine, business.”

Internship sites vary, but include Voices of September 11th, in New Brunswick, Newark Municipal Court, The Hispanic Family Center in Camden, and United Way of Northern New Jersey in Montclair.

This year’s SHIP Camden scholars also have the opportunity to be AmeriCorps members. In cooperation with the Rutgers Camden: Healthy Futures Initiative, these SHIP scholars will work with the local community and other AmeriCorps members to impact the Camden community by focusing on nutrition and physical fitness.

In addition to the workshops and internships, this year’s program, which runs from June 4 to August 17, includes guest speakers, recreation activities and a 3-credit course, Social Research Practicum, taught by Dr. Ronald Quincy, Director, Center for Nonprofit Management and Governance, Dr. Antoinette Farmer, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jill Sinha and Hasan Johnson, PhD student and part-time lecturer.

This is the first year that the course will be graded, at the request of the scholars, who will participate in a four-day trip, the Washington, DC Public Policy Research Practicum. SHIP scholars will visit the Chinese Embassy, attend meetings at the Congressional Offices on Capitol Hill and collaborate with a non-profit organization to conduct research on local poverty issues. Scholars also meet weekly with a support coach – full-time project coordinators, recent MSW graduates and MSW interns.

Support coaches provide one-on-one coaching and mentoring for each student. During support coaching sessions SHIP scholars outline personal goals they would like to accomplish over the summer and SHIP coaches assist the SHIP scholars in meeting these goals. Support coaching activities may include developing housing plans after the program ends, working on financial planning goals or fine-tuning their professional skills.

“I have learned more from the SHIP students than they could ever learn from me,” said Mack. “I just want to encourage them to remain positive and enjoy life. Also, for them to understand that they have talents and gifts that should be recognized and applauded. They all make me proud.”
Greater than $25,000
Yetta H. Appel
Madonna F. Falk, SSW’85, and
Arthur J. Falk, RC’66, RBSS’90
Huamin Charity Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
The New York Community Trust
School of Social Work Alumni Association
The Lois and Samuel Silberman Fund, Inc.

$10,000 to $24,999
Richard L. Edwards
Friends of Krystal Skinner
New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women
The Pfizer Foundation
A. Donald Pray, RC’69, and Penelope Bragg Pray, DC’70

$5,000 to $9,999
Phi Alpha Honor Society
Kathleen J. Potlick
Prudential Financial
Laurice C. Walker, SSW’64
Mary Vivian Fu Wells

$1,000 to $4,999
Ernst & Young, LLP
ExxonMobil Foundation
Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc.
Wilhelmina O. Jaffe, CCAS’94, SSW’95, and
Stephen B. Jaffe
Douglas B. Nestle, SSW’60
Robert B. Nolan
Kimberly M. Petro
Lindamarie Richardson
Robert M. Robertson, Jr., SSW’83
Rutgers Student Fund-Camden
Donald J. Stager, RC’76, SSW’91
Donna M. Van Alst, SSW’97
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Webster, Fredrickson, Correia & Puth, PLLC
Carl R. Woodward, III, RC’65, NLAW’68, and
M. Kathleen Woodward, SSW’70
Judith P. Zenowich
Suzanne Zimmer

$500 to $999
AIG Solutions, Inc. DBA Treatment Solutions Network
Alph Resource Center, LLC
V. DuWayne Battle, SSW’94, GSNB’01
Behavioral Health of the Palm Beaches
David R. Bell, SSW’84
Centris Consulting, Inc.
Chick-Fil-A at Cherry Hill FSC
Allen B. Cohen
James E. Cone
Christopher Edel
Bruce A. Fredrickson
Joan C. Fu
Patricia Fu, and J.D. Fu
Genesis House
Theresa E. Johnson, CCAS’86, GSNV’98, and
Robert O. Johnson
Gary A. Leo, SSW’75
Lighthouse
Livengrin Foundation Inc.
Malvern Institute
Mary Frances McFadden, SSW’86
NR Pennsylvania Associates, LLC
Princeton Healthcare System
Carolyn Schappert
Seabrook House
Sharyn V. Suarez, DC’80
Catherine M. Twanmoh, RBSS’80, and
Jeffrey D. Charney, GSED’95
Mary Wang

