Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

Hello to all and thank you for your readership of E-News.

I am pleased to announce that USA Today College recently ranked Rutgers School of Social Work in their top three undergraduate schools in the category “Top Colleges for Social Work.” Rankings are based on a variety of factors, including the ability of the graduates to earn a living in their field. This recognition of the strength of our program is welcomed and I would like to also acknowledge Dr. DuWayne Battle for his leadership as director of the BASW program.

Continuing Education recently held a praiseworthy program called “Preventing Post-disaster Financial Exploitation: Lessons Learned from Superstorm Sandy,” This free, public conference provided training and information to professionals in the fields of behavioral and public health, business, law enforcement, disaster management and government/human services on how to recognize and address financial exploitation of the elderly and other vulnerable populations.

Once again, thank you for your support. I hope you enjoy this issue of E-News.

USA Today College recently ranked Rutgers School of Social Work in their top three undergraduate schools in the category, “Top Colleges for Social Work.” Their rankings are based on a variety of factors, including the ability of the graduates to earn a living in their field.

"We are proud of this distinction and believe that our program expertly prepares graduates for beginning social work practice and beyond. Our accomplished faculty members provide both teaching and opportunities for advanced research. Rutgers BASW graduates go on to pursue advanced degrees or to a variety of social work positions. They provide essential services to individuals, families and communities, as well as leading state and non-profit agencies. Through our undergraduate program, we are educating the social work innovators of tomorrow,” says DuWayne Battle, director of Baccalaureate Program.
60th Anniversary Alumni Celebration

Join your fellow alumni to celebrate the 60th anniversary at the Rutgers School of Social Work! Come back to network with alumni, faculty and students, and see how the Rutgers School of Social Work and the social work profession has changed since 1954. The evening will include remarks by Dean Cathryn Potter, an open bar, hors d’oeuvres, raffles, and much more! For more information and to RSVP, please visit alumni.rutgers.edu/SSWReception.

Second Annual Rutgers & CMSRU Inter-Professional Education Day

Over 275 people attended the Second Annual Rutgers & CMSRU Inter-Professional Education Day, Working across Disciplines to Have Difficult Conversations, which was held on September 19 at Rutgers School of Law in Camden. Faculty facilitators led students in small group discussions of case studies drawn from real-world dilemmas involving emergency healthcare, HIV and adolescents, end-of-life decisions and more. The day was sponsored by Rutgers School of Social Work, Nursing and Law, as well as Cooper Medical School.

Viewing of American Winter and School-Wide Event

On October 6, the School of Social Work held a school-wide event, co-sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers—New Jersey (NASW-NJ) and the School’s Social Policy Network. The event, organized by Lenna Nepomnyaschy, associate professor at the school, was a screening of American Winter, a documentary film following the personal stories of formerly middle class families struggling in the aftermath of the Great Recession. The film puts a face on the economic challenges in the country to break down stereotypes of poverty and illustrate the need for access to social services.

Learn more information [here](#).

VAWC welcomed Dr. Donna Chung, Head of Social Work at Curtin University in Australia

In October, VAWC welcomed Dr. Donna Chung, Head of Social Work at Curtin University, to the Center as a Visiting Scholar. We are thrilled that Dr. Chung sought out the Center to learn more about our research and educational activities.
Dr. Chung has been involved in social work education and social research for over 15 years undertaking various teaching, research and management roles within higher education. Her research interests are primarily the areas of male violence against women, homelessness, gender and sexuality and social policy.

More information on Dr. Chung can be found by clicking here.

Positive Family Relationships and Open Communication Reduce High-Risk Sexual Behavior among Gay and Bisexual Youth

Gay and bisexual youth who are supported by their family and feel comfortable talking to them about their lives are less likely to become involved in high-risk sexual behaviors, according to a recent Rutgers study. Published in the Journal of Marital & Family Therapy, the Rutgers School of Social Work study, Condoms and connection: Parents, gay and lesbian youth and HIV risk, found that positive family relationships and open dialogue led to an increase in safe sex practices, including the use of condoms, while disrupted family relationships resulted in risky sexual behaviors.

Learn more information here.

Rutgers Seminar on How to Protect Sandy Survivors from Con Artists

It’s an unfortunate reality for survivors of superstorm Sandy: Con artists flocked to take advantage of people who already were victimized by a natural disaster.

Rutgers University’s School of Social Work’s Continuing Education department hosted a conference in September for professionals to swap knowledge on how to best protect vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, from falling victim to post-disaster predators.

Learn more information here.

“Train the trainer” Curriculum taught in Lavasa, India

Rutgers University continues to bring an innovative “train the trainer” curriculum to Lavasa, India. Lavasa Corporation Limited has entered into a partnership with the School of Social Work at Rutgers to offer this specialized certificate program. The four-day intensive Certificate Program in Training Skills 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.

Learn more information here.
Darnyelle Cmil: Bridging the Gap Between Families and Services

Darnyelle Cmil, a 2012 MSW graduate of Rutgers School of Social Work, has made her career “about making it easier for families to do the right thing.” With a background in early childhood education, she began her social work career at the Department of Children and Families (DCF). While there, she pursued her MSW through the Public Child Welfare Intensive Weekend program, a collaborative endeavor between Rutgers School of Social Work that permitted students to continue full time employment while enhancing their skills and leadership capabilities through MSW study. She attributes much of her success to her time at Rutgers, where she made invaluable connections and learned new ways of approaching issues while she maintained a social work career.

Learn more information here.

Good News: SSW Faculty and Staff Bulletin

Colleen Beach was involved in a project related to one of her service projects. It was a community resource forum called “South Brunswick’s Own” on Oct. 18 where she was one of the panel members for the opening remarks. Congressman Russ Holt was the Honorary Chair for the day; Senator Linda Greenstein and Assemblywoman Donna Simon served as Legislative Co-Chairs; Mayor Frank Gambatese and former mayor Caroline McCallum South Brunswick were Co-Chairs. There focus was on South Brunswick as one of the state’s first “livable communities” and local/state resources and caregiver supports were available.

Read more about the accomplishments of our faculty and staff here.

Senator Vitale Provides an Insider Look at Addiction and Policy

Speaking to more than 50 alumni, faculty, and students, keynote speaker Senator Joseph F. Vitale presented “Addiction & Policy” at the annual Demone lecture on October 9, 2014. Vitale (D-Middlesex) was first elected to the New Jersey State Senate in 1997 to represent the 19th legislative district, which includes the municipalities of Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy and Woodbridge. He is chairman of the Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee, and vice chair of the Labor Committee. 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.