Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

Dear School of Social Work alumni and friends,

As we look forward to welcoming a new group of incoming students to our social work programs, we are proud to celebrate our students who graduated last week. This year there were 138 graduates receiving a BASW degree, 473 receiving a MSW degree (with an additional 55 graduating in October and 17 in January), and four graduates receiving a PhD degree.

It is an incredible accomplishment for these graduates to have completed our competitive and challenging programs. We look forward to staying connected to our new alumni and watching them become leaders in the field.

In an effort to stay current with social media in the area of student recruitment, we recently debuted a new video about the SSW on our YouTube Channel. Please enjoy watching and visit us again to preview more new videos in the future.

Sincerely,

Cathryn C. Potter, MSW, PhD
Dean and Professor

Students Graduate from the Rutgers School of Social Work

The 248th Anniversary Rutgers Commencement was held on Sunday, May 18, and featured former New Jersey Governor Kean and Eric LeGrand, whose perseverance after being paralyzed during a 2010 game became an inspiration to the Rutgers community.

It is the 60th anniversary of the School of Social Work. Learn more information here.
Rutgers Brings Innovative Training Skills Certificate Program to India

Rutgers University’s Institute for Families and the Office of Continuing Education recently brought their innovative “train the trainer” curriculum to Lavasa, India. Lavasa Corporation Limited has entered into a partnership with the School of Social Work at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, to offer this specialized certificate program.

The four-day intensive Certificate Program in Training Skills, was held in Lavasa from April 24 to 27, and is designed to provide comprehensive skill building and professional development to leaders who manage and “train” people on a daily basis, and to those who hope to become more effective trainers and public speakers.

“This was an exciting learning opportunity for trainers, teachers, and leaders of all types, and brought the strengths of this certificate program to the Lavasa community. Rutgers School of Social Work has most recently offered this curriculum to philanthropy leaders in China as well,” says Andy Germak, executive director of the Institute for Families.

Senator Nellie Pou

Thank you Senator Nellie Pou for speaking about social policy to Rutgers University School of Social Work's intensive weekend students.

The International Symposium on Labor Security and Social Welfare

The International Symposium on Labor Security and Social Welfare on April 18 featured outstanding speakers for labor security and social welfare issues in both China and the US. Renmin University of China was the co-host for the event, and is hosting Rutgers for our China Study Abroad program in Beijing. Dean Xiangquan Zeng of the School of Labor and Human Resources and Chair Keqing Han of the Department of Social Security led a delegation to attend the symposium. Dean Potter with Renmin University delegation at the School of Social Work. From left to right: Dr. Chien-Chung Huang, Dr. Yu Guo, Dean Cathryn Potter, Dean Xiangquan Zeng, Dr. Keqing Han, and Dr. Wei Huang.
Child Welfare Professionals Meet to Celebrate Youth Leaders

Rutgers School of Social Work, The NJ Department of Children and Families, and service providers recently invited youth ages 14 to 23 from Statewide Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) to join together in a celebration of their efforts. Youth Advisory Boards offer a forum for current and former foster youth to discuss how to improve the services of the foster care system. These YAB participants met with child welfare professionals at the event, which was called “Voices United for Youth: Visions of a Better Tomorrow.”

Learn more information here.

The Ryan White Project Educates Students About the History and Future of AIDS

When Natalie Aloyets Artel recently spoke to two undergraduate Community Health Promotion classes at Rutgers about her work with the Ryan White Project, none of the students had heard of Ryan White, and few were familiar with the turbulent history of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Born around the time that Ryan White died, students were fascinated to learn about the Indiana teenager, a hemophiliac who contracted the virus through a blood transfusion and experienced discrimination because of his illness.

Aloyets Artel spoke about the hysteria that accompanied the emergence of HIV/AIDS, with those infected dying quickly and painfully from a misunderstood disease. The community was not educated about transmission and as a result there was much fear. Ryan White was expelled from middle school because of his infection and when he tried to return, many parents and teachers rallied against his attendance.

Learn more information here.

