SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL NEWS

Message from Dean Cathryn Potter

Dear School of Social Work alumni and friends,

As we begin the next academic year, we reflect on the accomplishments of our faculty. In August, Dr. Judy Postmus was featured extensively in national media about her work with The Allstate Foundation to evaluate the effectiveness of a curriculum for survivors of domestic violence that teaches financial literacy and self-sufficiency. Their finding received national attention in articles for The Huffington Post, USA Today, MarketWatch and The Wall Street Journal, and Dr. Postmus was interviewed for a segment on NBC.

In October, we recognize the two-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. The New Jersey Department of Health is supporting a joint research project with Rutgers School of Social Work and the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University to examine the long-term effects of Sandy on the health and well-being of New Jersey citizens exposed to the storm. This important research will explore what has helped or hindered people in their ongoing recovery.

We also would like to welcome Cathleen Palace to our SSW family. Palace serves as our new Director of Development with a joint appointment with the Graduate School of Education. She will play a vital role in leading the School of Social Work’s development efforts. We are grateful to Stephanie Giordano for her invaluable work over the past two years. We wish her all the best in her new position as Director of Parent and Family Philanthropy at the Rutgers Foundation.

Thank you to our alumni and friends for your continued support as we enter the academic year.

Sincerely,

Cathryn C. Potter, MSW, PhD
Dean and Professor
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.

For more information and to register, please click here.

Young African Scholars Wrap up Civic Leadership Institute at Rutgers

Meet some of the 25 extraordinary men and women who are bringing important lessons back home. Ramadhani Ndiga is confident and charismatic, yet behind that strength is a young man who has struggled his whole life. By age 13, he was the sole supporter of his mother and siblings, working as a waiter to earn five dollars a month. His stepmother lied and claimed he had died, which resulted in the loss of his identity papers and crippled the school progress of this bright student. It was only when he took a new name and earned the highest score on a national high school math exam that his fortunes changed.

Learn more information here.

The Sandy Child and Family Health Study researches Long-Term Effects of the Superstorm

The damage caused during Superstorm Sandy in 2012 was immediate, but the aftershocks for New Jersey residents continue in the form of enduring health, economic, environmental and social impacts. To better understand these effects, the New Jersey Department of Health is supporting a joint research team from Rutgers University and Columbia University to conduct The Sandy Child and Family Health (S-CAFH) Study, one of the largest disaster recovery projects and assessments in the region.

Learn more information here.
Social Work Policy Network, Working to Connect, Extend and Engage

When discussing her ultimate goal for the Social Work Policy Network, associate professor Lenna Nepomnyaschy said that she wants to reach far beyond the Management and Policy concentration, or the School of Social Work at Rutgers. “It could be the place for everyone interested in social welfare policy to connect, learn about relevant events and issues, and become engaged to create social change.”

Learn more information here.

Good News: SSW Faculty and Staff Bulletin
Beth Angell was recently quoted in a blog for The Washington Post in an article: “Why law enforcement missed Elliot Rodger’s warnings signs.”

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

Rutgers Study Proves Financial Education Helps Domestic Violence Survivors Overcome Abuse

The Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) partner to bring financial empowerment services to nearly 400,000 survivors.

Long after the physical bruises of domestic violence fade, the ones caused by an often overlooked aspect of violent relationships linger—those caused by financial abuse. A common tactic used by abusers to control their victim, financial abuse involves controlling a victim’s access to money, destroying their credit rating, and interfering with their work performance. The Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence released the results of a study conducted by Rutgers University proving financial education helps survivors recover from their abuser and significantly improve their quality of life, while also helping ensure that they don’t return to the abusive relationship.

Learn more information here.
2014 Rutgers SHIP Program Graduation

The Summer Housing Internship Program (SHIP) and Student Internship Program (SIP) 2014 class celebrated graduation on Thursday, August 14. The ceremony was held for the 58 graduates from Newark, New Brunswick, Camden and Montclair State to celebrate their achievements after completing the intensive eleven-week program. Friends and family packed the NJ Department of Children and Families Professional Centers’ auditorium where faculty members, SHIP and SIP staff and alumni of the program spoke. Dr. Richard L. Edwards gave the opening remarks.

Read the rest of the article here.

Welcome, Cathleen!

The School of Social work would like to give a warm welcome to Cathleen Palace as our new Director of Development. Ms. Palace has a joint appointment with the Graduate School of Education (GSE), and will work closely with Dean Potter in leading the School of Social Work’s overall development efforts. Through her leadership at GSE, Ms. Palace established the Women Investing in the School of Education (WISE) program, secured the second largest gift in the school’s history, and surpassed the *Our Rutgers Our Future* university wide campaign goal by $3 million. The School of Social Work community will greatly benefit from Ms. Palace’s expertise in development, and we are excited to have her on board!

We’d also like to give a heartfelt thank you to Stephanie Giordano for her exceptional work as Director of Development for the past two years. Serving the School of Social Work, Ms. Giordano worked with various foundations and private donors to help fund important scholarship and academic programs at the school. Notable accomplishments include establishing three new scholarship funds, and securing a significant grant from a private foundation that not only helped victims of Superstorm Sandy, but also provided an opportunity for students to gain hands on social work experience. Ms. Giordano still remains at Rutgers University as Director of Parent and Family Philanthropy. In this new position, Ms. Giordano will work to engage parents and family members of Rutgers’ current and former students. You can contact Cathleen Palace at cpalace@ssw.rutgers.edu and Stephanie Giordano at sgiordano@winants.rutgers.edu. For information on giving opportunities at the School of Social Work, please visit socialwork.rutgers.edu/GIVE.
SIBS NJ, Lending a Helping Hand for Siblings

For Rutgers School of Social Work student Kara Sellix and her twin Kristen (a fellow MSW graduate), SIBS NJ was created as a result of a sister, a need for support and the desire to make real change. Kara and Kristen’s sister, Katie, was diagnosed with autism in 1999 at the age of three. Since then, autism awareness has become a way of life for twins Kristen and Kara. Read the rest of the article [here](#).

For more information and updates, please like the SSW [Facebook](#), follow the SSW on [Twitter](#), or subscribe to the SSW [Youtube channel](#).