

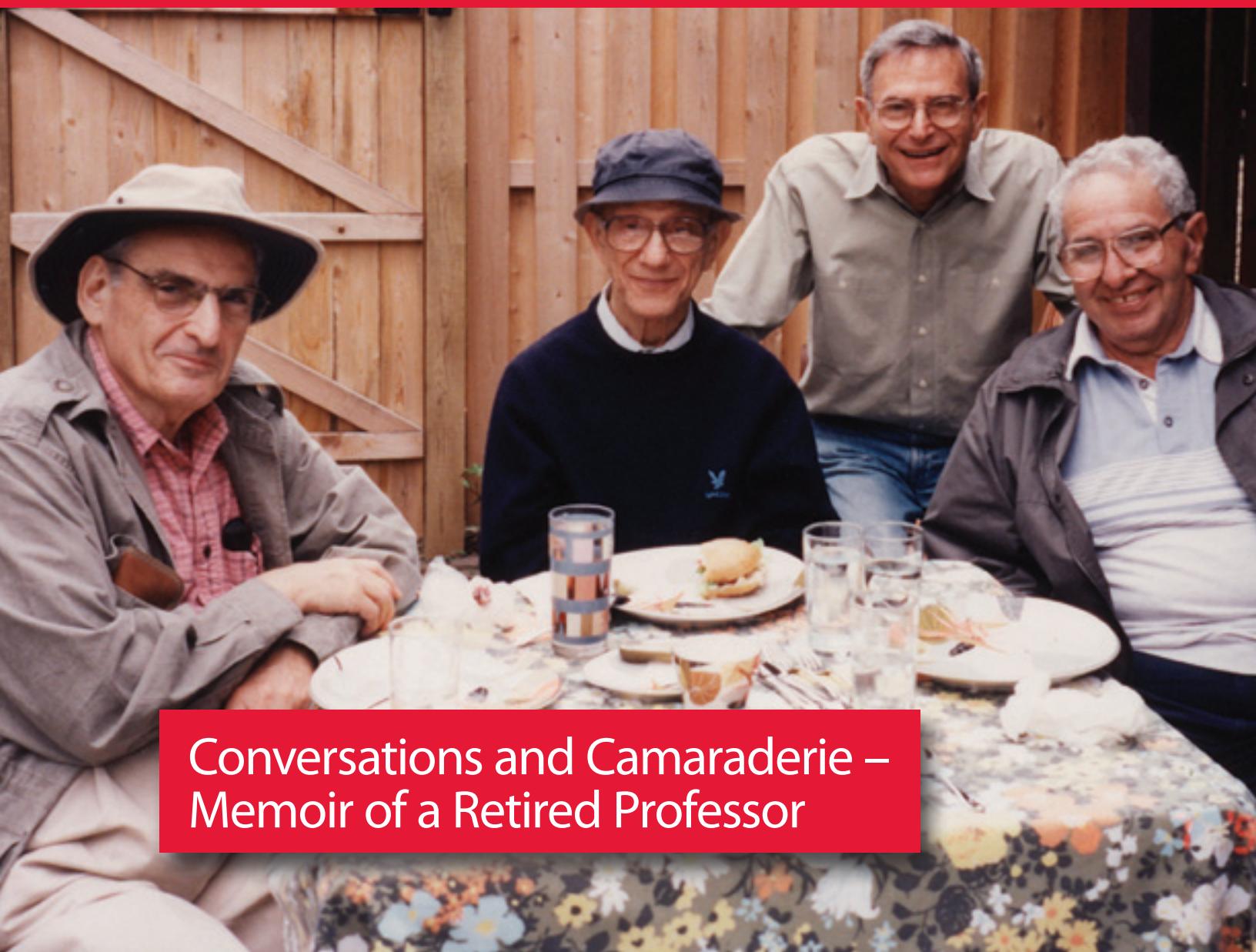
The Rutgers University seal is located in the top left corner, featuring a circular design with the year 1766 at the top, the word "RUTGERS" in the middle, and "STATE UNIVERSITY" at the bottom, all set against a red background.

WINTER 2014

SOCIAL WORK

A Publication of the

RUTGERS
School of Social Work



Conversations and Camaraderie –
Memoir of a Retired Professor

PARTNERING *for* CHANGE



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On the cover:

Retired SSW faculty enjoy a reunion lunch. Pictured from left are Dan Katz, the late Morris Siegel, Len Brown, and Ted Walden.



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Message from the Dean

“Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured as upon the result itself.” — Jane Addams



I am pleased to share with you the winter 2014 edition of the Rutgers School of Social Work alumni magazine. One of our featured stories, “Reflecting on Fifty Years of Progress in Mental Health,” is an exploration and celebration of our past and an examination of the important work still needed to create a future with adequate programs and services to address the mental health needs of a diverse population.

Jane Addams, known prominently for her work as a social reformer during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, once said, “*Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured as upon the result itself.*” As we look to provide the best possible behavioral health assistance with compassion and excellence, we must also continually improve how these services are organized, financed, and delivered. The 50th anniversary of the signing by President John F. Kennedy of the Mental Retardation and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963 (Community Mental Health Act) is an opportunity to assess the paths that brought us here and the direction we will take in the future.

One avenue that Rutgers School of Social Work is exploring to improve healthcare delivery is reaching out to businesses to help plan for a stronger workplace response to domestic partner violence. More than 300 business leaders, human resource and employee assistance professionals, and social workers came together in October 2013 for a day-long conference entitled “Domestic Violence: How Workplaces Get Hurt and How They Can Help,” which examined domestic violence and its cost to workplaces in both human and financial terms.

We are educating the social work leaders of tomorrow, and their enthusiasm for the role and the new ideas that they bring to the table are a key element to enhancing the delivery of behavioral health services. One innovative example of bringing a world view to our delivery in the U.S. is the China Study Abroad Program, a three-credit course that combines online study with four weeks of in-country instruction. Students receive 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.

We hope that you enjoy reading this issue and welcome your continued partnership in our dreams and goals for the future of social work.

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "Cathryn C. Potter".

Cathryn C. Potter, Ph.D.
Dean

ALUMNI RECEPTION

On November 7th, nearly 150 alumni, faculty, and staff gathered at the Zimmerli Art Museum for the school's Alumni Reception to introduce Dean Potter.



"We need each and every one of you to spread the word to others who were not able to join us tonight that we want everyone to become engaged, give back, and stay connected. Our school needs your support, and the students need your wisdom and experience from the field. Tonight's event is about fulfilling our mission. We have thousands of alumni throughout the country, and our goal tonight is to begin the process to invite all of you to reconnect, get involved, and give back. — Marla Blunt-Carter (SSW '03)





"It was a privilege to have met so many of you at my first alumni gathering. You are doing outstanding, engaging, and inspiring work. For those who were not able to attend, it really was a great, energetic, dynamite event. We had graduates from 1969 to 2012 attending. Many thanks to the Alumni Council for hosting this event!" — Dean Cathryn C. Potter



"I am so proud of the work of our alumni, who remain committed to the profession, our school, and the future of social work by giving back to our students. Every gift matters and, through your support, we awarded 120 scholarships this year."

— Stephanie Giordano,
Director of Development



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

As a third-generation social worker, Harriet "Pat" Bamdad (SSW '74), knows both the value of an MSW education and giving back.

