Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

Dear School of Social Work alumni and friends,

Hello to all and thank you for your continued readership. I am pleased to highlight several stories in this issue of E-News.

We greatly appreciate those who support our students through scholarships and fellowships. The Joan and Robert J. Axelrod Endowed Fellowship for the accelerated dual-degree program in law and social work, through which a student can obtain the JD and MSW degrees, is helping to create an amazing opportunity for students. I know you will enjoy learning about Joan and Robert and how their love of both law and social work has led to this unique giving opportunity.

If you manage an organization, you may find some opportunities for staff development in this issue. The School of Social Work’s Office of Continuing Education can provide experts to design and teach specialized workshops to your staff. We have a large network of trainers who can provide training on virtually any human-services related topic.

Finally, our Intensive Weekend Program will hold an Open House on Saturday, February 14 in Jersey City. The Intensive Weekend MSW program is designed to enable students employed in the social service and other human service related fields to pursue their MSW while continuing to work full-time. Please consider sharing this information with those in your organizations who might be a good fit for this program.

Please enjoy this month’s issue of E-News and continue to reconnect with our school by visit our alumni web pages.

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
An Endowed Fellowship Made in Memory of a Beloved Husband

When Joan Axelrod remembers her husband, Robert J. Axelrod, she is proud to recall the way he used his larger-than-life personality to become a well-respected lawyer who championed the causes of his clients. He was a certified civil trial attorney at Levinson Axelrod, a prestigious 75-year-old law firm in New Jersey, and those he assisted received the best representation possible.

"He was always on the side of the underdog and showed such compassion for his clients. He was a wonderful lawyer and is still remembered in the legal community for his amazing skills," she says.

The couple met in Trenton while they were still teenagers and went on to have four children. Joan, who is a Rutgers School of Social Work alum with a MSW (’81) and Ph.D. (’91) recalls how nervous she was to return for her doctoral program as an older student at the age of 50. Robert fully supported her return to school, championing her efforts and even driving her at night for some of the papers she needed to print out at school. "It was truly a team effort," she recalls.

Learn more information [here](#).

Bill Waldman Receives 2014 Civic Leadership Award

Bill Waldman recently received The 2014 Civic Leadership Award from the Supportive Housing Association of NJ. The award was presented by State Senate President Stephen Sweeny and the actual award is a framed print of a painting done by an individual with autism. Senator Sweeny also presented Waldman with a resolution by the NJ Senate recognizing his contributions to this field.
Customized Workshops, It's all in the Name

The Rutgers School of Social Work wants to work with your schedule and the educational needs of your human services staff. Keeping employees engaged and energized about current social work topics is vital to effectively providing care in every facet of the field.

Have you been thinking about areas your staff needs to work on? RUSSW can provide experts to design and teach specialized workshops to your staff. Once you decide which areas you are interested in teaching your team, the Office of Continuing Education will develop and deliver an individualized workshop for your organization. “We have a large network of trainers and can provide training on virtually any human-services related topic,” said continuing education director, Doug Behan. “The Office of Continuing Education provides over 100 customized workshops each year throughout New Jersey.”

Learn more information [here](#).

Heartbeats Book Tour

The recent Center on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) event "Honoring Our Heartbeats: A Tour to End Forced Marriage in the U.S." night was a success!

VAWC collaborated with Manavi, a South Asian domestic violence shelter in Middlesex County, and Tahirih Justice Center, to host this event focused on "Heartbeats: the IZZAT Project," which is a comic book to raise awareness about forced marriage.

Forced marriage occurs around the globe including in the U.S. This event gave Rutgers students an opportunity to understand the dynamics a woman faces when living in a forced marriage through a brief performance from the authors of the comic book and a multimedia presentation. Afterward, Rutgers students had the opportunity to ask the authors questions about this issue.

For more information about VAWC, learn more [here](#).
Joan Pierson: First Rutgers MCWEP Graduate

Joan Pierson is the first Rutgers graduate through the MCWEP (Master of Social Work Education Program), of which Rutgers School of Social Work is a partner. Pierson works for the Somerset County Local Office’s Division of Child Protection and Permanency, Department of Children and Families. She joined her Parsippany Intensive Weekend cohort in September 2012 as an advanced standing student. Though she knew the program would be hard work, she agreed to accept the challenge with the hope to integrate her new education into her social work practices.

