

THE STILLMAN

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

FALL 2019

History *Equality*
POLITICS MEANINGFUL
CHANGE
CULTURE
EQUITY Fairness
Advocacy
Influence
SYSTEMS
Social
Injustice
Privilege *Policies*
EMPATHY
Intersectionality

SOCIAL WORK, JUSTICE
and the LAW



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK



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The Stillman provides the latest news from The Ohio State University College of Social Work and highlights the ways in which our faculty, staff, alumni and students make a difference in our society.

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Tom talks

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Our college is approaching the end of a year-long centennial celebration of social work education at Ohio State. During the year, we reflected on our predecessors who laid the foundation on which we stand. We also looked forward to how our own contributions as researchers, teachers and social workers will advance the profession as we prepare the next generation of social work practitioners and scholars. We recognize our place in a long lineage of those with a commitment to advancing knowledge toward justice and equity.

With more than 13,500 alumni across the globe, it is inspiring to know that the challenges of our next 100 years will be met by social workers who are prepared to establish their own place in the continuing lineage of Buckeye social workers. This issue gives you a glimpse of how some of your colleagues are impacting their cities, society and the profession itself. We also introduce you to our 2019 Alumni Hall of Fame award recipients.

Recognizing the impact of depleting resources, rights and services to the most vulnerable in our society, the importance of preparing our students for an even stronger role in advocating for social justice has taken on a new sense of urgency. In response, we have appointed our first director of advocacy. This new role focuses on ensuring our students, faculty and staff are educated on important policy and social justice issues and are also engaging in opportunities to advocate. Through our annual student trip to Washington, D.C., our law- and policy-related field placements, and faculty research, we are ensuring social work students know why and how to use their voices to advance justice. I think you will also be impressed by the impact of our alumni who are making a difference in our justice system every day.

Overcoming adversity is something we all find inspiring. In this issue, you will meet a mother and daughter who did just that to earn their BSSW degrees together. We also introduce you to our Career Services Office. This office helps students overcome obstacles to entering the profession in a variety of ways including a career development course, individual consultation and a Careers Closet to support success when affording professional clothing is a challenge.



We often reflect upon the generosity of our alumni and friends, and their support for our current students. Ahead, you'll read about the founders of two new scholarships. You will learn about their decisions to support students working with survivors of domestic violence and those specializing in geriatric social work.

Finally, allow me to introduce you to Pippin, one of my furry companions. She and her brother, Oskar, joined me as we kicked off a new collaboration with Ohio State's Colleges of Nursing and Veterinary Medicine. A first-of-its-kind program launched last February, it recognizes the human-animal bond and works to improve the health and well-being of older adults and their beloved pets.

Please enjoy this latest issue of *The Stillman*. I hope it finds you well, and I wish a safe and successful 2020 to you all.

Best Wishes,

Tom Gregoire, MSW, PhD
Dean



Patty Lawwell-Werner, left,
and Danielle Lawwell

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER CHEER EACH OTHER TO SUCCESS

“Mom was right.”

Some daughters would never admit that, but the words tumble off Danielle Lawwell’s lips when she’s talking about her social work degree.

“I couldn’t focus on a major, and Mom kept telling me to do social work. ‘No,’ I said, ‘I’m not listening to you.’ But after a couple of years I finally did,” she says.

Danielle and her mother, Patty Lawwell-Werner, both earned their BSSW degrees in May. Both started college right out of high school. Danielle attended classes while holding a job and continued to graduation. Patty left college years ago without graduating, moving on instead to a career in investments, marriage and children. She overcame a few rocky years and learned a lot about

life before joining Danielle on the Newark campus, ready to change careers.

“They were my first mother-daughter advisees. They’re wonderful representatives of the campus,” says Jennifer Seas, social work program manager at Newark.

Patty overcame her fears as an older student and was beloved by her classmates, who still keep in touch. “She became a mom to the younger students,” Jennifer says. Danielle jokes that her mother had more friends than she did.

Both cheer the other’s successes. Patty praises Danielle for helping her ace the math placement test. Danielle remembers Patty’s exuberance in an 8 a.m. class compared to her own cranky early-morning self. Patty is outgoing. Danielle is shy.

They plan to earn master’s degrees. Patty, who has completed five classes in the one-year

program, works with middle and high school kids through a graduate internship at a local school system. “I just love it,” she says. “Every kid needs just one person in their life who can help them believe in themselves. How many of that one person can I be?”

Danielle, with a minor in Spanish, found her calling during her undergraduate internship at the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission, where she learned how policy impacts the lives of Ohioans. She plans to live in a Spanish-speaking country to build her language skills before entering graduate school.

Both say their degrees gave them the foundation for their social justice work. A mother-and-daughter team like this will certainly make a change. ■

Career services office helps students launch careers



Katie Justice, front left, with the first group of students to complete the college's new Career Development class.