Third Generation Social Worker Hopes to Inspire Others to Give

Inspired by her grandmother and mother, Bamdad came to Rutgers in the early 1970s to study social work with a focus on policy, and she recalls those years as among the happiest of her life. "My time at Rutgers was truly phenomenal," says Bamdad. "I loved everything from the professors to the field placements, all of which were so different and yet taught me so much."



Ruth L. Mann

Bamdad's grandmother, Ruth L. Mann, was director of social work at St. Luke's Memorial in Utica, N.Y. Although she began her career as a teacher, she found her calling as a social worker and devoted herself to the profession well into her later life. Bamdad's mother, Winnifred Mann Thomet, also dedicated herself to social work, choosing instead the route of academia. She taught at Syracuse University and Florida State University before joining the Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work when it was still housed on Douglass Campus.

With so many social workers in the family, one might think that the dinner table was filled with "shop talk." But, no, insists Bamdad, who said that unless

there was a problem to be solved, the family left work at the office.

As a student, Bamdad was committed to both her educa-

tion and her work as supervisor of chronic care at Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center in Utica, N.Y., where she used all of her vacation time for coursework. "The time that I had off at Rutgers, I was busy working," recalls Bamdad. "Then I'd go back to school. I went two years without vacation, but I don't regret it. They were such happy years."

Following graduation, Bamdad was promoted to director of discharge planning at Mohawk, which she directly credits to her policy coursework at Rutgers. In her role as director, Bamdad oversaw patient discharges in five counties. She saw to it that any discharge issues were resolved and credits the collaborative spirit of social work and the willingness of her colleagues — police, family services — with her success.



Winnifred Mann Thomet

Now retired, Bamdad is committed to giving back to Rutgers School of Social Work and encourages others to do the same. As a member of the Colonel Henry

Rutgers Society, which was formed to recognize graduates and friends who designate Rutgers in their will or estate plans, Bamdad hopes to inspire others to give.

"Because my grandmother and mother were both social workers and I saw how all of us loved what we did all of our lives, I want to give back so that other students can have that same opportunity to feel the same way," says Bamdad, noting that many students rely on financial support to meet their education and career goals.



Harriet "Pat" Bamdad, SSW '74

"Our students are spread so thin between coursework, field placements, work, and family obligations," says Stephanie Giordano, director of development at the Rutgers School of Social Work. "Through the generosity of our donors, we are able to award scholarships, fellowships, and research assistant positions to help alleviate the financial burden that most of our students bear. Pat's endowment, named for her mother and grandmother, will support students in perpetuity. I cannot imagine a more rewarding legacy to leave."

"When you go to work in a job that you love, it really isn't working," adds Bamdad. "It's something completely different — it's inspiring and fulfilling. And I think it's very important, when we have succeeded in the jobs that we have, to be able to give back to the students because it's true that every gift matters."

Grant-Funded Youth Advisory Boards Focus on Young People and Service Delivery

imed at increasing the professional skills of young people who have experience with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P, formerly named DYFS), the New Jersey Department of Children and Families recently awarded the Rutgers School of Social Work a grant to administer new Statewide Youth Advisory Boards.

"The goal of the program this year is to reach and retain more DCP&P-involved youth than we ever have before to inform improvements in service delivery for themselves and other youth in care," said Elizabeth Salerno, the statewide coordinator for the program. "The young people who participate in Youth Advisory Boards will be a part of a large network of adults and like-minded peers who want to support and guide them in their efforts to help the Division review and improve their services, policies, and procedures for youth in care."

"We are pleased to be able to work with youth who have firsthand experience and to gather and provide feedback to the Department of Children and Families about their experiences in care," added Maureen Braun Scalera, director of the Office of Child Welfare Initiatives at the

Institute for Families. "Our hope is that this vital information will contribute to meaningful and substantive advances in service delivery."

The new Youth Advisory Boards incorporate all 21 counties (there are 15 boards that represent youth from all 21 counties) in New Jersey and will be facilitated by RUSSW employees. The new format is an expansion on previous years

and now includes all counties and the creation of a Youth Advisory Council and a Statewide Conference.

Young people ages 14-22 throughout New Jersey will meet twice monthly in 15 locally targeted Youth Advisory Boards. The youth will meet in a board meeting format to discuss challenges they face while in out-of-home placement care in order to formulate strong and succinct suggestions for DCF leadership on how to improve their services. A team made up of one statewide coordinator, three regional coordinators, and nine ambassadors (mostly college-aged students with former YAB and DCP&P experience) will facilitate meetings and support

DCP&P involved youth on how to advocate for Division change and build their professional skills at the same time.

"The new YAB includes the ability to hire ambassadors, who I believe are the key to the success of this program," said Salerno. "Youth ambassadors will be able to reach and build rapport with younger people in care in a way that adults have never been able to, as many ambassadors are likely to have had similar experiences while in Division care. They will provide the regional coordinators with key support and advice about how to build and retain relationships with DCP&P-involved youth and build and mentor youth themselves. This is a very important and exciting new piece to the program."

In addition, a Statewide Youth Advisory Board Conference will be held on May 8. This conference will serve as a venue to showcase the work done by the Statewide Youth Advisory Boards and a place for providers to network and learn about ways to implement youth feedback in their programming.

"We want to gather and empower as many youth voices as we can to truly help the State of New Jersey improve its child welfare services and help youth grow so that they can succeed when they transition out of care," said Salerno. "Young people are the answer to the questions we have about what works and what does not in child welfare and so much more. Empowering young people is critical for everyone's future."

To make a gift in support of Transitions for Youth, please visit socialwork.rutgers.edu/give.



Maureen Braun Scalera

VAWC Conference Addresses Domestic Violence and Its Impact on the Workplace



Most of the approximately four million women who will be victims of domestic violence this year go to work every day, and so do their abusers.

In an effort to learn and plan for a stronger workplace response to domestic partner violence, more than 300 business leaders, human resource and employee assistance professionals, and social workers came together in October 2013 for a day-long conference entitled "Domestic Violence: How Workplaces Get Hurt and How They Can Help," which examined domestic violence and its cost to workplaces in both human and financial terms.

"The conference was a powerful experience for those in attendance," said Judy Postmus, associate professor and director of Center on Violence Against Women and Children. "Each of the speakers brought passion and expertise in how to best address domestic violence and its impact to employees and workplaces."

Speaking as part of a panel at the conference, Michael A. Mason, chief security officer at Verizon, said that one of the keys to changing an organization's culture is "dragging the conversation out of the shadows so people feel comfortable talking about it."

In addition to open workplace dialogue, confidential employee assistance programs provide support and resources for those in abusive relationships. Cynthia Fearon, director of communications at MetLife, knows well the value of both, and it was a conversation with her manager that changed her life.

"After arriving at work with a black eye, he told me I didn't deserve to live as a punching bag or to be afraid of someone who was supposed to love me," recalls Fearon, a domestic violence survivor who delivered the closing address at the conference. "I remember sitting with him in our boss's office like it was yesterday, and him saying, 'Cyndie, call our company's EAP hotline.'"

With the support of her manager and the knowledgeable experts at Prudential's Employee Assistance Program, Fearon found not only colleagues who wanted to help her, but support groups and other valuable resources outside of work. In her address, Fearon spoke of the challenges facing survivors and of the importance of a safe work environment. She hopes that

through this event she was able to give attendees the opportunity to think differently about victims and survivors in the workplace so they leave the event and take action within their companies or organizations that will positively impact their employees.

