Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

Dear School of Social Work alumni and friends,

Hello to all and thank you for your continued readership.

As the academic year draws to a close, we celebrate the graduation of our students and look forward to following their future accomplishments. This year there were 148 graduates receiving a BASW degree, 494 receiving a MSW degree (with an additional 61 who graduated in October and 19 in January), four graduates receiving a Ph.D. degree, and 20 graduates receiving a DSW degree. This accomplished group will share their strength and dedication in clinical practice as well as management and policy roles in educational institutions, government agencies, non-profit agencies, health care settings, corporate settings and many other places.

We were honored to have Ashley Blazer Biden speak at the Rutgers School of Social Work convocation on Monday, May 18. Ashley, the daughter of Jill Biden and U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, is the executive director of the Delaware Center for Justice, Inc., a nonprofit agency that provides programs and services, public education, research and advocacy for youth and adults affected by the criminal justice system.

Ashley is working to achieve a high quality of justice and to improve the criminal justice system. In her role as director, Ashley is an inspiration to all our students, perhaps especially to those who have chosen our Management and Policy track and who are the next generation of social work leaders.

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

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.
Dean and Distinguished Professor
Students Graduate from Rutgers School of Social Work

The 249th Anniversary Rutgers Commencement was held on Sunday, May 17, and featured the popular scientist and show host, Bill Nye. He received a Doctor of Science degree from the University. The Convocation for Rutgers School of Social Work, now celebrating its 61st year, was held on May 18 with convocation speaker Ashley Blazer Biden. This year there were 148 graduates receiving a BASW degree, 494 receiving a MSW degree (with an additional 61 graduating in October and 19 in January), four graduates receiving a Ph.D. degree, and 20 graduates receiving a DSW degree. Learn more here.

Vote, Vote, Vote!

Dr. William Neal Brown has been nominated for inclusion in the New Jersey Hall of Fame for the year 2015. He is exactly the kind of person that the Hall of Fame should recognize, and Rutgers School of Social Work is enlisting your aid in making this a reality. Once you've read this description of his many accomplishments, please go to the New Jersey Hall of Fame website and vote for Dr. Brown. Read more here.

Photo caption: William Neal Brown when he first began working as a social worker in New Jersey and (right) a photo of Brown in later life by Rayon Richards.

The 1 in 4 Project: Tackling Mental Health in Sports

One in four people struggle with mental illness, and this statistic carries over into the sports world. The 1 in 4 Project is working to raise awareness of mental health issues in sports and reduce existing biases against mental health. Learn more about the project.

Photo caption: Lorin Mordecai, Akilah King, Natalie Graves, and Brandon St. Croix
Krystal Ball: Commemorating and Celebrating Krystal Skinner

Every year, the Undergraduate Social Work Organizations on both the Rutgers Camden and New Brunswick campuses host the Krystal Skinner Memorial Scholarship Fund Domestic Violence Awareness Walk. This year, as a culmination and celebration of the domestic violence awareness and fundraising efforts of Rutgers School of Social Work over the past seven years, the Krystal Ball was held on the Camden campus on March 28th, 2015. Learn more here.

Social Work Career Fair a Success

Rutgers School of Social Work is committed to launching new students into the job market with the best training and preparation possible. To connect more students and alumni with job opportunities, the School of Social Work recently held a Career Fair that was open to Rutgers students and alumni on May 1 from 10:00-2:00 pm at the Paul Robeson Campus Center in Newark. Are you hiring or looking to change careers? Be sure to bookmark our Job Blog to post and view social work job openings at socialwork.rutgers.edu/alumni/jobs.

Childhood Obesity and Bullying Conference

The Childhood Obesity and Bullying Conference: Health Professions Working Together to Address Weight Bias was held on May 1st, 2015 in the Busch Campus Center. The conference was packed with a diverse group of social workers, medical and mental health professionals. Dr. Larry Katz, senior associate director of NJ Agricultural Experiment Station and director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and professor of Animal Sciences, provided welcoming remarks. Learn more here.

MSW Fellow in Aging attends ASA through a Scholarship

Lauren Campasano, one of our MSW Fellows in Aging, received a travel scholarship to attend the American Society on Aging (ASA) conference, the premiere national conference in aging, which was held in March. The scholarship is made possible through a partnership between the American Society on Aging and Southwest Airlines. Read about Lauren's experience here.
Alumni Feature: Chris Jones

Christopher Jones, 2014 Rutgers BASW alum, says that in his social work practice he wants to “bring light to the world, even in places that seem the darkest.” Jones has also experienced darkness in his own life, during his undergraduate beginnings at his first college, a small private school in Pennsylvania. After experiencing a series of hate crime incidents at school, Jones transferred to Rutgers University, where he found himself surrounded by thousands of people and newly interested in communication and understanding interpersonal relationships. Read more about Chris’s journey [here](#).

Good News: SSW Faculty and Staff Bulletin

Patricia Findley and Doug Behan did an oral presentation entitled “The Social Work Perspective on Transitions of Care at the “Transitional Care: The New Healthcare Paradigm.” The workshop was hosted by the School of Pharmacy at the Busch Student Center on April 21, 2015. 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](#).