Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

Dear School of Social Work alumni and friends,

The fall 2014 semester has already been full of important ventures for the SSW. One of the most noteworthy is the launch of the Rutgers Helps NJ Resource Guide, a free new website designed to assist advocates, professionals and members of the public to navigate the complex array of federal, state, and local resources and agencies. The Rutgers Helps NJ Resource website is the culmination of a year of intense field study and research, networking and partnerships with local organizations and agencies in the city of Newark, and is an important collaboration between the Rutgers School of Law and Rutgers School of Social Work.

The White House chose Rutgers to pilot a Sexual Assault Climate Survey, the goal of which is to gather information about student perception and response to sexual assault on campus and to enhance campus response through increased or revised programs and services. The survey will begin in October. The Rutgers community is proud of our faculty and staff who are involved in this important project, and we believe in the power it has to make real change.

I would also like to give Sara Munson, our new director of the Institute for Families, a warm welcome. Sara is an experienced child welfare leader and has spent the last 15 years providing administration, analysis, advocacy, training and technical assistance to public and private human service organizations to support systems improvement and reform. Sara brings with her to the IFF continued leadership with the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI).

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

Cathryn C. Potter, PhD
Dean and Professor
Let RutgersHelpsNJ.org help connect you!

We are pleased to announce the Rutgers Helps NJ Resource Guide, a free new website designed to assist advocates, professionals, and members of the public navigate the complex array of federal, state, and local resources and agencies. You can visit Rutgers Helps NJ at rutgershelpsnj.org.

RutgersHelpsNJ.org is an online comprehensive social service, legal, and health-related database for the city of Newark.

- Obtain resources with the click of a button!
- Browse through our 30+ categories to find the resources you need!
- Learn about agencies and organizations near you!
- Interested in being part of our extensive list? Submit your agency or organization’s information!

Learn more information here.

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, a cash bar, hors d’oeuvres, raffles, and much more! For more information and to RSVP, please visit alumni.rutgers.edu/SSWReception.

Do you know an outstanding SSW Alumnus?

Nominate them for the 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award! Dean Potter and the School of Social Work Alumni Council are pleased to recognize an outstanding alumnus at the 2015 Convocation Ceremony this May. Don’t miss this opportunity to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of a friend or colleague who demonstrates leadership and commitment to the field of social work. Nominations are due no later than March 31, 2015, and award winners must attend the convocation in May. More at socialwork.rutgers.edu/Alumni/Award.
The Harold W. and Marguerite F. Demone Lecture

Please join us for a lecture with Senator Joseph F. Vitale on the topic of “Addiction & Policy” on Thursday, October 9, 2014. The lecture will be held at the Gathering Lounge in the Livingston Student Center. One complimentary non clinical CEU will be available upon request. To RSVP, please visit the event online.

White House Chooses Rutgers to Pilot Campus Sexual Assault Climate Survey

As a bipartisan group of senators recently introduced legislation to curb sexual assault on college campuses, Rutgers University-New Brunswick is at the forefront of an effort to measure the scope of the problem through a campus-wide sexual assault climate survey. Rutgers was invited by the White House to pilot the survey, the only school chosen nationally for this project, which will begin in October.

Learn more information here.

The Huamin Research Center: A Bridge to Change

Established in 2012, the mission of the Huamin Research Center is to develop and disseminate knowledge through research and exchange that promotes the professional development of nonprofit organizations and strengthens individual, family and community well-being in China.

“Our programs create a two way exchange of ideas,” says Chien-Chung Huang, professor and director of the Huamin Research Center.

Learn more information here.
Sara Munson, New IFF Director

We are pleased to announce that Sara Munson has joined Rutgers School of Social Work as the new director of the Institute for Families (IFF). Sara is an experienced leader and has spent the last 15 years providing administration, analysis, advocacy, training and technical assistance to public and private human service organizations to support systems improvement and reform. Ms. Munson has an established national reputation in human service workforce development and organizational capacity-building to achieve positive outcomes for vulnerable children, youth and families. Sara brings with her to the IFF continued leadership on the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI), a national center of excellence funded by the Children’s Bureau that provides university-agency partnerships/trainee-ships, leadership training for supervisors and middle managers, a leadership forum for SSW deans and child welfare agency directors, organizational improvement and design team activities, targeted technical assistance, knowledge management, peer networking, dissemination and evaluation.

The Impact of Research on Domestic Violence Prevention

As Director of Research and Evaluation at Safe Horizon, the largest victims’ services agency in the country, Amanda Stylianou has many opportunities to showcase the value of research in better serving their clients.

“I believe in making a difference. For me, that involves doing research and understanding the basic facts, so that we can design or update our programs and provide the best possible services to our clients,” says Amanda, a 2008 graduate of the Rutgers University School of Social Work.

Learn more information here.

Good News: SSW Faculty and Staff Bulletin

Doug Behan presented, “I Have a Name: Understanding the Medically Ill Patient’s World,” for the New Jersey Association of Health Care Social Workers in July.

Read more about the accomplishments of our faculty and staff here.
Rutgers Study Finds that Neighbors Improve Well-being in Middle and Later Life

The old proverb says, “Good fences make good neighbors,” but a new Rutgers study has found that having continuously low levels of contact with neighbors, or losing contact with them altogether, is associated with declining levels of psychological well-being in middle and later life. The School of Social Work study explored whether frequency of contact and perceived neighbor support is important for several measures of psychological well-being.

Learn more information here.

Order SSW Shirts from the Graduate Student Association

Formed in September 2005, the School of Social Work Graduate Student Association (SSWGSA) is chartered by the Rutgers University Graduate Student Association and endorsed by the School of Social Work. Their goal is to support and encourage social, academic and professional development of social work best practice by MSW and Ph.D. students, and serve as a conduit for dialogue between students, faculty and administration.

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.