Sponsored by Prudential, Rutgers School of Social Work Institute for Families, New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women, Verizon, Johnson & Johnson, Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company, FEI Behavioral Health, LifeCare, Ernst & Young, Rutgers School of Social Work Center on Violence Against Women and Children, Employee Assistance Professionals Association — NJ Chapter, and the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, the program explored the dynamics, scope, and impact of the problem, and steps that employers — whether large or small — can take to make a difference.

"This conference reflected the strength of our partnerships and our commitment to survivors of domestic violence," said Postmus. "It is our hope that, through events such as this one, we will continue to provide meaningful information for practitioners and human resource professionals."

To support the work of the Center on Violence Against Women and Children, please visit <http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/give>.



A Background in Social Work Leads to a Career as Associate Dean

Encouraging others to think outside the box in terms of social work, Rosanna Reyes (RC '03, SSW '06) is currently redefining her role as associate dean at Williams College by undertaking a dual role that also involves overseeing first-generation initiatives.

Reyes spent 13 years at Rutgers University and received her MSW during that time. "Even though my title doesn't say 'social worker,' I feel I keep the social work mentality with me," said Reyes.

Given her current role, people don't normally think that Reyes studied social work. She feels that there are many different paths you can take and that you don't strictly have to be a social worker. Reyes says the time she spent at Rutgers was memorable and she carries with her fond memories and experiences that will last a lifetime.

Reyes spent her first year of fieldwork experience at Rutgers Educational Opportunity Fund, which reinforced her desire to work with people, particularly her desire to work with college students. EOF was also where she met José Laureano, a counselor there at the time, and other counselors who became mentors and impacted her decision to get an MSW.

"As a first-generation college student who grew up in the same hometown as Rosanna, I'm extremely proud of her," said José Laureano, assistant director of student affairs at the Rutgers School of Social Work. "I have been fortunate to see her grow and become an inspiring role model and a strong advocate for first-generation college students at the local and national level. Rosanna is a shining example of the Rutgers School of Social Work's rich tradition of turning passionate and committed students into leaders who serve society in policy, academic, clinical, and corporate settings."

Her experiences at SSW also showed her that working with college students wasn't as straightforward as many people thought. During her time at EOF, Reyes helped students navigate the institution and make them feel they belonged there. "Lots of students have a range of issues that are impacting their time at school," said Reyes. These experiences also allowed her to conduct counseling, even though she wasn't a counselor.

"If I didn't have a social work background, I don't think I would be as

Even though my title doesn't say "social worker," I feel I keep the social work mentality with me.

comfortable as I am now talking with students," Reyes said.

Two courses in particular influenced her the most. One was a course taught by DuWayne Battle, which discussed diversity and oppression, and the other was a marketing class taught by Mark Lamar.

The course Dr. Battle taught discussed cultural and social issues that different populations deal with, and it significantly affected Reyes. The marketing class was a practical class that covered topics such as the ins and outs of writing an entire program, and Reyes still uses what she learned in the course to this day.

These experiences not only impacted Reyes's life, but also contributed to

getting her to where she is today as a dual-role dean at Williams College. Her role as dean, working with all students as well as first-generation students, allows her to make sure students who came slightly underprepared don't fall behind, having one-on-one conversations with students, and aiding in large-scale programs to make sure students are getting the proper resources needed to succeed.

Reyes enjoys a life and career that circle around helping, and her own experiences have become one of her biggest motivators. "I am a first-generation student who had a lot of mentors and networks at Rutgers that helped me succeed. I want to be that support for students," said Reyes.

If Not Now, When?



The Office of Continuing Education at the Rutgers School of Social Work is the largest university-based program of its kind in the country; we are experienced — successfully providing continuing education to social workers and human service professionals for over 35 years. We offer training on a wide range of topics led by dynamic instructors — with over 350 workshops annually and 12 different certificate programs. Visit our website to view our new Spring 2014 Catalog!

socialwork.rutgers.edu/CE

Reflecting on 50 Years of Progress in Mental Health: Celebrating Our Past — Creating Our Future



The 50th anniversary of the signing by President John F. Kennedy of the Mental Retardation and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963 (also known as the Community Mental Health Act) provides an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come, the path ahead, and the challenges we will face. It is important because, given the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and New Jersey's plan to move such services into the framework of managed care, we are on the cusp of transformational change in how behavioral health services are organized, financed, and delivered.

At the time of President Kennedy's signing of the original act, New Jersey had thousands of patients placed in institutional settings. These settings were complexes with scores of buildings on hundreds of acres of land, with well over 1,000 employees in most. In some ways these were similar to small cities with police forces, fire departments, road crews, and waste water treatment plants. The motivation in constructing and operating these facilities was humanitarian — to create a decent and safe living environment for those who met the legal and clinical commitment standard of being a danger to self and others. Yet despite these intentions and the best efforts of many, institutional care was often simply custodial care — little active treatment coupled with the administration of psychotropic medication. A pathway for recovery, inde-

pendent living, and wellness was not established.

The Community Mental Health Act provided an alternative to care in institutions. Mental health services became far more affordable and accessible to those in need, and efforts began to reduce the institutional population. These were ambitious but not always successful, as many former patients entered homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and emergency rooms. A critical lesson learned was that this effort could not be driven exclusively by the ideology of "community good — institutions bad," but that individualized services and supports needed to be accessible to all individuals in the community in order to achieve wellness and prevent further institutional episodes.

Key to this progress over the years was both the evolution of organized advocacy activities along with new governmental forms and structures. New Jersey has indeed come a long way since the Community Mental Health Act was signed into law, and it is fair to conclude that:

- We have reduced our reliance on institutional care as the primary response and investment in caring for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness.
- With respect to the behavioral health needs of children and youth, we have established, maintained, and improved a comprehensive system of care that strives for quality, facilitated access, and consistency.

- We are constructing an integrated system of care for adults to maximize the efforts of our rich and strong array of community-based service providers.

- We have a greatly expanded stock of supported housing for consumers by a combination of governmental policy innovation and a growing sophistication in the provider community.

- We recognized the value and have begun to embrace and expand on the concept of peer counseling and support.

- We acknowledged the behavioral health needs of individuals, families, and communities affected by both terrorism and climate change, and we have demonstrated the ability to collaborate and partner inter-organizationally to meet this end and have begun to develop the infrastructure to address future needs.

- We have a strong and resilient array of advocacy organizations to hold all of our collective feet to the fire to make sure we all do the right thing.

Despite this wonderful progress, and to paraphrase a great poet, we have many miles to go before we rest. For example:

- Morbidity and mortality for individuals affected by mental illness are significantly higher than those not affected. We need to better integrate and make accessible physical health care to those affected by mental illnesses.
- We still suffer from a paucity of community-based services. Inmates in correctional facilities reflect a disproportionate degree of mental illness, and



concern is rising that such facilities are a fast growing yet inappropriate component of our array of services.

- As President Obama noted in Now Is The Time: The President's Plan to Protect Our Children and Our Communities by Reducing Gun Violence: "We are going to need to work on making access to mental health care as easy as access to a gun."
- We need to work harder than ever to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, which still exists in a virulent form that denies opportunities and impedes access to services.
- As so many tragedies have taught us, we need to enhance the availability of primary and preventive behavioral health services to students and young adults and also for our seniors, who are living longer and are more vulnerable.
- We must promote efforts to develop and expand the state's mental health workforce, which is necessary to support an effective system of care.
- We need to guarantee that the implementation of the Affordable Care Act provides wide access to quality behavioral healthcare services, and that the federal and state laws directed at equity in insurance coverage between physical and behavioral health care achieve their promise.
- We need more research to identify and replicate evidence-based policy, programs, and services.
- As we are on the cusp of transformational change to our system of care for behavioral health, we must all work to

assure that change results in a system that promotes wellness, recovery, choice, dignity, and individual fulfillment for those affected.