The list seems simple enough. Get degree. Land interview. Accept the perfect job.

But what happens when students are unfamiliar with the dos and don'ts of professionalism, when they lack the right clothes for an interview or don't know how to respond to tough questions?

The College of Social Work's Career Services Office helps students overcome these hurdles and more. Created in 2014, the office provides a springboard for future social workers who will ultimately seek employment and build careers.

Katie Justice, director of career services and alumni relations, noted the office's growing importance and the demand from students seeking help.

"As we prepare our students to practice social work, it is also important to develop them as professionals and to give them the knowledge and tools they need to have successful careers," says Justice.

In the new seven-week Career Development class, for instance,

students learn to assemble professional portfolios. Instruction also includes resume building, cover letter reviews, tips for job-seeking and mock interviews. The first group of students completed the course last school year.

In addition to being a bridge between students and employers, the office provides a connection to alumni. Mix-and-mingle events with local organizations such as Equitas Health and Nationwide Children's Hospital give students the chance to network with potential employers.

The office also offers Carmen Zoom, a platform that allows students to book online appointments for career consultation, and Handshake, through which they can search for jobs and register for upcoming career service events.

Looking the part of a professional is important, too, and the Careers Closet program, created in 2017, is a resource for students who may be struggling financially.

"The Careers Closet came about after I heard that many students needed professional clothing for job interviews

"As we prepare our students to practice social work, it is also important to develop them as professionals and to give them the knowledge and tools they need to have successful careers."

— KATIE JUSTICE

and even field placements, but were facing hardships getting it," says Justice.

She credits an MSW field student for helping launch the program, which serves 35 to 50 students a semester, with clothing donated by faculty, staff, alumni and other students. ■

TO DONATE PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE and unused personal hygiene products, contact the Career Services Office at cswcareers@osu.edu or Katie Justice at justice.228@osu.edu.



From left: Caroline Moore, Sarah Huelskoetter, Emily McGirty and Mallorie Davis

Social justice programs need social workers

Last year, almost 900 social work students were placed with about 350 agencies for their field practicum, where they learn to apply classroom theory to practice. Students with an interest in social justice are finding opportunities in organizations that include municipal courts, legal offices and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The Franklin County Municipal Court offers five specialized dockets that provide treatment options rather than jail time for defendants who plead guilty to their misdemeanor crime. The dockets specifically address populations such as veterans, human trafficking survivors and those battling substance abuse and mental health issues.

Ten social work students at different stages of their training and education are participating in weekly meetings, supporting each other and learning how the courts help defendants who have underlying issues in order to reduce recidivism.

MSW student Sarah Huelskoetter was a homeless services advocate and requested a field experience in specialized dockets. She saw the need for rehabilitation and treatment in the homeless population.

"These programs are designed for people at risk," says Huelskoetter. "It's so cool that we provide significant resources for people who typically fall through the gaps."

MSW student Caroline Moore became interested in the plight of human

trafficking victims after a service project in India. CATCH Court: Changing Actions to Change Habits is the docket that supports women arrested for prostitution.

"As an advocate, I interacted with CATCH staff and was thrilled to be selected to be part of it," says Moore. "I appreciate the kindness and grace that is evident in court and the visible changes in program participants."

Undergraduate student Emily McGirty agrees. "The court is more compassionate than I expected," she says.

MSW student Mallorie Davis enjoys learning how the courts work in general. She was impressed to see that judges share the same vision of helping people that the defendant advocates do.

"We are all working together to help defendants get the treatment they need

Eric Sowers, left,
and Tom Wike

rather than just sending them to jail,” says Davis.

Eric Sowers, a veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, recently began the MSW program. An advocate for other veterans in Central Ohio, Sowers works for the veterans treatment court that serves Delaware County, just north of Columbus.

“I think there is an opportunity for social workers to understand legal terms,” he says.

Sowers appreciates the efforts of local agencies to work toward treatment rather than incarceration for veterans. “Many of the veterans we serve have substance abuse issues,” he says.

Undergraduate social work student and veterans advocate Tom Wike, who served in the United States Marine Corps, assists Sowers at the court in Delaware.

“Veterans will have trouble with the transition from military to civilian life,” Wike says. “Three of my fellow Marines have died by suicide. That’s why I recruit veteran volunteers to mentor fellow travelers on the docket.”

Both Sowers and Wike also put their advocacy skills to use at the College of Social Work, providing support and activities for other veterans.

Jenee Lee, an undergraduate psychology major, chose to get her MSW with a focus on community issues. She’s the first social worker on Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein’s team.

“I work with older adults who own their homes and are struggling to afford upkeep or repairs,” she says. The attorneys in the office value her



ability to find resources for community members who need support.

