JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and that you continue to enjoy the winter season. I am pleased to highlight several stories in this issue of E-News.

The Institute for Families recently collaborated with The New Jersey Department of Children and Families on a grant that will provide a half million dollars to further help children find welcoming and supportive adoptive families. The grant will focus on finding permanent placements for the state’s longest waiting children.

We are also proud of the accomplishments of our current students, who continue to amaze us with their social and political engagement. Intensive Weekend student Cynthia Toro recently ran and won as a Freeholder in Essex County. We look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in her community and where she will go from here.

“A Brave New Workplace,” was a one-day conference sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Management and the Office of Continuing Education. Through expert-led panels and workshops, participants had a day-long conversation about behavioral health, health overall and the expanding role of practitioners in helping to create healthy work environments.

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
Waldman is a Presentor at Eagleton Institute event for former NJ Governors and Staff
William Waldman, professor of professional practice, lecturer and executive in residence, was a presenter at a recent event series sponsored by the Eagleton Institute called, "Center for the American Governor." Former NJ Governors and their senior staff reunited to revisit the issues they dealt with during their administration and the lessons learned. Waldman attended the last installment, where the politicians focused on the Whitman administration. Mr. Waldman was employed by the State of New Jersey from July 1987 to June 1998 during which time he served as a director of the Division of Youth and Family Services – the state's child welfare agency, as Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services and as Commissioner of the Department and a member of the cabinet for three Governors of New Jersey.

Rutgers Cheerleader Combines Love of the Sport with a Passion for Social Work
For Caitlin Krenn, the highlight of her four years of cheerleading on the Rutgers All Girl Cheer squad has been this year’s home game against Penn State. Running out of the tunnel at the start of the game into a packed stadium of 55,000 cheering fans was a once in a lifetime experience for this seasoned athlete who has been cheering since grade school. The night sky was illuminated by red fireworks, and a professional photographer captured the image of the cheerleaders with that beautiful light show above their heads.

"I have a poster in my house of that picture. It is amazing to actually have a photograph of such a special moment. It was an exciting event, the biggest game of the past four years, and I felt overcome with nostalgia about my years of cheerleading as they come to an end," says Krenn.

Learn more information here.
Intensive Weekend Student Wins Local Election

With only six months left until she has completed her MSW degree from the Rutgers School of Social Work, Intensive Weekend program student Cynthia Toro entered the political arena.

Learn more information here.

Representative Patrick Kennedy was Keynote Speaker for Rutgers Conference on Promoting Behavioral Health in the Workplace, Ending Stigma

More than 300 social workers and other professionals gathered on November 19 at Rutgers University for a day focused on behavioral health in the workplace and ways to reduce the stigma of mental health issues. The conference was a joint effort between the Rutgers School of Social Work’s Center for Leadership and Management and the Office of Continuing Education, as well as corporate sponsors.

Keynote speaker Patrick Kennedy recalled his early days as a former U.S. Representative for Rhode Island’s 1st congressional district, and his struggle with bipolar disorder and drug addiction. Despite a public battle with his condition, he was re-elected and served 16 years in the House of Representatives.

Learn more information here.

Federal Grant Advances Christie Administration’s Efforts to Find Adoptive Families for All New Jersey Foster Children

Advancing its mission to find loving and permanent homes for foster children, the Christie Administration recently provided a half million dollar federal grant to further help children find welcoming and supportive adoptive families.

Learn more information here.
Dr. Doodle visits a MSW Play Therapy Class

Creature Comfort Pet Therapy was recently invited for the third year to speak to Colleen Daly Martinez’s Master of Social Work play therapy class at Rutgers School of Social Work in Newark. The guest lecturers were Steven Herz and his nationally distinguished dog, Koko, who is a Labradoodle.

Learn more information here.

Good News: SSW Faculty and Staff Bulletin

DuWayne Battle recently participated in a diversity summit, which appeared in the Courier Post.

For more Good News about Faculty and staff, visit here.

Camden Strategic Plan

It is quite an exciting time for the Rutgers—Camden campus. It continues to grow with construction plans and additional programs coming in the near future, all outlined in the Strategic Plan, written in October 2014. The Strategic Plan of the Camden campus is the culmination of ideas, concerns and ambitions from the campuses diverse stakeholders, including Chancellor Phoebe A. Haddon. The School of Social Work Camden program has been included in the Strategic Plan, and is a key player in the plan for student growth, the school’s continued involvement in the Institute for Professional Education,
and the expansion of a full time Professor of Professional Practice. The campus plan reflects the shared goals of the community for the next five years, and there has already been impressive progress towards implementing their plan.

Learn more information here.

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