I am reminded of an experience I had during my state service that deeply affected me. When I was commissioner of the Department of Human Services, the staff at our locations were required to forward what we called "incident reports" to my attention. There were as many as 50 a day — most routine and well handled by local managers. One late night, as was my practice, I was reading these reports and came across one that was generated by Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital, which was situated on over 1,000 acres. The grounds crew cleared a little-used portion of the property that had become overgrown with weeds and brush, and uncovered a cemetery. There were many small wooden crosses, some Stars of David, and other symbols that marked what appeared to be rows of graves. I was literally stunned to read that report. Questions flew through my mind: Who was buried there? Why were they buried there? Why were there no names or dates on the graves? Why weren't the graves maintained? Some investigation revealed that during the 1950s, when no one claimed the remains of a patient who had passed away and the local municipality was unwilling to take responsibility for burial, the hospital itself interred the individual on that plot of land. The practice was discontinued, but the graves remained — uncared for and forgotten.

I visited the cemetery the next day and when I looked across the rows of markers I was deeply troubled. These were human beings — they lived, loved, and had hopes and dreams. It became very important to me to identify each one, to put a name on each marker, and to give everyone buried there the individuality, identity, and dignity that, perhaps, their mental illness had taken from them during their lifetime. The hospital staff and our volunteer hospital auxiliary took on the project and matched the numbers on the markers to the original medical records, which were discovered molding in a basement of a long unused building.

Each grave was identified. A name and dates of birth and death were placed on modest individual headstones along with the appropriate religious symbols, and a small monument was placed at the entrance in memory of those interred. We had a dedication and memorial ceremony, and we invited any of the relatives of the former patients we could locate. It was an emotional day for all, and we reaffirmed our commitment to promote the wellness, recovery, individuality, and dignity of those affected by mental illness — not just in memoriam after they passed away, but throughout the course of their lives. Perhaps that is the challenge for all of us.

We need to continue on in our movement to achieve the promise inherent in the Community Mental Health Act. Just as the great civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King so memorably shared his dream at the Washington Monument, we need to articulate and act upon our dream to enable those affected by mental illness to be empowered and to have the opportunity to fulfill their human potential.



WILLIAM WALDMAN is a lecturer and executive in residence at Rutgers School of Social Work. He can be reached at william@ssw.rutgers.edu.

Study Challenges Perception That Immigrants' Children Pose Obstacle to Economy



Contrary to public perception, the number of children in immigrant families is not the primary reason more children are living in poverty, a Rutgers study has found, raising the question of whether federal policies affecting immigrants should be significantly altered.

Other determinants, including local labor market conditions, parental education, and family structure appear to have a greater impact on child poverty levels, according to Myungkook Joo, assistant professor in Rutgers School of Social Work, who authored the study. Joo's research challenges the view that, by their sheer numbers, children of immigrant families are a major obstacle to a strong U.S. economy. Children in immigrant families are projected to comprise

nearly one-third of more than 100 million children in the U.S. by 2050.

"As the national debate on immigration has grown stronger, including immigrants' use of many social services, some have argued that the reason for the high child poverty rate has mostly been due to the large number of children in low-skilled, poor immigrant families," Joo said. "Although the share of children in immigrant families did affect the child poverty rate in the analyses, the findings suggest that media coverage and public discussion on the effects of immigration on child poverty do not seem to correspond with the empirical evidence and are likely to overstate the issue."

The study, "How Much Does Change in the Proportion of Children Living in Immigrant Families Contribute to Change in the Poverty Rate Among Children?" was published in September's *Social Service Review* and yields many important findings, among them that the overall effect that children in immigrant families have on the national poverty level was minor and runs counter to what some scholars have argued.

"Children in noncitizen families and in families that have lived here at least 10 years make slightly larger contributions to child poverty than families with naturalized citizen parents and those who arrived here more recently," Joo said.

The immigrant population nearly doubled in size to 38.1 million from 1990 to 2007 and comprised almost 13 percent

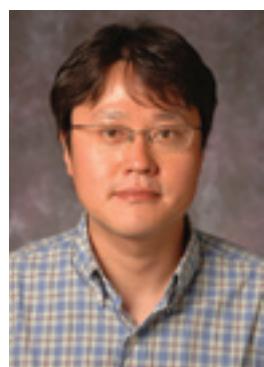
of the total U.S. population. In 2007, 59 percent of parents of immigrant children hailed from Mexico and other Latin American countries. During the same period, the number of children in immigrant families also nearly doubled to 16.4 million, representing 82 percent of the total increase in the children's population.

Children in immigrant families have a higher risk of living in poverty than children in native families. According to the U.S. Census data, the child poverty rate peaked in 1994 at 22 percent among the general population. The rate was more than 43 percent for foreign-born children.

By 2003, when the national child poverty rate had fallen to 17.6 percent, approximately 54 percent of children of immigrants lived in families with incomes under twice the federal poverty level, compared to 36 percent of children of native-born parents. Nevertheless, children in immigrant families contributed little to the change in child poverty rates in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Joo noted that his findings hold implications for future federal immigration policies. "Because the majority of children in immigrant families, including those in noncitizen families, are U.S. citizens by birth and are likely to remain here throughout their lives, investing in human capital and economic outcomes should be an important national agenda," he said.

The study used data from the Current Population Survey to investigate if the dramatic decrease between 1993 and 2001 and equally dramatic increase between 2001 and 2010 in the child poverty rate could be attributed to changes in the proportion of children in immigrant families.



MYUNGKOOK JOO's research interests include early childhood development and analyses of policies and programs designed to help low-income children.

Our Luncheon Group

BY LEN BROWN *Written in the mid 1990s*

The pea soup could be hotter, complained Morris to Dee, the attractive, red-headed waitress at the diner in East Brunswick. Such banter is a usual exchange, said in playful good humor to begin our luncheon group. We have been meeting weekly for the last 15 years. The diner has become our clubhouse. Dee has been with us for many of these years and knows exactly what we order, although once in a while we surprise her. I am fairly consistent in my selection: pea soup (only on Thursdays), a mini-turkey sandwich (only one slice of rye bread, toasted) with lettuce and tomato, no mayo or pickle, and later, mint herbal tea. We are four retired Rutgers faculty members who originally started meeting when Morris, the oldest at 80, wanted luncheon companions when he retired. We have a seating arrangement so that Ted and Morris, who both have hearing loss, can sit with their better ear to the group.

Morris is considered our main resource on nutrition, vitamin supplements, wellness, and being assertive in dealing with the medical establishment. Dan is an authority on the workings of Toyota Camrys, which we all own. He and I have been friends since the early '60s and for a while shared an office at the School of Social Work. Our children grew up together and are still friends. He will usually draw others out, reflective of being a skilled therapist in his professional life. I am considered the creative one for

my collage art and story writing. The group gave me the assignment to make a collage Christmas card for Dee. Ted is an expert on financial matters and we often defer to him on this subject, although Morris is catching up and will sometimes challenge him on investments and pension matters. Their expertise on

and supportive as we feel freer to reveal more about ourselves. Some topics are off-limits, like relationships with spouses — too personal and intrusive. Occasionally, sources of tension in the family will slip in and are handled with tact, wisdom, and caring. Morris and Dan have had more physical problems over the

We appreciate our good fortune in being together all these years

finance makes them the logical choice to figure out the bill, which is made out so that each person pays his exact amount. Dan will sometimes do the math since he is also competent. I am the least able to assume this task and defer to my buddies. We have increased the tip over the years to about 20% of the bill, although I have been advocating a slightly higher amount if we split a sandwich.