The ACLU of Ohio is studying court programs across the state designed to support defendants and reduce the prison population, says attorney and advocacy director Jocelyn Rosnick.

“We want to know what counties have a drug court and who is getting access to the programs,” she says. “Two social work students—one from Ohio State and one from Case Western—are working jointly on this project.”

Students who work with the ACLU typically focus on a single large project that they can complete. “We let everyone bring their voice and creativity to achieve a broad, holistic experience,” says Rosnick.

MSW student Ella Lewie is working with the drug court summary and several other projects during the year. “I am learning about grant writing, evaluating the employee self-care program and supporting the speakers bureau, and I wrote a blog about student advocacy and organizing,” she says.

Kimberly Jordan, clinical professor in the Moritz College of Law and director of the Justice for Children Project, provides a course-based internship to third-year law students and a social work student. Law students handle cases in juvenile court under her supervision. Social work students become familiar with cases through the class and spend the rest of their hours supporting clients, families and sometimes the law students.

MSW student Sora Yu was looking for a field experience that linked social work with the legal system and would allow direct client contact. After talking with Jordan, she realized the program was a perfect fit.

“Getting to know the law students has been great,” says Yu. “And so far, I’ve been to court about once a week.” She assisted with finding stable housing for one client and is working with juvenile victims of human trafficking.

“I am always impressed at how the social work students work independently, support our clients and provide great service,” says Jordan. ■



Left: Kimberly
Jordan, left, and
Sora Yu; right:
Ella Lewie, left,
and Jocelyn
Rosnick

Social justice from within or outside the system?

THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS YES

When the Franklin County Probate Court appointed social workers as guardians for its wards instead of lawyers, Colleen Dempsey (BSSW '10, MSW '12) smiled. It was another example of social work influencing systems to openly embrace its approach or adopt its methods while calling it something else.

The byproduct is that social work and social justice found inroads to places they have rarely been seen.

One such place is the criminal justice system. Dempsey, practice associate at the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Ohio Chapter, has learned of probation departments taking a page from the social work handbook—identifying individual needs and addressing them rather than relying only on discipline to reduce recidivism. Dempsey emphasized that while such shifts are encouraging, they must include hiring social workers to bring about social justice—not asking other types of professionals to practice social work without the degree or license.

“Social justice is seeing someone not just as a person but as an individual impacted by history, oppressive systems, racism and other -isms that are at play as much as the internal system,” Dempsey says.

Government agencies and entities shaped by policies and guided by laws often can't keep up with changing situational or demographic nuances, and that can lead to social injustice.

Kimberly Roschie (MSW '12) is training and education manager for behavioral health in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. In her world, incarcerated people are younger, living longer and might need opiate addiction treatment or transgender-affirming care. She says that if those factors are addressed and a person's health, wellness, stability and hope improve, there can be a trickle-down effect for the staff members who care for them, their loved ones and beyond.

“Everyday Ohioans who have never known prison life may be changed because their ex-offender neighbor was helped in prison—not hurt or neglected or retraumatized,” Roschie says. “The work we do is so vital, and so life-changing, that the impacts seen now often continue to bring meaningful change for years and years to come.”

Roschie's work affects thousands of lives. She says it is important for social workers to populate the systems they are trying to change.

THE “SOCIAL WORK” LAWYER

When Jodi Thomas (BSSW '98) was handed her judge list as a new Franklin County public defender 17 years ago, people accused of crimes were boiled down to the sum of the charges they faced and what sentences each judge would likely mete out.

“Nowhere in that equation was anything about who that person was

“Nowhere in that equation was anything about who that person was or what happened to that person to get them in court. As a social worker this was very frustrating to me.”

—JUDGE JODI THOMAS

or what happened to that person to get them in court,” says Thomas, now a judge in Franklin County Municipal Court. “As a social worker this was very frustrating to me.”

She tossed the list and committed instead to helping her clients navigate the court system while providing resources, support and encouragement to improve their lives. “I was definitely known as the social worker attorney in the office,” she says.

Social worker sightings around the courthouse are no longer a rarity,



especially in Franklin County, where specialty dockets work with veterans, human trafficking survivors and those battling substance abuse and mental health issues.

As presiding judge of the h.a.r.t. program (Helping Achieve Recovery Together), Thomas helps individuals in the opiate-specific drug court overcome barriers to recovery, such as difficulties with housing, employment, education and transportation, as well as trauma and family unification issues. Licensed social workers and social work interns are the bridge to those solutions.

Thomas' training at the college still comes into play every Wednesday during h.a.r.t. sessions.

"I step off the bench, remove my robe and sit down eye level with the participants, and we talk, we share, we celebrate, we engage, we educate and we recover," says the social work judge.

AN EYE ON CHANGE

Social workers are experts at balancing and have an "ability to hold the tension between policy and personal politics and people and understand the interactions between them," says Dempsey.