$100 to $499
Beverly Pressman Albert, SSW’76
Ambose Amoakah, SSW’98
Anthony Landolfi
Harriet B. Armstead, SSW’75
John T. Ash, III, SSW’78, GSNB’94
Mary D. Aun, SSW’93, and Catherine A. Lugg
Sandra Baron, SSW’80
Walter C. Bartholomay, and Marjorie G. Bartholomay
Ronne E. Bassman-Agins, SSW’72
Barbara B. Baumecker, SSW’76
Johanna M. Beduhn, SSW’08
Alvin G. Bell, SSW’86
Sabrina Bengel
Susan H. Birnbaum, SSW’69
Walter A. Bleuler, SSW’84
Gregory S. Blimling
Theodore Blunt, SSW’68
Sandra Y. Boone-Gibbs, NCAS’87
Ruth J. Bournazian, GSNB’87, and K. George Bournazian
Tarrah L. Bowick, SSW’01
Helen Bragg, and Floyd H. Bragg, RC’36
Lillie Mosby Brown, SSW’67
Marjory Brown, and Edmund A. Brown
Jane Bulman, and Francis Regie Bulman, SSW’11
Robert H. Burnett, Jr., SSW’92
Mark N. Busch, RC’64, and Frances J. Busch
Nancy L. Caffrey, and Paul J. Caffrey
Center for Family Services, Inc.
Huiling Chen, and Jiling Fu
Xuefan Liu Chen, and Jun Chen
A. Maral Clemments, NCAS’83, SSW’88
Colgate-Palmolive Co.
Martin Cordro, RC’50, and Ann L. Cordro, SSW’80
Kathryn A. Corsette, SSW’92
Anita I. Costello, SSW’81
Timothy M. Cowan, ENG’90, and
Susan L. Parish, RC’88, SSW’94
Mary Elizabeth Davey, SSW’73
Rebecca T. Davis
Janet M. DePaolo, SSW’97
Renee Jean DeVore, SSW’73
Yuqi Ding, and Jingjing Fu
Joanne A. Dix, SSW’77
Andrew L. Dory, SSW’78
Sonja C. Douglas, SSW’04
Roslyn L. Edgerton, UCN’79, SSW’80
Judith L. Evilko, SSW’73
Judith A. Feldman, SSW’94
Robin Fenley, SSW’96
Ann J. Ferguson
William J. Flahive, SSW’88
Erald E. Flescher
Donna L. Frandsen, LC’92, SSW’96
Elliot Freidenreich, RC’73, RBSS’74
Anna S. Fu

Continued on Page 18
Bequest Gift
Making a gift through a bequest is a thoughtful and far-reaching way to provide financial assistance for students or support to a program, department or school. Gifts were received from the estate of the following individuals.
Yetta H. Appel
Mary Vivian Fu Wells

Corporate Matching Gifts
Contributions which are matched by employers can double, triple, or even quadruple the value of gifts. SSW thanks the following organizations which made matching gifts.
Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Colgate-Palmolive Co.
ExxonMobil Foundation
GE Foundation
IBM Foundation
LabCorp
Merck Company Foundation
Motorola Mobility, Inc.
The Pfizer Foundation
The Prudential Foundation
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Gifts in Honor
SSW thanks those who have chosen to honor individuals through their gifts. Listed below are friends, loved ones, or colleagues in whose honor gifts were received during the year.
Cheri Fallon
Virginia Kee
William Waldman, SSW’72

Gifts in Memory
A gift in memory of a friend, loved one, or colleague is a respectful way of remembering that special person. SSW thanks those who memorialize individuals who were important in their lives. The following are names of those in whose memory gifts were received during the year.
Yetta H. Appel
Werner W. Boehm
William N. Brown
Harold W. Demone, Jr.
Ferne O. Fredrickson
Harold C. Glickman
Kathleen L. Gorman
Michael C. Hughey

Endowed Funds
School of Social Work Fellowship Fund
Alumni Association of the School of Social Work Endowed Fellowship
Bernice Boehm Memorial Fund
Blanche Grosswald Endowed Lectureship and Scholarship
Darien Family Endowed Fellowship for the School of Social Work
Donna and Art Falk Endowed Scholarship
Dorothy Cartun Amdurier Memorial Fellowship
Endowed Marketing Fund
Harold F. Zalt and Charlotte D. Zalt Endowment
Harold W. and Margarette F. Demone Endowed Lectureship on Alcohol and Other Addictions
Huamin Research Center Fund
Jean D. Fredrickson Memorial Award in Social Work
Kenneth Christmon Memorial Scholarship Fund
Krystal Skinner Memorial Scholarship
Marcia Cohen and Mark Forman Memorial Award
Patricia M. Myron Memorial Fellowship
Professor William Neal Brown Endowed Lecture Fund
School of Social Work Alumni Association Opportunity Fellowship
Verizon Wireless Scholarship Program
Yetta H. and Hyman Appel Scholarship