We begin our greeting at the diner with a handshake and a hug and end with just a hug (no need for a handshake at this time). We've noticed the stares of other diners as they observe men with graying hair hugging. It's a manly hug, barely touching cheeks and a firm grasp of arms around each other.

Topics vary and include pension investments, health issues, news about family and friends, national and world news, and more recently, being introspective about ourselves. Mostly, we kid each other, laugh, and have fun. We all recognize the group as being therapeutic

years and our first order of business is to check in with one another about how we are feeling. I am usually more quiet during these times since I have fewer health concerns. Sometimes one of us will enter the diner feeling low or having an occasional pain. We often leave in better spirits, recognizing the healing effects of the group.

A word about Dee, our energetic waitress. In some ways, she is a part of our group, joking with us and always having the last word. We inquire about her health, since she had been ill for a while, and if one of us does not show up she will show interest and we will explain the reasons for the absence.

We appreciate our good fortune in being together all these years. It is a time when we can share our thoughts and feelings and know that the others will try to understand and want to know more. Few people have the ability to listen and be really interested in what you have to say. The members of the luncheon group seem to have that gift.

We talk more about how important the group is to us. Ted just moved to Florida. This was a great loss. Milly and I will be gone for eight weeks this winter, and there were some groans when I told Dan and Morris. We sense the loss of our group. We haven't talked about adding new members. Perhaps we should. If we do, it should be someone who knows how to divide the bill.

LEN BROWN, PhD (*Columbia*), was on faculty at the Rutgers School of Social Work from 1960 to 1991, chairing the group work sequence for several years. He also has become a collage artist and was shown in a gallery in Metuchen. He currently lives in a retirement community in Skillman, N.J., and teaches collage art and memoir writing there.



Expert Discusses Addiction and Gambling

Speaking to more than 80 alumni, faculty, and students, Mark Potenza, MD, PhD, presented "DSM-V and Addictions: Reconceptualizing the Role of Brain, Behavior, and Excess" at the annual Demone Lecture on December 7, 2013.

In his talk, Potenza contextualized recent changes to the DSM-V regarding addictions, based on advances in scientific research. He provided a historical overview of the classification of substance use and behavioral addictions in the DSM, reviewed diagnostic changes between the DSM-IV-TR and DSM-V for both substance and behavioral-based addictions, and provided implications of these changes for practice and policy.

"We are very pleased to have Dr. Potenza, a leading researcher and board-certified psychiatrist with sub-specialty training and certification in addiction psychiatry, give this talk," said Lia Nower, associate professor and director of the Rutgers School of Social Work's Center for Gambling Studies. Dr. Potenza is a leader in the field of gambling studies and the first researcher to receive both the Junior Investigator award from the National Center for Responsible Gaming in 2003 and the Senior Investigator award in 2008.

Potenza trained at Yale University, receiving a combined BS/MS with Honors in molecular biochemistry and biophysics and a PhD in cell biology, the latter concurrent with the MD through the Medical Scientist Training Program. He completed internship, psychiatric residency, and addiction psychiatry fellowship training at Yale. Currently, he is a professor of psychiatry, child study, and neurobiology at the Yale University School of Medicine, where he is director of the Problem Gambling Clinic, the Center of Excellence in Gambling Research, and the Women and Addictive Disorders Core of Women's Health Research at Yale.



Source:
Push-tab
punchcard
ca 1950s

In 2009, Yale University was selected as one of the first National Center for Responsible Gambling (NCRG) Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research, and in 2012 the NCRG Scientific Advisory Board selected Yale's Gambling Center of Research Excellence (CORE) for a second round of a three-year grant to continue this line of research.

The main research component of the Yale Gambling CORE, "Psychological, Genetic, and Neurobiological Explorations of Effective Treatment of Pathological Gambling," involves the disciplines of treatment development, brain imaging, molecular genetics, and behavioral/neurocognitive assessment. The project will investigate factors associated with outcome in pathological gambling treatment using a multidisciplinary approach, including psychopharmacological, brain imaging, genetic, gender-informed, longitudinal, developmental, and epidemiological perspectives.

Although significant strides have recently been made, still relatively little is known about the effective treatments for disordered gambling behavior. To date, no drugs are FDA-approved for the treatment of the disorder. More recently, placebo-controlled trials have investigated behavioral and pharmacological treatments, both of which have received empirical support in the short-term treatment of pathological gambling. Opioid antagonists, including naltrexone and nalmefene, have demonstrated in three separate randomized clinical trials (RCTs) superiority over placebo in the treatment

of pathological gambling. These studies have included the largest RCT performed to date to investigate a pharmacotherapy for the treatment of gambling disorders and the first successful replication trial for drug treatment (naltrexone) of pathological gambling. Given these findings, the CORE investigators decided to focus on naltrexone for further study. The center will conduct a placebo-controlled randomized clinical trial to investigate whether naltrexone will be effective in a "real-world" clinical setting.

To reach the Center for Gambling Studies, please call 848-932-5361.



Dr. Potenza's lecture was presented through an endowed fund established by Harold W. and Marguerite F. Demone in order to provide the necessary resources for an annual lecture by a noted authority on the subject of alcohol and related addictions. This fund also provides up to three scholarships to MSW degree candidates who are completing field placements in a setting that involves work in alcohol abuse or other addictions.

China Study Abroad Expands Horizons

For students participating in the China Study Abroad Program, it is truly a life-changing experience. Students are able to immerse themselves in the Chinese culture and learn more about social work in a different country, and, with the introduction of an International Service Learning component, students have the opportunity to complete service work in addition to their studies.

It was the service learning portion that inspired Stephanie Enriquez, a senior with a double major in history and political science, to study abroad in China.

"I always wanted to go abroad, but when I attended an ISL info session, the idea of doing service while abroad was what motivated me to go to China," said Enriquez, who is now considering pursuing a master's degree in social work. "It was the best decision I could've made. The second two weeks were the service learning portion and it changed my life. We got to work hand-in-hand with a school for migrant children and at a mental health hospital."

Rutgers students traveled as part of the China Study Abroad Program, a three-credit course that combines online study with four 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 is a robust month-long study abroad program, broken up into two sections," said Chien-Chung Huang, professor and director of the China Study Abroad Program. "The first two weeks were spent going to different organizations, non-profits, and hospitals that gave the students a firsthand look into social work in China, and the second two weeks consisted of the service learning portion of the program."

Hadiyah Finney, an MSW student currently completing her second year in the program, had always had an interest in studying abroad. "The China program came at a great time in my life," said Finney. "I had never been to China and was really interested in being able to learn about social work from another cultural perspective. The trip was beyond my expectations."



This was the first year that the program offered an International Service Learning component, and Finney and Enriquez were two of the five students who decided to participate. "We were able to experience China from not only an academic perspective but also we really had the opportunity to indulge in the culture," said Finney.