Those skills are invaluable when facing politically charged issues such as immigrant justice. Social workers don't carry big checkbooks to sway opinion, and not every legislative gain can be lobbied for in the Ohio Statehouse. Often they must find allies and harness people power at a local level around big and sometimes tragic moments.

In one such instance, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested 114 undocumented immigrants at Corso's Flower and Garden Center in Sandusky and Castalia, Ohio, in June 2018. Many of those arrested were the sole caretakers of their U.S.-born children.

NASW organized its social workers to respond should similar circumstances arise, whether at the same scale or not. Out of that came the Immigrant Friendly Criteria Project.

"What does it look like for a mental health agency to be acceptable, welcoming and affirming to someone regardless of immigration status?" Dempsey says. "It's about identifying barriers and knocking them down or finding ways around them."

In this case, social workers are advocating from within an agency setting. But big change also requires agitation outside or against systems, Dempsey says.

"In advocacy and social justice work there are many different roles, and no one person can fill all of them," she says. "We need each other, and we need to align our work with our strengths." ■

SOCIAL WORK ALUMS WORK TO MAKE SOCIAL JUSTICE THEIR PRIMARY FOCUS

1 JENNIFER BARNES

Whether Jennifer Barnes (MSW '79) was helping children or disciplining immigration lawyers who had lost their way, she let compassion guide her.

"I always thought if more lawyers were social workers before they became lawyers, the legal profession would be more compassionate and understanding in general," Barnes says.

After graduating from Ohio State, Barnes worked with special needs children in Chicago and a nonprofit child welfare agency in Racine, Wisconsin. She believes her experience and her credentials helped her stand out as a candidate when she searched for a job as a newly minted lawyer with a degree from the University of San Diego in 1988. She spent a 30-year career at the U.S. Department of Justice, with 17 years as disciplinary counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

As Barnes prosecuted immigration attorneys for professional misconduct, her social work training helped her take the time to understand their life challenges so she could reach positive outcomes for them and their clients.

"I always wore my social worker and lawyer hats on the job," Barnes says. "Some days it was more of one than the other, but both of them were always at the ready."

2 JUDGE LUANN COOPERRIDER

Judge Luann Cooperrider (BSSW '78) has lived a life full of precedents. Growing up in Thornville, Ohio, she was the only girl in her family among seven brothers. The self-identified underdog chose to study social work in order to improve people's lives, and she was the first in her family to graduate from college.

With a law degree from Capital University, Cooperrider became the first female assistant prosecutor in Perry County in 1986, then its first female judge in 1991, presiding over the Court of Common Pleas Probate/Juvenile Division.

"I use my social work education every day," she says. "And I never give up on people, especially youth."

Three ceremonial groundbreaking shovels adorn her office wall, representing the local juvenile detention, rehabilitation and alternative school facilities she advocated for over the years so that children in the system could stay closer to home. She was active in opening a free legal clinic in the county and is encouraging construction of a homeless shelter.

"This is how we make change," she says. "We can't be afraid to get involved and use our education as best we can."

3 JUDGE MARY FALVEY

As a Canton Municipal Court judge, Mary Falvey says her social work background gives her a special understanding of the people who appear before her.

After graduation, Falvey (BSSW '73) was a social worker at a state hospital for more than six years while attending law school at night. She then was in private practice as an attorney for more than 10 years.

"I represented people in court who encounter many of the same problems I deal with as a judge, such as mental health and substance abuse issues," she says.

Falvey, who became a judge in 1991, took on the added role in 2009 of presiding over the Polaris Program, a specialized court that tries to help people with mental illness who end up in criminal court. Canton's is one of more than 30 such courts in the state. The goal is to keep people out of jail and reduce the chances of their returning to the system.

"These specialized dockets can impact the lives of participants and can reduce recidivism," says Falvey, who likens the program to a support system for people who have none.

4 JILL HAYES

To social workers, helping people often means influencing at a local level. Jill Hayes (BSSW '81) became a family lawyer in Toledo after six years as a social worker with the Lucas County Children's Services Board.

In both roles, she ensured that the most innocent got the most attention.

She investigated and testified against child abuse and neglect for the county, and her courtroom work sparked her interest in pursuing a law degree at the University of Toledo.

Now a partner with Dixon, Hayes, Witherell and Ward, she represents families during adoptions and is adamant that her divorce clients put their children first.

"I'm really direct and up front," Hayes says. "When I don't think my clients' actions are good for their children, I let them know that and try to work with them to be more focused on their children rather than on their anger toward their ex-spouse."

Hayes also acts as guardian ad litem, a court-designated attorney who advocates for children in custody disputes.

"A social work undergrad degree is excellent for going into family law," Hayes says, "because you learn how to work with people and families and how to make a difference for them."