Annual Funds
School of Social Work Academic Excellence Fund
Center for Gambling Studies
Center for International Social Work
Center for Nonprofit Management and Governance
Center on Violence Against Women and Children
Charles A. Vickers Memorial Fund
Christian Gorman Memorial Fund Award
Class of 2012 Campaign: Students Supporting Students*
Doctoral Student Support Fund
Fu Family Fellowship
Institute for Families
Lillian Ringel Memorial Scholarship
Program on Aging
Robert C. Wells Memorial Scholarship
Transitions for Youth
William Waldman Scholarship Fund
William Neal Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund

* Newly created funds in fiscal year 2012

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions. To report a discrepancy or for more information, please contact Danielle Chirico at dchirico@ssw.rutgers.edu.
Brian Coleman
Instructor and Assistant Director of Student Affairs

Brian Coleman received his (PhD in Social Welfare) at the University of Pennsylvania. As Assistant Director of Student Affairs, Dr. Coleman advises MSW students on both the New Brunswick and Camden campuses. His teaching and research interests focus on spirituality, masculinity, policy, race and inequality, and fatherhood. Specifically his research has explored the impact of religious conversion on social connections; identity formation and how meaning derived from religious involvement facilitates or impedes one’s concept of community. Interests also include how the faith informed orientations of individuals, and the religious institutions from which they emerge, impact attitudes toward community empowerment, the delivery of faith-based social services, and the promotion of educational attainment in urban environments. Further research interests include the role of minority men, particularly low-income males, in the parenting process, and how their interactions with their children impact child development. Prior to joining the faculty at the School of Social Work, Dr. Coleman received Honorable Mention status for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program while working on his doctoral degree.

Colleen Beach
Instructor and Coordinator of Continuing Education Programs
Instructor in the MSW Program

Ms. Beach earned her Master’s Degree in Social Work at Monmouth University. Ms. Beach’s focus in professional practice has been to work with and advocate for vulnerable adults, with an emphasis on the older adult and terminally ill populations. The settings in which she worked include subacute and rehabilitation centers, assisted living, social and medical adult day centers, and in a hospice and palliative care center with both hospice in-patient unit and homecare components. Her role in the multiple levels of organizational structure and in different practice settings has exposed her to the varied challenges social workers encounter at the direct care, management and administrative levels of practice. Ms. Beach was the recipient of an award from the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization for Social Worker of the Year in 2010.

Amy Strickler
Instructor and Faculty Field Coordinator and Advisor for the Intensive Weekend MSW Program

Amy Strickler, LSW, earned a M.S. in Social Work, from the Columbia University School of Social Work, and has an advanced Certificate in Adoption from Rutgers School of Social Work. Previously, she was employed by the Lower East Side Family Union, New York City, for 20 years, where she rose to the position of Associate Executive Director. During her tenure as Associate Executive Director, Ms. Strickler expanded their Child Welfare Preventive Service program, and developed and implemented programs serving Families Living with HIV/AIDS and Families with a Developmentally Disabled Child. She has also worked within the field of International Adoption, conducting assessments of prospective adoptive families as well as providing pre and post adoption counseling. Ms. Strickler has many years of experience in direct practice, management and administration.

Jacob Suskewicz
Coordinator and Instructor of Writing for the DSW Program

Jacob Suskewicz is the Coordinator and Instructor of Writing for the Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) Program at Rutgers University, as well as an Instructor in the Rutgers Department of English where he teaches Creative Writing and Composition. Mr. Suskewicz earned his MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) from The New School, in 2009. Prior to joining the faculty at the School of Social Work, he served as assistant coordinator of the Rutgers Plangere Writing Center. He is at work on his debut novel, Set a Fire Burning, the first chapter of which was selected by Benjamin Percy as the winner of The New School's Graduate Writing Program Chapbook Contest, and was published by The New School Chapbook Series in 2010. He lives in Highland Park, NJ.