"I am proud of our students and the opportunity for them to participate in this program," said Huang. "Given how enriching the program is for students, I'm hopeful that we will continue to find additional support to expand the program, which will allow us to recruit more students to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Similar to Enriquez, Finney thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted from the last two weeks of the program, due to the service

learning portion. "Within the last two weeks we completed field placements at the Beijing University Sixth Hospital and a migrant school," said Finney. "We worked a scheduled number of hours during the day and the rest was our time. This allowed us the opportunity to really explore China and get a feel of independence. It was absolutely amazing!"

Finney's goal is to work on welfare policy and advocate for families living below the poverty line and receiving benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps, and housing. "This trip was excellent because China is in the infancy stages of developing what social work will mean to their country and determining how the profession can be effective in their cultural context," said Finney.

The study program in China made a significant impact on both Enriquez and Finney's lives. Finney, who is also completing the MSW Violence Against Women and Children certificate, noted, "I think that travel is the best education. This opportunity will forever be a part of who I am."

To support future social workers, please make your gift at socialwork.rutgers.edu/give.

Outstanding Graduate Combines Law and Social Work Career



Ten years ago, the School of Social Work, in collaboration with Rutgers School of Law – Camden and School of Law – Newark, established an accelerated dual-degree program in law and social work through which a student can obtain the JD and MSW degrees. Kyle Smiddie (SSW '11, NLAW '11), a graduate of the program, utilizes the skills and knowledge he gained during his time at the School of Social Work in his career today.

"The strength of the dual program is that each degree complements the other," said Smiddie. "While law is often very

focused on precise writing, the social work coursework focuses on the importance of building relationships."

The combination of accelerated programs allows a full-time student to complete the degrees in four years rather than the five years normally needed to complete both degrees separately. "I really enjoyed traversing the two worlds during my combined fourth year. The varied experiences built on each other," said Smiddie. "I might start the day in a social work class focused on poverty and bring those difficult discussions to a class on tax law in the afternoon."

As an attorney at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Smiddie investigates conditions in state prisons that violate constitutional and federal rights of prisoners. In February, he and his colleagues found that the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections used long-term and extreme forms of solitary confinement on prisoners with serious mental illness, many of whom had intellectual disabilities. Following the nine-month investigation, the DOJ issued a 28-page "Letter of Findings" to the Governor indicating that Pennsylvania's actions violated prisoners' rights under the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The strength of the dual program is that each degree complements the other

Smiddie is currently conducting negotiations with Pennsylvania in order to remedy the violations the DOJ found. In addition, he is part of a team enforcing a settlement agreement in *U.S. v. Virginia* that resolves the Civil Rights Division's Americans with Disability Act *Olmstead* investigation into whether persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Virginia are being served in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs. The case involves a lot of community outreach, document review, and relationship building, all of which draw on Smiddie's foundation in social work.

Smiddie's work doesn't stop there. He is also a member of the school's Alumni Council and notes that "it is great brainstorming with other enthusiastic and caring alumni." Smiddie credits Professor Kathleen Pottick for encouraging him to join the Alumni Council. "She called about two years ago and asked if I was interested," said Smiddie. "For all that the social work school has given me, I was really honored to try to give a little back and continue to build the alumni base to make the school that much stronger."

Scholarship Announcements

Alumni Association of the School of Social Work Endowed Fellowship

Caitlin Fennell
Catherine Fries
Maria Lally
Tedeicia Powell
Brittany Shropshire

Boehm Memorial Fund

Holly Sragow
Krys Wilkie

Charles Vickers Memorial Award

Shovaughn Chism

Darien Family Endowed Fellowship for the School of Social Work

Alexandra Camarda
Molly Chenot
Jaclyn Cohen
Jade Flora-Holmquist
Katie Heyrich
Nora Martin
Jillian Thomas

Donna and Art Falk Endowed Scholarship

Irene Armah
Morgan Clark
Elissa La Prad
Eva Payano-Veras

Dorothy Cartun Amdurer Memorial Fellowship

Ashley Gwathney
Mahira Maqsood
Nicole Williams

Fu Family Fellowship

Arben Colaku
Shamyra Shaw

Harold F. and Charlotte D. Fultz Endowment

Florencia Allegretti
Twana Barrett
Monae Brown
Clarisa Claeysen
John Davis
Danielle Dorber
Erin Drury
Stephani Faust
Catherine Frankel
Kathleen Jordan
Jennifer Kurdyla
Melissa Ortiz
Marisa Portuesi
Donna Schuyler
Erin Tinkel

Thomas Viola
Jennifer Wittmer

Harold W. and Marguerite F. Demone Endowed Fellowship

Joshua Crick
Virginia Mayers

Jean D. Fredrickson Memorial Award in Social Work

Keith Dancy
Eric Echevarria
Antoine Williams

Kenneth Christmon Memorial Scholarship

Candace Gibbons

Krystal Skinner Memorial Scholarship

Irene Foster
Krystal Gold
Karin Meyer
Cheryl Waters

Lillian Ringel Memorial Scholarship

Janishka Beauford
Kamilah Gorrell
Kaitlyn Keisel-Stagnone

Marcia Cohen and Mark Forman Memorial Award

Kara Sellix

Mary Vivian Fu and Robert C. Wells Scholarship

Robin Arbubakrr
Dianna Rodriguez

Patricia M. Myron Memorial Fellowship

Juliana Rosenbleeth

Richard L. Edwards Endowed Scholarship

Tisheka Allen
Maria Hernandez
Kim Hume
Lana Sacks
Roshunda Simmons

Sandy Relief Scholarship

Prince Sarpong
Julia Tulanowski

School of Social Work Alumni Association Opportunity Fellowship

Hadiyah Finney
Sejuti Mahabbin
Andreica Maldonado
Barbara Nelson
Gloria Perez

School of Social Work Fellowship

Maria Cellini
Michael De Nichilo
Michelle Dsurney
Michelle Hill
Kristen Nurkowski
Brian Padilla
Hena Qureshi
Christophe Scacco
Emily Zelner

Students Supporting Students

Jennifer Calchi
Helen Diaz
Sara Dimascio
Opoku Donkor
Aisha Evans
Michelle Gross
David Martino
Laura Matias
Georges Mombrun
Jacqueline Ruff
Amanda Sexton

Verizon Wireless Scholarship Program

Jesica Broadnax
Kerry Krautwald
Brady Root

Professor William Neal Brown Memorial Fellowship

James De Santis
Ashley Ritchey

William Waldman Scholarship

Amanda Brown

Yetta H. and Hyman Appel Scholarship

Monica Baker
Daniel Balassone
Paulina Banasiak
Adela Bustamante
Trista Chiu
Brian Cousin
Grace DeLeo
Jamie Denlinger
Chelsi Gemba
Breanne Gesicki
Anne Lecluyse
Karie McGuire
Logan Murphy
Lincoln Richman
Megan Romano
Minimah Rush
Chelsea Slusarczyk
Lindsey Warne

MSW Student Enhances Faith to Action

As an MSW student completing her second year in the program, Sherri Leonard is using her coursework and lessons learned at the School of Social Work to inform her work with the Faith to Action Initiative, an effort born out of UNICEF's Better Care Network's outreach to faith-based organizations that seeks to respond to the needs of orphans and other vulnerable children in Sub-Saharan Africa with evidence-based practice principles.