5 DAN LAVILLE

No matter where his career took him, Dan LaVille (BSSW '73) always believed in the power of one-to-one client interactions. He put politics aside and worked within state and federal systems.

He was an Ohio probation and parole officer for two years before attending Notre Dame Law School. After four years in private practice, he relished the move from winning cases to seeking justice after being selected assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Michigan.

LaVille spent 16 years litigating federal criminal prosecutions and defending federal agencies from civil lawsuits. His final stop as clerk of court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for 20 years was just as fulfilling.

"Bankruptcy is a very low point for most debtors," LaVille says. "Having a smooth court operation helps make the experience less stressful for all parties."

In retirement, LaVille is a volunteer chair at an assisted living facility in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, ensuring residents' comfort and care.

"By doing good work with clients and helping solve their problems, we can be a light for others to follow," he says.

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Judge Lisa L. Sadler, right

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1



Judge Jodi Thomas, second from left

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6



3

6 JODY SCHWAB PRUNIER

Where can an Ohio State social work degree take you? For Jody Schwab Prunier (MSW '81), it led to her becoming a criminal prosecutor on the East Coast and a mediator on the West Coast.

Prunier enjoyed her work as a lawyer in Massachusetts' Worcester County District Attorney's Office, but she believed mediation was the best way to combine her two professions. Both careers allowed her to focus on complex human relationships and the psychology that drives them.

Her influence as associate director of California Lawyers for the Arts and director of CLA-Sacramento has been lasting.

"The social work skills are invaluable because they help me understand people, with all their differences and needs," says Prunier, who oversees several mediation programs that help people in their communities, their schools or in court with their general and arts-specific conflicts.

Whatever path social workers follow, Prunier says, they should be ready to fight for people and their causes within the outlines of their chosen areas.

"The best way for me to influence the system is dealing with one person and their issues and conflict at a time."

7 LISA RHEES

After graduation, Lisa Rhees (MSW '92) used her training to help sexual assault victims. But two cases—where those closest to the victims aggressively blamed and shamed them—completely flipped her approach.

Now as executive director of STOP (Specialized Therapeutic Offender Programming), Rhees offers outpatient psychoeducational and psychotherapeutic services for sex and domestic violence offenders and drug/alcohol court-involved clients.

"I felt that I could have a greater impact on the system and assist victims more, even though indirectly, by holding offenders accountable and helping them manage their abusive behaviors to prevent further victimization," says Rhees. Through her approach, she has seen offender recidivism declining. "I would like to think we are keeping people in the community from ever becoming victims," she says.

Rhees, who also teaches full time in the College of Social Work as a community lecturer, says her training and field experience were her foundation for becoming a cognitive-behavioral therapist.

"I was blessed to have some excellent clinicians as my professors," she says, and she is adamant about passing on their "pearls of wisdom" to her students.

8 KIMBERLY ROSCHIE

Kimberly Roschie (MSW '12) was an accidental social worker who turned a liberal arts degree and a series of unfulfilling jobs into a mission to help others.

On her journey to finding purpose, she worked in a group home for teenage girls. "I saw firsthand how girls were affected by trauma, poverty, the 'system,' a lack of support, nontraditional education needs and being separated from family," Roschie says.

She later worked for Medina and Erie County Children's Services, helping teens and their parents as well as foster families. "I realized I needed a social work degree so I could better understand how to bring meaningful change to the systems and clients under that umbrella," she says.

Her Ohio State education prepared her for a quick leap to administration, and she ascended to training and education manager for behavioral health in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Roschie develops continuing education courses for health care personnel and corrections officers—12,000 staff members across 28 prisons.

"I'm fortunate to work at our Columbus administrative offices with the movers and shakers in our field," she says. "It's an opportunity to advocate for positive change and improved social justice."

9 JUDGE LISA L. SADLER

Before Judge Lisa Sadler (BSSW '80) served on Franklin County's 10th District Court of Appeals, she spent a decade as a civil and criminal trial judge. There, her Stillman Hall training was the basis for practices such as coupling just punishments with sentences addressing people's underlying reasons for their criminal conduct.

On the appellate court, Sadler's social work background holds less sway, but she calls upon it in her community involvement. She was a "Big" for 10 years with Big Brothers Big Sisters and is a 19-year board member and chair of the program committee at Maryhaven, which provides addiction recovery services.

Sadler began her career when few social workers were connected to the courts. She was drawn to Capital University Law School after she worked as a crisis intervention counselor in the Night Prosecutors Program in the Columbus City Attorney's Office during her senior year at Ohio State.

"I saw that the disciplines of law and social work could, and should, work together to assist citizens and society," Sadler says. "The lessons learned at Stillman have never left me."

10 JUDGE JODI THOMAS

Jodi Thomas (BSSW '98) constantly calls on her background in social work to inform her decisions as a judge.