New Faces at the School of Social Work


Carr, Deborah. (2012). I Don’t Want to Die Like That... The Impact of Significant Others’ Death Quality on Advance Care Planning. *The Gerontologist*.


* Indicates Doctoral Student


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**Selected Conference Presentations by Faculty and Staff**


**Battle, D. & James, C.** (2012, March). Improving social work education and cultural competency through anti-oppressive social work practice. Presentation at the annual meeting of The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Portland, OR.


**Benoit, E. & Windsor, L.** (2012, November). Community Wise: A new approach to reentry. Paper will be presented at the meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL.


* Indicates Doctoral Student

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Franco, L. (2011, October). The 4 Rs and 2 Ss: A Promising Multiple Family Group Treatment for Children With Behavioral Difficulties. Presentation at Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.


* Indicates Doctoral Student


Michelsen, R. (2011, October). Revitalizing the training of field instructors: An online seminar in field education. Presentation at 2011 Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.


* Indicates Doctoral Student

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* Indicates Doctoral Student  ** Indicates Undergraduate Student

Zurlo, K. A. (2012, June). Grandparents raising grandchildren in challenging times and building financial skills among older clients. Presentations at the 34th Annual Summer Institute on Aging, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.


**Faculty News**

Assistant Professor Patricia Findley and PhD doctoral student Katie Findley (not related) have both been elected as Delegate Assembly members for NASW-NJ in the 2012-2015 term.

Doctoral student Brad Forenza and Samara Elias - an MSW Certificate in Aging student - were selected as recipients of the 2012-2013 Eagleton Fellowship.

Graduating MSW student Patricia Lundgren was the recipient of the Mark Moses Distinguished Fellowship Award from the Network for Social Work Managers. Ms. Lundgren is a student in the Nonprofit and Public Management program.

SSW Business Manager Christina Maggio graduated in May from the Rutgers Business School MBA program with a concentration in “Management and Global Business.” She received the “Dr. S. George Walters Consulting Excellence Award” which is awarded annually to the Interfunctional Management Team with the highest academic achievement in the program.

Associate Professor Shari Munch has been invited by NASW Executive Director, Dr. Elizabeth Clark, to serve on an expert panel to develop NASW Guidelines for Social Worker Safety. This request stemmed from Shari’s 2003 article co-authored with Ms. Patricia Spencer (SSW’01) that appeared in Social Work titled “Client violence toward social workers: The critical role of agency management in community mental health programs.”

Assistant Professor Lenna Nepomnyashch was a member of the technical working group for a new resource for research, data, and information on social welfare policies related to self-sufficiency, funded by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE). [https://www.opressrc.org](https://www.opressrc.org).

Lecturer and Executive in Residence William Waldman has been re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Trustees – National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – NJ; re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Trustees – Triple C Housing Corporation; and re-elected as Secretary of the Board of Trustees – Piscataway Township Libraries.

Assistant Dean Antoinette Farmer is featured as one of the Women of Color Scholars at Rutgers.

Newark MSW Program Director Karun K. Singh was elected as Chair of the New Jersey Chapter of the Network for Social Work Management in April 2012. Also, in May 2012, he was invited to join the Editorial Board of the *Journal for Nonprofit Management*. This journal is a peer-reviewed online forum for the publication, dissemination, and discussion of all aspects of U.S.-based nonprofit management practice.

Associate Professor Michael LaSala was part of a plenary panel at the second international Family Therapy Festival in Rome in June. Dr. LaSala spoke on the issues faced by LGBT youth in the US. On the same professional trip, Michael served as a Rutgers Ambassador to the Center for Global Advancement and International Affairs.

Associate Professor Karen Zurlo was a member of the technical working group for a new resource for research, data, and information on social welfare policies related to self-sufficiency, funded by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE). [https://www.opressrc.org](https://www.opressrc.org).

* Indicates Doctoral Student
Awards, Grants and Contracts

Assistant Professor Edward J. Alessi was awarded a grant of $24,000 from the Rutgers University Faculty Research Grant Program for a project titled, “Determinants of Gay Affirmative Practice among Mental Health Practitioners.” The project will be conducted in collaboration with Frank Dillon, and assistant professor of social work at the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work at Florida International University.

Associate Professors Beth Angell, Jerry Floersch, and Jeff Longhofer were selected to participate in the prestigious “Roundtable on Science in Social Work” held on Bainbridge Island outside of Seattle, Washington in August. The purpose of the roundtable is to set an intellectual agenda for the social work profession in the 21st century.

