Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

Dear School of Social Work alumni and friends,

Rutgers School of Social Work launches 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 and the Alumni Council recently held an inaugural Career Fair on April 4 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Paul Robeson Campus Center in Newark.

More than 230 people attended and students in attendance spoke positively about having an employment event that catered just to the field of social work, unlike many large job fairs on campus that don’t always have many employers from social service agencies. It was a highly successful event for both students and alumni, and one that we plan to replicate in future years. Special thanks to the Alumni Council for hosting and providing so many helpful workshops, from resume building to licensure assistance.

In this issue, we focus on important research by Lenna Nepomnyaschy that showed how support from dads can keep children from going hungry. We also feature a first-in-the-state initiative underway to keep vulnerable adults from falling victim to con artists after natural disasters. Rutgers School of Social Work is committed to innovative research that helps to solve real world problems and furthers dialogue about social policy changes.

Sincerely,

Cathryn C. Potter, MSW, PhD
Dean and Professor

Annual Krystal Skinner Walk

On Saturday, March 29, the Rutgers Camden Campus and the Rutgers School of Social Work hosted the Annual Krystal Skinner Walk. This event aims to educate the community about the social issue of domestic violence and commemorate Krystal Skinner. At the walk, resources were provided to help those facing domestic violence. This walk also raises money for the Krystal Skinner Memorial Scholarship Fund. Krystal Skinner, 22, of Linwood, NJ, was murdered on March 26, 2008 in an
apparent domestic violence dispute. Krystal, who had a two-year-old son, was a senior at Rutgers University-Camden and a social work major interning with the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). The Krystal Skinner Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established to financially assist undergraduate students pursuing their social work degree at Rutgers University. This year more than 100 walkers of all ages turned out despite the rain. The Camden students and Krystal’s family have been very supportive of this scholarship fund for the last six years. The Undergraduate Social Work Organization did a tremendous job of publicizing the event and gathering baskets for a Chinese auction. The event raised over $2,100.

First Social Work Career Fair a Success

The School of Social Work and the Alumni Council recently held an inaugural Career Fair that was open to Rutgers students and alumni on April 4 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Paul Robeson Campus Center in Newark. More than 230 people attended, and the event included 25 employers who all had active job openings to fill.

Students from the New Brunswick and Camden campuses were provided with transportation to the event, which was hosted by the SSW Alumni Council. After a spirited opening by Karun Singh, director of the Newark MSW Program, Cathryn Potter, dean of the Rutgers SSW, welcomed attendees and kicked off a day that included career panels and networking opportunities.

“We are pleased by the positive response from our students and alumni and look forward to providing more events in the future that connect community agencies and employers with our outstanding graduates,” said Dean Potter.

To view photos, visit the School of Social Work's Facebook.

NJCSI Plays a Key Role at the New Jersey Child Support Training Conference

The New Jersey Child Support Institute (NJCSI), under the direction of Mia Sena, Director of the Office of Training and Educational Programs (OTEPE) at the Institute for Families (IFF), recently attended and contributed to the 32nd Annual New Jersey Child Support Training Conference at the Revel Hotel in Atlantic City. The annual training event is presented by the New Jersey Child Support Council, a nonprofit organization whose members include child support professionals from public and private sectors.

Learn more information here.
Rutgers Alerts Vulnerable Populations to Post-Disaster Scams

As if natural disasters aren’t bad enough, a parade of con artists always follows in the wake of these catastrophes. They prey on vulnerable victims, many of whom are elderly or may have functional or cognitive limitations. The scamming often begins within hours after the event and can extend for months and years as it has following Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina.

Now a first-in-the-state initiative is underway to provide preventive education and training to stop exploitation of vulnerable adults in New Jersey. The Department of Human Services’ Adult Protective Services, a unit of the Division of Aging Services, has awarded a grant to Doug Behan, Director of Continuing Education for the Institute for Families, School of Social Work, to develop and deliver a curriculum about exploitation following a disaster.

Learn more information here.

Rutgers Study Finds that Fathers Living Apart From Children Can Influence Whether or Not the Child Gets Enough to Eat

Fathers who don’t live with their children can actually lower their son or daughter’s risk of not having enough food by just maintaining involvement in the child’s life. And if the father provides support beyond money, such as gifts, groceries and other offerings, the child’s risk of food insecurity may be further reduced.

