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.

The FOCUS-Rutgers Wellness Center in Newark is a remarkable team effort, combining the work of social workers, nurse practitioners and pharmacists to meet the health care needs of a diverse and economically disadvantaged population. We are proud of the efforts of our faculty, staff and students who work as part of a multidisciplinary team to provide care to individuals and families who otherwise might not receive it.

Also noteworthy, our Center for Leadership and Management is extending its reach by partnering with county welfare agencies in New Jersey and helping them to enhance their best practices. By strengthening our county agencies, Rutgers School of Social Work is helping to strengthen the systems for services of assistance, from food stamps and emergency housing to welfare.

Finally, if you know a social worker who deserves recognition, consider nominating him or her for the Outstanding Alumni Award. The School of Social Work and Alumni Council will be accepting nominations until March 31st.

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

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
Inside the bustling FOCUS-Rutgers Wellness Center in Newark, the walls are covered with colorful murals painted by a group of Newark schoolchildren with a graduate student from the Mason Gross School of the Arts. Most of the patients here would not receive any medical or mental health services if the facility did not exist. The center serves a mostly Spanish-speaking population and roughly 30 percent are undocumented immigrants who only receive care when it involves an emergency room.

Learn more information [here](#).

The Center for Leadership and Management (CLM) is partnering with county welfare agencies (CWAs) across New Jersey to discover, assess, analyze, and help to enhance leadership practices. These 21 agencies throughout the state provide services including general assistance, food stamps, emergency housing assistance and welfare.

Learn more information [here](#).

When Natalie Aloyets Artel 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 teen-ager, a hemophiliac who contracted the virus through a blood transfusion and experienced discrimination because of his illness. Learn more information [here](#).

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey has launched NJ Connect for Recovery, a free, confidential help line for individuals and families coping with addiction to heroin and prescription painkillers. The toll-free phone number for NJ Connect for Recovery is (855) 652-3737 and the line for the hearing impaired is (877) 294-4356. Information is also available online at njconnectforrecovery.org. Learn more information [here](#).
Students Supporting Students Makes a Difference

MSW student debt is over $36,000, and the 2015 Students Supporting Students (SSS) Campaign Committee is doing something about it. Now in its 4th year, this student-led campaign aims to reduce the debt of our current and future social work students by creating a culture of philanthropy among alumni, faculty, staff, and students. How? By spreading awareness about why our students should give back to the RUSSW after they graduate. Students pledge their support by making a donation of $1 or more to the campaign, and when combined with the generous support of our alumni, faculty, and staff, the initiative has generated funding for 30 scholarships so far. This campaign is only a success when our alumni chip in! Be a part of the solution—make your gift today at socialwork.rutgers.edu/GIVE.

Outstanding Alumni Award Nominations

Do you know a Rutgers School of Social Work alumnus whose efforts within his or her community or organization exemplifies the best in social work practices? Help the social worker in your life receive recognition by nominating them for the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Learn more information here.

Come Back to the SSW for the Lecture, "Policy & Health"

Every year, the School of Social Work hosts the Annual Blanche Grosswald Memorial Lecture. On March 9, 2015 from 4:30-6:15pm, our community welcomes a very special guest lecturer: Dr. Rajiv Bhatia. Dr. Bhatia, Director of the Civic Engine, works as a physician and data scientist, with a past in policy work. Rajiv's work focuses on economic insecurity, hunger, poor housing and other unmet needs which are undermining the possibilities for health within his community.

Learn more information here.

Alumni in Focus: Bethany LaLonde, SSW'08

After her graduation from Cazenovia College as class valedictorian, with a bachelor's degree in Human Services, Bethany LaLonde knew she wanted to pursue a career in social work. LaLonde, a SSW'08 alum, received her MSW from Rutgers with a specialization in Management and Policy. During her time at Rutgers, LaLonde gained experience in various facets of social work, including positions as a mental health advisor at Upstate Cerebral Palsy and a workshop facilitator at Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) at Rutgers.

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.