Doug Behan, Director of IFF’s Office of Continuing Education is the principal investigator on a training grant in the amount of $125,000 entitled “Professional Skills in Job Development Certificate Program” from the SNJ-DHS-Division of Disability Services. This grant is a sub-award from the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development. The training series is specifically designed to meet the needs of employment specialists and job coaches who work with individuals with disabilities.

Assistant Professor Patricia Findley has recently returned from a trip as a consultant for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to work with the Israelis and Palestinians on adapting the psychosocial materials that she helped to develop for populations in the Middle East during her Fulbright award. She was asked to contribute expertise with vulnerable populations, including those with disabilities, children, the elderly, and homeless.

Andy Germak, Executive Director of the Institute for Families is principle investigator on an award in the amount of $402,195 from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families to fund management and leadership training program for local DYFS office managers. It will extend IFF’s work on their existing New Jersey Child Welfare Training Program.

Assistant Professor Emily Greenfield has been selected as a recipient of the Hartford Faculty Scholars Program in Geriatric Social Work. This two-year grant totaling $100,000 will allow her to conduct a qualitative study titled “Aging in community, aging with community: Examining older adults’ civic engagement in NORC programs”. NORC programs constitute a community practice model that is designed to help older adults age in place, especially through enhancing their social relationships.

Michael LaSala and Ronald Rak at St. Peter’s Healthcare System were awarded a Community-University Research Partnership Grant for New Brunswick in the amount of $7,000 for their project “New Brunswick Family Solutions: A Conjoint Family Therapy Program”. The partnership will establish a family therapy program focusing on the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth from New Brunswick faith-based organizations.

Assistant Professor Sarah McMahon received a $24,000 grant from the new University Faculty Research Program for her proposal: “Multi level bystander intervention to Prevent Sexual Violence.”

Sandra Moroso from the Office of Training and Educational Programs has been named as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the New Jersey Victim Assistance Academy (NJVAA) grant, which has been renewed for the second year in the amount of $60,000 from the NJ Division of Criminal Justice. An Advanced Academy will also be developed and implemented for crime victim service providers who have more than ten years of experience.

Sandra Moroso has been named PI of the LGBTQ Crime Services Project, a recently awarded grant of $4,000 for one year ($295,905 in total support is anticipated over three years) from the United States Department of Justice. Michael LaSala and Donna VanAlst are the key researchers who will oversee the outcomes evaluation for this project.

Associate Professors Judy Postmus and Rebecca Davis have received $51,000 from a research consortium in Liberia for “Examining Gender Based Violence and Abuse in Liberian Schools”. The consortium includes representatives from the Ministry of Education of Liberia, the Ministry of Gender & Development in Liberia, the Association of Liberian Universities, IBIS, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, and Concern Worldwide.

Assistant Professor Kristin Scherrer was awarded a 2012-2013 Faculty Fellowship at Rutgers’ Institute for Research on Women for their Seminar on “Trans Studies: Beyond Hetero/Homo Normatives.” She will be building on, and expanding, her dissertation research to focus on “The role of gender identity and gender presentation in grandparent-GLBTQ grandchild relationships.”

Assistant Professor Jill Sinha was selected as a Faculty Fellow in the inaugural cohort for Camden’s Civic Engagement. The Fellowship entails a two-day intensive development workshop with a two-day follow-up to support the integration of engaged civic learning into courses, programs, and research projects which will enhance student learning and benefit to community partners, and carries a stipend of $1,000.

Donna VanAlst, Director of the Office of Research and Evaluation at IFF, is the principal investigator on an award for $102,768 over one year from the NJ Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice to carry out a comprehensive technical assistance plan for the agency’s grantees.

Julissa Vizcaino from the Office of Training and Educational Programs is the project lead on the Family Development Credential (FDC) Family Success Centers (FSC) project, a recently awarded grant for $238,851 over one year from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.

The FDC-FSC program will provide training for two hundred individuals that are involved with the Family Success Centers located throughout New Jersey.

Associate Professor Allison Zippay and Assistant Professor Lisa Townsend were awarded a grant for $40,604 from the University Faculty Grant Program for “Civic and social engagement among psychiatric housing residents.”
**Alumni Update**

**Neil G. Ambrus** (SSW ’89) is currently a supervisor of 13 case managers in the Community Care for Elderly Department at Aging True. They provide a variety of in-home services to help prevent premature and unnecessary placement of frail elderly into long-term care. Neil recently completed the one-year Bullet Proof Manager training with CRESTCOM International.