When Thomas isn't presiding over her Franklin County courtroom or her specialized opiate court, she is researching treatment options and probation resources and visiting facilities that can make a life-altering difference for her litigants.

"I understand a one-size-fits-all approach is not the best way to reduce recidivism," Thomas says. "I work hard each day to examine each case and apply a sentence appropriate both for the needs of that individual and the overall safety of the community."

The idea of helping others formed early as Thomas watched her mother struggle to walk every day with multiple sclerosis. She considered becoming a physical therapist but social work won out.

Thomas then earned a law degree and became a public defender. She's thought to be the first person in Franklin County Municipal Court history to make the leap to judge with a background only as a public defender.

"I use my social work training to better help me communicate with people from all walks of life, show empathy when appropriate, problem solve when necessary and continually try to enhance individuals' quality of life," Thomas says. ■

Bunger lands major funding to help families impacted by opiates



Congratulations to Dr. Alicia Bunger, who recently landed two awards that will affect Ohio families impacted by opiates.

Bunger's project "Collaborating to Implement Cross-System Interventions in Child Welfare and Substance Use" was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health. Her project "Aligning Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Systems to Address the Opiate Crisis in Rural Ohio" was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) Systems for Action program. This represents the first time the college has been funded by the RWJF.

Both projects, with a total combined funding of over \$960,000, will examine implementation of Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Recovery Teams) across 32 counties. Bunger's studies focus on the role of cross-system collaboration for implementing Ohio START, an intervention that integrates substance use treatment and child welfare systems to facilitate parents' access to treatment and recovery. Bunger's team will examine collaborative relationships between child welfare and substance use treatment providers

(through the NIDA-funded study), and strategies for aligning these efforts with local ADAMH (Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health) boards (through the RWJF-funded study).

These projects are being carried out in close partnership with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, and Children and Family Futures. The interdisciplinary team includes Drs. Emmeline Chuang (UCLA Fielding School of Public Health) and Ohio State's Amanda Girth (John Glenn College of Public Affairs) and Kathryn Lancaster (College of Public Health).

Ohio START provides wrap-around services for families who become involved in the child welfare system due to substance misuse. The program is currently being rolled out across 46 Ohio counties and helps link parents to addiction treatment services. Governor Mike DeWine initiated Ohio START in 2017 when he was attorney general. The program has since expanded in partnership with the Office of the Governor, Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Job and Family Services, Casey Family Programs, United Healthcare, Anthem Inc., PhRMA and the HealthPath Foundation. Led by Dr. Bridget Freisthler, Bunger and colleagues from the College of Social Work and the Voinovich School at Ohio University are also evaluating the outcomes.

"Helping families who are affected by addiction requires a coordinated response within our local communities," says Bunger. "Bringing child welfare agencies, substance use treatment providers and the behavioral health system to the same table for intensive collaboration on behalf of families can look different in every county. We are looking forward to identifying the most effective ways to set up and support these important partnerships."

RESULTS OF BUNGER'S RESEARCH will be used to create a toolkit to help communities implement START or similar interventions that require collaboration across health and human services systems. Collaboration with ADAMH, public child welfare agencies and substance use treatment providers will be key in successfully implementing the START model and aligning child welfare and behavioral health efforts. ■



100





From Ohio State Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce McPheron, to Columbus City Council President Pro Tem Elizabeth Brown, to College of Social Work Dean Tom Gregoire and CSW faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the college—a good time was had by all!

The College of Social Work celebrated its 100th anniversary on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at The Ohio State University Airport.



YEARS OF SOCIAL WORK



2019 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Each year, the College of Social Work honors alumni who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in the world. These leaders were nominated by our alumni—more than 13,500 social workers living in the United States and abroad. Please join us in honoring these inspiring ambassadors.

JOSEPH "JOE" B. BORGIO, ACSW

(MSW '72)
DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

One essential aspiration undergirds and unites the various roles Joe Borgo has assumed throughout his career: Borgo's commitment to strengthen and enhance communities' capacity to care for and support disadvantaged and at-risk families and children.

A hallmark of his endeavors—whether in the not-for-profit, public or private sectors—has been Borgo's advocacy for and development of innovative strategies that elicit the involvement and augment the protective capacity of natural support networks of friends, neighbors, extended family and church.

Several times in his career, Borgo has assumed leadership of an agency in crisis. His visionary leadership and team-building acumen enabled him to not only stabilize those programs but also to enhance the quality and breadth of their service array. Whether as CEO or a senior executive of mental health, juvenile justice or child welfare agencies, or in his role as a consultant to public and community-based agencies in 23 states and the District of Columbia, Borgo has championed public-private partnerships, community-based primary prevention and the importance of rigorous program evaluation, continuous quality improvement and evidence-based practice.

