MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

Dear School of Social Work alumni and friends,

March is National Social Work Month, and the theme chosen for this year is, “All People Matter.” The 2014 theme reflects the American social work profession’s 116-year commitment to improving social conditions and quality of life opportunities for everyone. Social workers across the globe believe that all people have dignity and deserve respect, and we work to provide equal access to life-saving opportunities.

From improving relationships within families to making social support systems more effective, to helping individuals rebuild lives as they face mental health challenges, addiction or family violence, to managing social programs around the world; social workers are the backbone of services for persons facing adversity. I salute all of our current students, alumni, and faculty and staff in their daily efforts to support others.

Finally, I invite you to save the date for our SSW Career Fair on April 4 from 10:00-2:00 at the Robeson Center in Newark. We hope to provide all of our students and alumni with professional skills development and career networking at this event, which is led by our Alumni Council.

Sincerely,

Cathryn C. Potter, MSW, PhD
Dean and Professor

Rutgers Professor Led the Way in the Study of Tobacco Sales in Community Pharmacies: Big Chain CVS Bans their Sale and Shakes up the Tobacco Industry

As pharmacies increasingly position themselves as health care providers for everything from flu shots to in-store clinics, the pharmacy chain and retailer CVS Caremark has taken the unusual step of banning the sale of cigarettes, which are viewed as a detriment to health. CVS Caremark will phase out tobacco sales at its more than 7,600 stores by Oct. 1, a decision that will cause the company to lose $2 billion in annual revenue.
Andrew Peterson, Ph.D., an associate professor with the School of Social Work at Rutgers University, was among the first in the US to publish about the role of pharmacies and the sale of tobacco in communities. One troubling discovery, Peterson found that the demographics of the communities in which pharmacies were located predicted whether tobacco products were sold. Sales of tobacco were more likely to occur in pharmacies located in communities with lower income or larger African American and Latino populations. In a study of Passaic County, New Jersey, Peterson found a strong relationship between poverty, ethnicity, and race and the density of pharmacies selling cigarettes and other potentially addictive products such as alcoholic beverages.

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

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**Fostering Hope**

Transitions for Youth, funded primarily by the state with additional support from the Rutgers School of Social Work and private donors, supports young people like Amanda as they shift from foster care to college life. Watch Amanda’s story to hear, in her own words, how she transitioned from foster care and became a high-achieving Rutgers student.

Watch Amanda’s video [here](#).

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**Rutgers Day is Coming!**

Saturday, April 26, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Free Admission
Rain or Shine
Rutgers–New Brunswick

Learn more information [here](#).

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**Jiangxi Province Delegation Visit to Rutgers University**

The Institute for Families at the School of Social Work, the Centers for Global Advancement and International
Affairs of Rutgers University, and The Huamin Research Center provided an executive training program in management and leadership for 21 government administrators from the Jiangxi Province in China. The culmination of the program was a closing ceremony on January 22.

“It is an honor for us to have this exchange of ideas with leadership from Jiangxi. At Rutgers, we know the importance of international partnerships and the power of those collaborations to move the world forward,” said Cathryn Potter, PhD, Dean, Rutgers School of Social Work.

Read the rest of the article here.

For more information about IFF, visit our website.

Dr. Janet C. Gornick Delivers the Annual Blanche Grosswald Endowed Lecture

Even though European countries have several mandated work-family policies in place, such as paid family leave, the right to part time job parity, and paid early childhood care and education, researcher Janet Gornick finds that “gender inequality is universal and pervasive even across affluent countries.” As the presenter for the recent Blanche Grosswald Endowed Lecture for the Rutgers School of Social Work on February 6, she provided a detailed analysis of why these gender inequalities persist, and how the U.S. lags far behind in most areas of gender equality.

“The United States has no mandatory paid family leave policy, making it one of just three countries in the world to not mandate paid maternity leave for new mothers. Swaziland and Papua New Guinea are the others,” reports Dr. Gornick, whose presentation was entitled, “Work-Family Reconciliation Policy and Gender Equality: A Cross-National Perspective.”

Read the rest of the article here.

Center on Violence Against Women and Children wins 2013 Celebrating Solutions Awards

The Mary Byron Project, fostering innovations and strategies to end domestic violence, has the Center on Violence Against Women and Children as one of four organizations to receive the Celebrating Solutions Awards. These awards showcase and recognize organizations for innovations that demonstrate promise in breaking the cycle of domestic violence. A panel of experts selected programs they believe serve as models for the nation. Each award includes a $10,000 cash prize in recognition of their pioneering efforts.
Your Gift Matters

Support Future Social Workers and Make Your Gift Today

Help make a difference today for students by supporting the Class of 2014 Campaign. The Class of 2014 Campaign is a way for graduating MSW students to make a difference and leave their legacy at the Rutgers School of Social Work. This year, 100 students received scholarships!

Click [here](#) for more information and to make a gift.

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Alumni Focus: Marla Meyers

Marla Meyers, who graduated in 1991 with her Masters in Social Work, never thought that she would end up in this field. “I thought my whole life I would end up in SoHo and be a graphic designer,” Meyers said. But having completed a lot of volunteer work during her undergrad years at Rutgers, by a fluke Meyers decided to take a social work class. Meyers majored in fine arts and when she applied for the MSW, she had only taken two social work classes.

Meyers is now the Executive Director of the Samost Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Southern New Jersey. After receiving her MSW in 1991, Meyers worked for Hillel of Greater Philadelphia for the next 22 years.

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

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Good News

Colleen Beach received the “Volunteer of the Year” award from a nonprofit she has assisted, called the Aging in Place Partnership. She also recently accepted an invitation to join their board and serve on its Steering Committee.

Patricia A. Findley recently published an article in the Journal of Social Work.
Citation: Findley, P. (2014). Social work practice in the chronic care model: Chronic illness and disability care in Journal of Social Work, 1 (1) 83-95

Andy Germak recently published a column in China Philanthropy Times, a weekly newspaper distributed throughout mainland China with a circulation of 1 million readers weekly. The English title is, "What Social Workers Can Learn from Steve Jobs." It was also distributed through WeChat, which has 800 million registered users.

Bert J. Goldberg has been selected to present at the NASW – NJ Conference in May in a session for individuals who are interested in becoming Executive Directors.


Andy Peterson was elected Fellow of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA), Division 27 of the American Psychological Association (APA), in January 2014, for unusual and outstanding contributions to research in the areas of empowerment theory and measurement development.