**Pablo Saldana** (SSW ’99) just earned his PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Florida. Dr. Saldana has accepted a position at Nemours Children’s Clinic in Jacksonville, FL, where he is specializing in assisting adolescents with chronic illnesses to make the transition from pediatric health care to adult health care and with the transition from secondary to post-secondary education or work environments.

**Dr. Barbara Milton** (SSW ’01) continues to work on social justice, media advocacy and mental health issues for LGBTI, African-American and other low-income, at-risk, inner-city youth. She is the co-producer & host of Teen Talk on JCITV in Jersey City and writes a bi-weekly column for the Jersey Journal Newspaper called Our Pride & Joy, which highlights positive teens from the community. Her first book, “Reconnecting to historical resilience: An analysis of ex-slave narratives with implications for at-risk African American youth” is currently available at retailers nationwide.

**Regina Kearney** (SSW ’10) has co-authored a paper which has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Research in Childhood Education. The paper is entitled “Children With Anxiety Disorders: Use of A Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Model Within A Social Milieu” The paper evaluated a two-week summer program for children with anxiety disorders which Ms. Kearney helped to develop, modify and run.

**Marques Johnson** (SSW ’11) who is currently the residence life coordinator on the Cook/Douglas campus, recently came in first place in the Dancing with the Deans contest at Rutgers.

**Marlene Anderson** (SSW’12) was awarded the intern of the year award from the Juvenile Justice Commission. Ms. Anderson is a VAWC certificate student and one of the Verizon Wireless HopeLine Scholars.

**Rhonda Y. Brown** (SSW’12) received the Outstanding DYFS Staff Member award from the Department of Children and Families.

Please send updates to alumni@ssw.rutgers.edu.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

The Rutgers School of Social Work family extends our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of deceased alumni.

**Mr. Joseph Robert Ryan** (SSW ’59) November 28, 2011
**Ms. Paulette Wicker**
(UC’83, SSW ’84) July 03, 2005

**Mrs. Mary Ann Herina-Sisco** (SSW ’61) May 08, 2012
**Mr. Dennis Bruce Diamond**
(UCN ’64, SSW ’85) January 04, 2012

**Mrs. Margaret W. Houston** (SSW ’65) October 11, 2009
**Ms. Marie A. Level Williams**
(SSW ’85) August 06, 2008

**Mr. Robert L. Melican**
(SSW ’67) October 04, 2004
**Ms. Cynthia Lanell Goldwire**
(SSW ’89) September 04, 2010

**Mrs. Mary Louise Lewis**
(SSW ’68) April 04, 2001
**Ms. Mary E. McDermott**
(CCAS ’85, SSW ’89) May 19, 2011

**Dr. Margaret N. Gibelman**
(SSW ’71, GSNB ’77) June 03, 2005
**Ms. Johanne M. Schroeder**
(SSW ’91) August 20, 2007

**Dr. Carol Jorgensen Williams**
(DC ’66, SSW ’71, GSNB ’81) November 12, 2010
**Ms. Mary D. Zeil**
(SSW ’91) December 13, 2009

**Ms. Virginia S. Carroll**
(UCN ’70, SSW ’72) July 14, 2011
**Ms. Viola K. Green-Allen**
(SSW ’92) February 01, 2012

**Mrs. Evelyn F. Davis-Grant**
(DC ’72, SSW ’74) August 24, 2011
**Mrs. Carol P. Jacobs**
(GSED ’69, SSW ’93) August 11, 2011

**Ms. June M. Pettinelly**
(SSW ’74) October 03, 2011
**Mr. George J. Sheridan**
(SSW ’97) June 16, 2011

**Ms. Margaret W. Grace**
(GSED ’63, SSW ’79) October 01, 2009
**Ms. Christina H. Bettinger**
(RC ’02, SSW ’04) July 25, 2011

**Mr. Angelo Raymond Sargentini**
(SSW ’79) April 30, 2008
**Ms. Jessica L. Kushner**
(SSW ’05) December 21, 2011

**Mr. Neal T. Beckley**
(SSW ’81) January 04, 2010
I’m a HENRY. RU?

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