Innovations for Social Work in Primary Care

Mr. Jones is scheduled to meet with his family doctor today. He is 83 years old and has a history of hypertension, congestive heart failure, anxiety and depression. His health has declined since his wife of 55 years passed away 2 years ago. He lives by himself and is having trouble finding joy at home. He sits in the waiting room with his daughter who drove him to his appointment. Next to the receptionist desk, he notices a flyer that reads “Now a Patient-Centered Medical Home!” Mr. Jones is called in to see his doctor. After treating him medically, Mr. Jones’ doctor introduces him to the social worker at the office. Mr. Jones has never seen a social worker in his life and is surprised to see one now. The social worker explains that she is part of the patient-centered medical home and is available to help connect him with any community resources or support services.

Learn more information here.
Rutgers Study Finds that Debt for the Middle-Aged and Seniors to be Associated with Increased Depression

In addition to making you poor, debt might also be increasing your risk for depression. Many middle-aged and older Americans are finding that the debt they carry, from maxed out credit cards to crippling medical bills, may lead to depression and a lower sense of well-being, in addition to a financial squeeze.

The new research, published this month by Karen Zurlo, Assistant Professor for Rutgers School of Social Work, in the *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, has found that the amount of unsecured debt carried is a significant predictor of depression and lower psychological well-being. Thirty percent of survey respondents reported that they have unsecured debt, defined as debt where collateral is not secured against the dollar amount owed.

Read the rest of the article [here](#).

---

**Good News: SSW Faculty and Staff Bulletin**

Francis Barchi was appointed one of two Rutgers faculty members to represent the Rutgers relationship with the United Nations during Academic Year 2014-2015. Rutgers is one of 27 universities worldwide that is affiliated with the UN Department of Public Information as a Non-Governmental Organization. The affiliation has allowed hundreds of Rutgers students to visit UN Headquarters for briefings, conferences, internships, and networking opportunities related to issues of global concern.

Read the rest of the article [here](#).

---

**Grad Profile: From the Cheers Bar to a Career in Social Work**

When Katie Ciarelli was attending college in Boston – working in one of the city’s most famous pubs inspired the hit TV show “Cheers” – she loved meeting people from all over the world and hearing their stories.

It didn’t matter where they were from, how old they were or what they did for a living. It was the human connection that was important.

This is a skill that Ciarelli – who is graduating from the School of Social Work as a MSW Fellow in Aging – relies on every day as she interacts with elderly nursing home patients, many of whom are suffering with dementia.

Read the full article [here](#).
Faculty Work with students from the Aresty Research Assistant Program

Four faculty members from the Rutgers School of Social Work worked with students from the Aresty Research Assistant Program during 2013-2014. After a year of diligent work, research and mentoring, those students presented their projects on April 25 at the 10th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, held at the Livingston Campus Student Center.

Jerry Floersch, associate professor and program director of the DSW program, supervised student, Esther David, on her project, called “Parent-Child Interactional Perceptions: Influence On Treatment Effectiveness.” Emily Greenfield, associate professor and Programs on Aging Coordinator, worked with student, Julia Dickhaus, for her research called, “The Influence of NORC Programs on The Ability to Age in Place for Older Adults.” Karen Zurlo, assistant professor, worked with students, Aldo Mayro and Vaishnavi Kannan, on a project called, “Out of Pocket Costs and Perceived Health Among Elderly Population Living with Depression and Diabetes.” Francis Barchi, assistant professor, worked with student, Ankita Tripathi, on a presentation called, “Ethical Regulatory Frameworks on Human Biological Specimens in the Global South.”

SSW Scholarship News

May 19th was a special day at the School of Social Work. Not only did we graduate 615 students, but we also held our annual Scholarship Reception at the Livingston Student Center. Our 120 scholarship recipients were seated with the donors of their awards to give both the students and donors the opportunity to get to know one another. The school makes it a priority to recognize and thank our generous donors and the accomplishments of our awardees. With over 800 scholarship applications received, the need for scholarship support is greater than ever. “The cost of obtaining an MSW is getting higher and higher, and our students find it increasingly difficult to cover their educational expenses. I know that I received a great deal of financial assistance when I was getting my own social work degree and I believe I have a responsibility to do something to help those who will become the next generation of social workers. The establishment of an endowed scholarship fund is one way that I can recognize and express my appreciation to those who helped me along my path to becoming a social work professional,” says Richard L. Edwards, executive vice president for Academic Affairs. For more information about donating to an existing scholarship, establishing a new scholarship or to view the list of our 2014 recipients, click here.

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