Leonard credits her work with Faith to Action Initiative as an opportunity to apply her own experience working with faith-based groups to good child welfare practice learned at Rutgers. Following an assignment in her International Social Work class in which she proposed an intervention for South Africa's HIV/AIDS-impacted children, Dr. Rebecca Davis received a request for an intern from Rutgers to do field placement with the Faith to Action Initiative.

"I was very excited to receive the request," said Rebecca Davis, Director of the Center for International Social Work. "Immediately, I thought of Sherri. Her intervention about South Africa was substantially similar to the interventions they were initiating. It was a very good match for both Sherri and Faith to Action."

Faith to Action is a consortium of organizations including World Vision, the Firelight Foundation, the Better Care Network, Food for the Hungry, and the Christian Alliance for Orphans, among others. The organization received a grant to create materials to help communicate best practices to churches engaged in working with vulnerable children, and a component of the grant is to evaluate the changes in participants' attitudes about continuum of care options for vulnerable children, particularly keeping children in families and out of orphanages.

"In my role as a mobilizer, to fulfill an obligation of the grant, I am recruiting churches or other willing groups to participate in an evaluation of the effectiveness of Journeys of Faith, a resource that outlines the best practices for care of vulnerable children, in conveying information on evidence-based principles in child welfare and protection," said Leonard, who lived in South Africa for a few years when she was younger. "I really

feel like it was a great gift and an exciting learning experience, though somewhat surprising how difficult it has been to find groups interested in engaging with the materials."

During Leonard's time as an MSW student she has benefited greatly from all of her courses and truly enjoyed her professors, but the most meaningful class for Leonard personally was "Working with Survivors of Abuse and Trauma," which she took as part of the Violence Against Women and Children Certificate Program. Leonard says that the class gives students the context to examine the events of their lives.

"It helps you integrate the story of even the difficult parts of your past to enrich your present, and that insight has made a big difference for me personally," said Leonard.

The Center for International Social Work has also helped with Leonard's role at Faith to Action. The Center helped connect Leonard to a lot of resources that continue to help enliven the message. Through her role, Leonard has been able to develop a facilitator's guide to help groups interact with the curriculum in a meaningful and interesting way.

Leonard will graduate this summer and is still contemplating her future plans. "I started in the program thinking I would be a clinical social worker in practice with individuals, but it's been so exciting to be involved in family and community development, I would like to explore opportunities there," said Leonard.

If you or your organization have a group of eight or more and are interested in participating in the study, please contact Dr. Rebecca Davis of the Center for International Social Work at redavis@ssw.rutgers.edu.



Our students provide agencies a value of

\$15,073,539

in services every year.



In each of the past several years, approximately 1,000 social work students have been placed for field education internships in community agencies, hospitals, schools, shelters and every viable non-profit setting to learn from other professional social workers.

Tyler Clementi Center Helps Young People Navigate the Digital Age

Launched in February 2013, the Tyler Clementi Center is a collaborative effort between Rutgers University and the Tyler Clementi Foundation, a non-profit organization started by the family of Tyler Clementi, a first-year student at Rutgers who committed suicide following an act of cyber-bullying. The Center is dedicated to the study of young people coming of age in the digital era.

In 2010, Clementi's privacy was invaded when his college roommate set up a web-cam to spy on him. The roommate viewed him in an intimate act and invited others to view this online. Clementi discovered what his abuser had done and that he was planning a second attempt. Viewing his roommate's Twitter feed, Clementi learned he had widely become a topic of ridicule in his new social environment and ended his life several days later by jumping off the George Washington Bridge.

The Tyler Clementi Center, now entering its second year, remains committed to changing culture by providing conferences and programming that are sustainable and will provide best practices for direct interventions in student life and student affairs.

Jeffrey Longhofer, associate professor at the Rutgers School of Social Work and director of the Tyler Clementi Center, is proud of the Center's contributions and eager to continue the conversation about how to create and sustain innovative and effective programs and practices to assist first-year students and high school seniors adjust to college life.

"We are really seeking to deepen our understanding," said Longhofer. "As we make the transition to a more inclusive world, what does it mean for living in residence halls, for sharing a bathroom, for playing sports? And how do we adjust our institutional structures and our mental apparatus so we can think in new ways?"



"A Gift in Honor of Tyler Clementi," on display at the Zimmerli Art Museum through July 31, 2014.

In keeping with its mission, the Center hosts symposia and seminars that include top researchers, members of the Tyler Clementi Foundation, Rutgers executives, and colleagues from residence life, student orientation, suicide prevention, and Rutgers Counseling, ADAP, and Psychiatric Services.

The lectures, symposia, and seminars cover a wide range of topics, including the impact of technologies on youth and emerging adults, especially social media, cyber-bullying, and privacy. And while much of the Center's work focuses on LGBTQ students' adjustment to college life, Longhofer stresses that the center is focused on promoting social environments that are inclusive and safe for every student.

"We're very concerned about keeping the focus on the transition from home to school, and school to work," said Longhofer. "Research confirms that, for incoming college students, the first 18 months are the most critical in terms of suicide. So, we're interested in the complex dynamic of that transition."

In Clementi's memory, the Zimmerli Art Museum in November 2013 unveiled a new art exhibit centered on an original sculpture by Dale Chihuly, an artist who specializes in blown glass. The sculpture was a gift from Michael Sodomick in memory of Clementi and in honor of The Trevor Project, the leading national

organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ young people ages 13-24.

The installation "A Gift in Honor of Tyler Clementi: Dale Chihuly's Rivera Blue Macchia Chartreuse Lip Wrap" is on view at the Zimmerli through July 31, 2014. The sculpture, along with information about the Tyler Clementi Center and The Trevor Project, is installed in the museum's David and Lillian Lilien Gallery. "This tranquil space allows for personal contemplation of Chihuly's remarkable glass sculpture and the role of art in the healing process," said Suzanne Delehanty, director of the museum.

"Dale Chihuly, among the great glass artists, leaves us a visual gift of color, a fusion of color, of refracted light. It is now our responsibility to turn this most sublime expression of human passion to even greater purposes," said Longhofer at the unveiling. "We are duty-bound to assure that our youth, as they make their transitions from home to school and in school from one place to another in their lives, do so with our support and understanding, with our care and provision, and with a rich engagement with the disciplines of knowledge."

To learn about upcoming events, lectures, and symposia, and to make a gift, please visit <http://clementicenter.rutgers.edu>.



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Rutgers One of 20 Schools to Host Young African Leaders Participating in Washington Fellowship

Rutgers University is one of 20 schools selected to host young African leaders this summer as part of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.

Launched by the Obama Administration in 2010 to support young African leaders as they strengthen democracy, peace, and security across Africa, the Young African Leaders Initiative will bring 500 young leaders to the U.S., 25 of whom will be in residence at Rutgers.

"We are thrilled to be a part of the Washington Fellowship Program of the Young African Leaders Initiative," said Joanna Regulska, vice president for international and global affairs at Rutgers. "Supporting the development of young leaders is at the core of the Rutgers' mission of research, teaching, and service."

YALI Fellows will participate in an intensive six-week program that includes leadership training, academic coursework, and mentoring, which will "create unique opportunities in Africa to put those new skills to practical use in propelling economic growth and prosperity and strengthening democratic institutions," the White House said in a statement. Fellows will also complete a 95-hour field internship practicum at a local public nonprofit agency to put their learning into practice in the local community.