Learn more information here.

Karun Singh Welcomes Pet Therapy Dog Named Rhea

Liz Salerno, one of the school’s TFY project directors, recently brought in a pet therapy dog named Rhea. Rhea works for a well-known, anti sex trafficking human service organization, Polaris. Rhea interacts with survivors of sex trafficking to provide comfort, stress reduction and other palliative services.

"When Rhea was first introduced to me, I was in the middle of correcting final papers for my Management Practice and Theory class, "says Karun Singh, director of the Newark campus program. " I held her for a few minutes and shortly thereafter felt all of the stress leave my body, which is why the photo shows me smiling; not growling! Rhea is not only a trained therapist, but she is also an effective educator. I hope for the sake of the Newark campus office and my sanity that she will return often."
William Neal Brown and the Great Debaters

Former School of Social Work professor William Neal Brown not only made history as the first African-American professor to teach at Rutgers University, but he also went on to have an extraordinary 33-year career. He was a part of an important debate, "Segregation or Desegregation" with Malcolm X at the Rutgers Pharmaceutical School at Newark in 1961. Though not originally scheduled to talk with Malcolm X, Brown substituted for a Rutgers School of Law professor, C. Clyde Ferguson, at the request of students. However, it was not only Professor Brown's ability to debate Malcolm X on whether African Americans should separate from the United States or push for desegregation that made history. Rutgers University recorded their debate, and this rare recording is the only one of its kind. Dr. Brown and his tapes are not only a source of pride within the Rutgers Social Work community, but they also capture influential perspectives on race relations during a politically volatile historical moment. The debate was archived at the Library of Congress.

Professor Brown retired as a Professor Emeritus after 33 years at Rutgers. Since Dr. Brown’s death in 2009, his long-time partner Suzanne Zimmer has been responsible for these recordings. This November, Zimmer donated the tapes to the Rare Books and Manuscript Library at Columbia University. Professor Brown received his MSW from Columbia University School of Social Work in 1950. She presented the recording to the libraries Director, Sean Quimby, on November 13th. More of Dr. Brown’s work is archived at the National Tuskegee Airmen National Historic site, the Smithsonian Museum and the Rutgers Oral History archives. The complete collection of Dr. Brown’s papers and research are located at Columbia University. A William Neal Brown endowed annual lecture and a William Neal Brown Memorial Fellowship has been established at Rutgers University.

Intensive Weekend Open House

The Intensive Weekend Program is an MSW Program for full-time human services employees in mental health, child welfare, community based and public and private services, as well as other related fields.

Saturday, February 14, 2015
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Journal Square, Jersey City, NJ 07306
View Directions

Isn't it time you advanced your skills and your career?

Register for the Open House
Annual Blanche Grosswald Memorial Lecture

Save the date for the Annual Blanche Grosswald Memorial Lecture. Our guest presenter will be Dr. Rajiv Bhatia, CEO of the Civic Engine and Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM, March 09, 2015
Brower Commons, 2nd Floor
145 College Avenue, New Brunswick

One Continuing Education Credit will be granted upon request.

Refreshments will be served.

Visitor parking is available in Lots 26, 30 & the College Avenue Deck without permits.

RSVP today: alumni@ssw.rutgers.edu

Good News for January

Colleen Beach was invited to participate in the National Adult Protective Services Association’s Education Committee. Beach coordinates the New Jersey Adult Protective Services Training Grant and has done so since 2011. The collaborative efforts by this committee’s members help shape the education and training of Adult Protective Services staff nationwide, as well as work toward educating the public about the role of Adult Protective Services and the issues related to abuse and neglect of older adults and adults with disabilities. Efforts are also being made by the committee to encourage inclusion of higher education curricula related to the abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation of older persons and adults with disabilities.

For more Good News about Faculty and staff, visit here

For more information and updates, please like the SSW Facebook, follow the SSW on Twitter, or subscribe to the SSW Youtube channel.