The new research, published this month by Lenna Nepomnyaschy, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, in Social Service Review has found that nonresident father involvement in a child’s life is positively associated with lower food insecurity in middle childhood. Involvement could include time spent with the child, monetary contributions, support, such as treats, gifts, and or childcare expenses. In particular, in kind support resulted in a 10-12 percent reduction in food insecurity for children.

Learn more information here.

Good News: SSW Faculty and Staff

Lenna Nepomnyaschy
was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. Lia Nower was promoted to Professor. Congratulations for this significant achievement!

Beth Angell has been invited to be a participant in an initiative funded by Bring Change 2 Mind, actress Glenn...
Close's foundation, to develop a campaign to reduce the stigma of mental illness among college students. It is directed by Bernice Pescosolido of Indiana University. The resulting "College Toolbox" will be tested at Indiana University and disseminated nationally. The first meeting to develop the toolbox is April 16-18 at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY.

Please visit Good News for more stories.

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**Your Gift Matters: Support Future Social Workers and Make Your Gift Today**

Help make a difference today for students like Jennifer Calchi, 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!

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the MSW Class of 2013 Campaign Committee for generously awarding me the Students Supporting Students scholarship. As I learn more about this Committee, the more I am amazed at the efforts put forth to help fellow MSW students like myself. Since its inception in 2012, the committee has helped raise an impressive amount of money to help students continue their education. It is my hope that these efforts will continue well into the future to help students like myself."

- Jennifer Calchi, 2014 Scholarship Recipient

Make a gift today.

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**Improving Lives in Romania**

Interested in doing international work, but not yet having an opportunity to do so, Denalee O'Malley, a DSW student, was thrilled to be chosen as a member of the research team that was put together by Associate Professor Dr. Shari Munch, which led to a two-week trip to Romania in July 2013.

The project proposal, “Health Social Workers in Romania: Building the Research Infrastructure Necessary to Design a Frontline Workforce Study” was accepted by the Faculty and Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Working Group Committee at Rutgers University, for the funding of $10,000. The purpose of this project is to conduct a workforce research study describing the profile of social workers who provide direct services in health care settings in Romania.

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

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**Alumni Profile: Father Time**

Taking a non-traditional route of clinical social work, Jeffrey Johnson said that founding Father Time in 2005 “grabbed him by the collar” and resulted in sharp left turn
that he does not regret. Father Time is a dad-support and community service organization run through the Keansburg School District, in collaboration with Parents Anonymous of New Jersey.

Johnson, who has three children and graduated with his MSW in 1986, is a child and family therapist by training. He started his career with an internship in the adolescent inpatient unit at UMDNJ and then worked there for about 10 years, until moving south to the Keansburg School District, where he is presently a counselor in the Port-Monmouth Road Elementary School.

Before founding Father Time, Johnson had been running a parent support group for three years, which was mainly populated by moms. When he heard that there was interest in securing funding for father’s groups, he pursued a Children’s Trust Fund grant and with that was able to create Father Time. Now Father Time is an organization of about 40 active dads with a lot of volunteer supporters.

Read the rest of the article here.

Rutgers 2014 Supervisor of the Year: Maureen Braun Scalera

Congratulations to Maureen Braun Scalera, Director, Office of Child Welfare Initiatives, who has been named as Rutgers 2014 Supervisor of the Year. The Supervisor of the Year award is given by the Rutgers Student Employment Office. This award goes to a supervisor who has been nominated by a student employee for exceptional supervisory skills. The Supervisor of the Year is selected based on outstanding commitment to the growth and development of student employees in the workplace.

We salute Maureen for her dedication to our students!

Read the full article here.

Support our Summer Housing and Internship Program by donating items today!

This summer Rutgers School of Social Work enters its 9th year of the Summer Housing & Internship Program (SHIP) for college students aging out of the New Jersey foster care system. Our 60 scholars are in need of basic personal items for their summer housing on campus. Please consider donating new sheet or towel sets for these individuals and have the items shipped directly to the program. We also appreciate monetary donations to help fund our scholars’ living expenses throughout the summer months. Donate today! Thank you for supporting our scholars!