In addition to their participation in the Washington fellowship program, the fellows will receive a certificate in Civic Engagement and Leadership from Rutgers

and will publish an article about their experience in the *Journal for Nonprofit Management* or a similar publication.

tanks and will be teamed up with former White House Fellows, who will provide executive-branch knowledge and first-

The new flagship program is part of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative to spur growth, strengthen governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa

"One of the most important parts of the program is the mentorship component," said Ronald Quincy, director of the Center for Nonprofit Management and Governance and principal investigator and director of the academic program of the YALI project at Rutgers. "The program also will feature guest speakers from the civic, public management, nonprofit, and business arenas, as well as site visits to New York City, the New Jersey State Capitol Building, Constitution Hall in Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C."

An interdisciplinary team headed by Regulska will oversee the five-year program focused on civic and nonprofit sector leadership, with a secondary focus on the public sector. "Our thinking is that, first of all, there is a great deal of expertise at Rutgers in those areas," said Quincy. "Secondly, seeking to diversify the spectrum from which African leaders might emerge, you would want those who have a strong interest in civic engagement and demonstrated interest, so we chose that as our program focus."

Rutgers' YALI fellows will meet with members of Congress and key think

hand experience of what emerging leaders are doing and how you position yourself early in your leadership career. In addition, the Fellows will also have the chance to interact with the President during an annual summit in Washington, D.C., along with other senior U.S. government, business, and civic leaders.

"Key to the program's success is the fact that this is not merely a program for students in Africa to study in the U.S.," said Quincy, noting that the program is using traditional and nontraditional recruiting methods to identify leaders. "This is a program for young leaders who have been identified by their respective countries, with the goal of returning to their home country to make meaningful contributions."

Washington Fellows' U.S.-based training will only be the beginning of the United States' long-term investment in these young leaders, the White House said in a statement. The investment in young leaders will continue in Africa with opportunities for networking, ongoing professional development, seed funding for entrepreneurs, and community service.

"Our hope is that the Fellows leave Rutgers knowing what the characteristics and qualities of leaders are," said Quincy. "They'll know what a leader looks like and how to model themselves and push themselves to become effective leaders. They will have met with some extraordinary leaders running small projects in communities and those who are running large projects. The program we are putting together at Rutgers demonstrates our commitment to developing young African leaders, and it's a program about which we are very excited."

To learn more about the Young African Leaders Initiative and to get involved, please visit <http://youngafricanleaders.state.gov>.



Message from the Alumni Council and Alumni Updates

On November 7, 2013, alumni and faculty gathered for a reception at the Zimmerli Museum to welcome the new dean, Dr. Cathryn Potter. Many of the alumni present had not been back to Rutgers since their graduation and were excited to return to campus and revisit their roots at the School of Social Work. The welcome reception and alumni gathering was the first event hosted by the newly formed Alumni Advisory Council, and it marks the beginning of our efforts to engage alumni. Over 150 alumni, students, and faculty attended the reception, and the Council would like to thank everyone who was able to join us. The mission of the Alumni Advisory Council is "to promote the lifelong engagement of alumni as members of the Rutgers School of Social Work community to advance the school's mission."

The goals of the council are:

- Increase alumni engagement and involvement.
- Increase financial support of the School of Social Work.
- Build alumni networking opportunities for students, faculty, and alumni.
- Increase the visibility and impact of the School of Social Work.

The Alumni Advisory Council is committed to fulfilling these goals and continuing the work that began over a half century ago. We hope that you will join us at upcoming events, including the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the school in 2014. Renowned social work pioneer Jane Addams once said, "The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into common life." The struggles the world faced in 1954, when the Rutgers University School of Social Work was founded, are still present today. Our work continues and the Alumni

Advisory Council would like everyone to become engaged, stay connected, and give back. As we remain committed in our mission to individual well-being and social and economic justice, we must also demonstrate that same commitment to the catalyst that shaped us, the Rutgers University School of Social Work. We invite you to contact us at alumni@ssw.rutgers.edu with any suggestions you have for the Council. We need your support, and the students need your wisdom and experience from the field. Please join us at upcoming events as we remember our past, celebrate our profession, and partner for change with the school that has helped us all.

Alexis R. Biedermann, SAS '10, SSW '11
Marla K. Blunt Carter, SSW '03
Dawn Hall Apgar, SSW '93, GSNB '02
Lynne M. Healy, GSNB '85
Tawanda L. Hubbard, SSW '05
Susan L. Parish, RC '88, SSW '94
Kyle Smiddie, NLAW '11, SSW '11

Samantha Broderick, LSW, DRCC (CCAS '05, SSW '07) recently joined PerformCare NJ's leadership team as the provider/member communications manager. PerformCare is the administrative service organization for DCF's children's system of care. She is the co-author of *Flux: Life After Foster Care*, a resource to help youth with the emotional transition to adulthood and independence, and wrote several articles and book chapters on transforming mental health care for children. Broderick previously worked at DCF in the Office of Adolescent Services, where she created an innovative model for working with LGBTQ youth in foster care.

Virginia Klein, PhD, LCSW, BCD (SSW '74, GSNB '78) is in private practice in Somerville and created four international conferences held in Switzerland focused on incest and related problems. She also completed a series of teen TV shows called *Growing Up in the '80s*, which received a national award of one of the three best teen shows in the U.S. In addition, she hosts a show entitled *Through the Looking Glass*, which explores how the mind works. It is presented weekly on Comcast Channel 280.

Susan Merkel, MSW (SSW '12) testified in June 2013 at a N.J. Senate committee in support of the N.J. Birthright Bill, which would give adoptees access to their original birth certificates and requires ongoing provision of medical information from birth parents, while providing birth parents with a contact option. She was also invited to speak at the Concerned

Persons for Adoption annual conference on November 9, 2013; moderated a panel of adoptees and birth parents in reunion; and presented a well-received and high-attendance workshop focused on adoptee identity development during adolescent years.



Ronald Puhala, MSW (SSW '82) joined the law firm Goldberg Segalla as a partner in its Princeton office. He is a member of the firm's global insurance services practices. Mr. Puhala has nearly two decades of litigation experience representing major national and international insurance companies on various types of claims, including general liability, product liability, environmental contamination, asbestos injury, and business interruption matters. He has been selected for inclusion on multiple occasions on both the New Jersey Super Lawyers list for insurance coverage and the Best Lawyers in America list for insurance law.

Gary L. Stein, MSW (RC '78, SSW '80) has been promoted to professor and was awarded tenure at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work – Yeshiva University in New York. Mr. Stein is vice chair of the National Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network. His interests include palliative care, health care ethics, LGBT aging, and social policy. He can be contacted at glstein@yu.edu.

Rivka Steinberg, LCSW (SSW '06) recently opened a private practice in central New Jersey. She works with children, adolescents and adults and has a particular expertise as a play therapist.

Lisa (Henning) Thomas, MSW (SSW '83) has been employed at Child Development Resources for the past 30 years. CDR supports parents of young children, as well as prepares expectant families for parenthood. Their services assist families of children with developmental delays or disabilities and families whose children might be at risk for compromised health or developmental outcomes because of social or economic factors. Ms. Thomas's MSW has served her well as the deputy director of CDR in assisting her talented staff to serve over 1,000 children and their families each year.

IN MEMORIAM

Malika Husbands (SSW '11) passed away on August 25, 2013. Ms. Husbands, an active member of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens for over 30 years, earned a BA in psychology from North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C., in 1996 and an MSW from Rutgers School of Social Work in May 2011. She was employed by Harvest of Hope Family Services for 17 years, holding various positions, including executive director.

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