Borgio has also served as Québec Association of Social Workers president and Canadian Association of Social Workers executive committee member and represented the Government of Canada at the Sixth International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect in Sydney, Australia.

LORI CRISS

(MSW '92, BSSW '91)
DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Lori Criss is the director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) for the state of Ohio. She leads Ohio's statewide network of care, which includes six regional psychiatric hospitals, 50 alcohol, drug addiction and mental health boards, and over 600 community-based mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support service provider agencies. Criss also oversees the department's budget of nearly \$900 million to serve and aid Ohioans with mental health and addiction needs.

Before MHAS, Criss was the first associate director and CEO of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, where she advocated for access to quality behavioral health care with Ohio's administration, state agencies and Ohio General Assembly members.

Criss was the chief operating officer for Amethyst, Inc., where she oversaw 150 transitional and permanent supportive housing units and created a nationally recognized therapeutic summer day camp for children in recovering families. Her work influenced the design of trauma-informed care helping homeless women in addiction recovery.

Other career highlights include founding the national Workgroup on Women and Sober Housing and Treatment for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association and being a member of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences' Board, Governor's Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Ohio's Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing, and National Shelter Plus Care Coalition.

KENNETH "KEN" MURRAY

(BSSW '73)
DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Ken Murray's professional experience began during his field placement at the Central Ohio Psychiatric Hospital Juvenile Unit. He later obtained an MA in psychology ('79) and a JD ('83). Throughout his career as a mental health professional and attorney, he has advocated for the oppressed, disadvantaged and mentally ill in institutions and in the legal system.

Murray combines his social work, psychology and law training to bring a holistic approach to sentencing advocacy. He has used his knowledge in assessing multigenerational psychosocial histories to uncover mitigating evidence such as the traumatic effects of exposure to poverty, neglect, violence, deprivation and mental health issues. He found that a compelling narrative accurately describing the path from innocent infant to criminal defendant was often the difference between life and death.

Murray is a sought-after teacher for his holistic team approach to criminal defense. While serving as an assistant federal



defender from 1999–2013, he worked with social work students in field placements, providing training on investigation, development and documentation of the multigenerational psychosocial histories needed in capital cases. He has also taught at Arizona State University on legal issues in the social work and criminal justice programs.

Murray has spent his career working to increase understanding of the confluence between behavior, social structure and the law.

JAMES “JIM” B. O’HORA

(MSW '64)
DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Jim O’Hora celebrates 37 years in the social work profession, with 32 years as a CEO, beginning in 1969. He was the youngest head of a children’s home in New York state.

His combined abilities in leadership and skills in social work led to him taking the CEO position in two nonprofit children’s homes that were in danger of closing. He turned them into top-notch, financially sound treatment facilities for emotionally troubled children.

In an adoption and unwed mothers facility in Florida that faced serious financial difficulties, O’Hora reversed its fate in a period of just three months. Instead of being the worst of 12 similar facilities in the state, it became the best.

Later, he returned home to become CEO of a relatively small Planned Parenthood affiliate, which led to his leadership of the national organization, a seat on Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s Board of Directors and a place on the bylaws committee. Here, O’Hora was instrumental in creating bylaws for all the affiliates throughout the nation.

During his career, O’Hora received the National Association of Social Workers Regional Social Worker of the Year Award and readily accepted field placements from Ohio State and various colleges and universities.

DR. PATRICE PALMER

(MSW '10, BSSW '09)
RECENT CAREER AWARD

Dr. Patrice Palmer works at the Franklin County Office of Homeland Security and Justice Programs as a reentry support

specialist. She provides direct services to high risk, dual diagnosis women reentering the community.

Through out-of-the-box thinking and personal experiences, Palmer’s audacious advocacy has been able to power through hurdles and obstacles on both administrative and programmatic levels.

Palmer’s work history includes program director and founder of the Therapeutic Communities at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution and operations manager for Nothing Into Something Real Estate, Inc. She volunteers with those affected by criminal justice involvement, abuse, addiction and trauma.

She is a national trainer for PeaceLove art workshops, a program developer for Chosen4Change, the former president of Raising the Bar Prison Ministries and a participant at the National Prison Justice Summit.

Palmer has received the Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award, Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, Jerry Revish Restored Citizen of the Year Award and Employee of the Year Award for Franklin County. She was also nominated for the White House Champion for Change Award. ■

Faculty, staff delve into justice



DR. AUDREY BEGUN, PROFESSOR
DR. THERESA EARLY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

A LOOK AT PRISON: FROM VISITATION TO POST-RELEASE

Drs. Audrey Begun (pictured at the left) and Theresa Early conducted a short-term longitudinal study involving incarcerated men and women prior to and shortly following release from Ohio jails, prisons and community-based correctional facilities. Begun and Early documented participants' anticipated and actual post-release needs, experiences and barriers to receiving physical and mental health services, housing services and substance use treatment. The work was done in collaboration with and funded by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities.

Begun and Early also engaged incarcerated mothers in a study of their perceptions of what is needed in parenting education as women prepare for community reentry. This project was conducted in conjunction with scholars from Wisconsin.

Additionally, Begun, with assistance from the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, directed a study of five years of visitation data that included more than 50,000 Ohio prisoners. The study examined how geographical distance impacts visitation, which has significant implications for family reunification during community reentry following release from incarceration. Results of all three studies appear in a chapter titled "A Family Systems Perspective in Prisoner Reentry" in the book *Prison Reentry: Critical Issues and Policy Directions*. Chapter co-authors include Early and Ashleigh Hodge (PhD '19).



DR. CAMILLE R. QUINN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

EXAMINING THE CAUSES OF LAW-BREAKING BEHAVIOR

Dr. Camille Quinn's research focuses on the health and mental health of black youth and young adults with histories of law-breaking behavior. Black youth are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system and experience both mental health and substance use problems that are associated with their arrest and re-arrest.

Currently, Quinn is investigating barriers across social domains—individual, family, peer, school, community and systemic—and their association with the re-arrest of black youth and young adults, especially girls and young women involved with, or at risk of involvement with, the juvenile justice system. Quinn is also examining the role of mental health/substance use problems associated with the arrest and re-arrest of black youth in corrections and in the community.

Study results will offer solutions for tailoring effective interventions that help reduce the mental health burdens and recidivism of black youth and young adults.



STEPHEN MOORE
LIFESPORTS PROGRAM MANAGER

COURT CAMP INSPIRES, INFORMS FUTURE LAW STUDENTS

Part of LiFEsports' mission is to expose youth to various career opportunities. In August, LiFEsports joined the First Generation Law School Student Society of Capital University and attorney Bill Nolan of Barnes & Thornburg LLP to host a court camp for its youth leaders participating in the LiFEsports Youth Leadership Academy. The court camp examined ways the legal community can support first-generation law students to help promote diversity. The goal was to inspire and educate students who would be the first in their families to attend college and pursue law. Introducing these students to attorneys and judges throughout the Columbus legal community was an important first step in the lesson of networking.



DR. SHARVARI KARANDIKAR
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

NEW TOOL IDS INTERNATIONAL SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN OHIO

Dr. Sharvari Karandikar's research focuses on sex trafficking in the global and local context. Most recently, Karandikar conducted an intensive training for law enforcement officers from the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. It centered on identifying and working with international victims of sex trafficking in Ohio, specifically highlighting cultural differences and language barriers associated with these victims.

Karandikar, in partnership with a local community-based nonprofit agency, created a culturally relevant tool to interview and identify international victims of sex trafficking. This tool was provided to the officers from the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force as part of their training and is being used by several units for specifically identifying Asian victims of sex trafficking across Ohio.



DR. MICHELLE JOHNSON-MOTOYAMA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

SOCIAL SAFETY NET HELPS REDUCE CHILD MALTREATMENT

Child maltreatment contributes to sickness and premature death in childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Like many health problems in the United States, child maltreatment is strongly linked to family income.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is a social safety net program that provides support to needy families. Few studies have examined the impact TANF cash assistance has had on reducing child maltreatment. Using several sources of national data from 2004–2016, Dr. Michelle Johnson-Motoyama and her colleague Dr. Donna Ginther (University of Kansas) found that states that restricted access to TANF experienced significantly more child maltreatment reports, as well as more victims and foster care entries. Their results underscore the importance of the social safety net in preventing child maltreatment and supporting child well-being.



DR. KEITH WARREN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

PEOPLE IN TREATMENT HELPING PEOPLE IN TREATMENT RECOVER

Dr. Keith Warren finds it remarkable that people with the same problems leading to the same pain often can help each other recover. The term for the process is “mutual aid.” A number of treatment programs in substance misuse and mental health leverage this human ability to work together.

Over the last 15 years, Warren has studied corrections-based therapeutic communities for substance misuse, using social network analysis to gain insight into how cooperation leads to healing. Study results reveal that residents who graduate from therapeutic communities seem to work together, and individuals who are part of large clusters of interacting peers often have better outcomes. Therapeutic community residents pass the help they receive on to others and appear to learn consistent standards of behavior over time.

Warren plans to use these insights to improve program outcomes in therapeutic communities.



From left: Sehun Oh, Ramona Denby-Brinson and Alan Davis, pictured outside of Stillman Hall.

THE COLLEGE WELCOMES THREE FACULTY MEMBERS TO THE SOCIAL WORK FAMILY

SEHUN OH

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Sehun Oh joined the College of Social Work from The University of Texas at Austin, where he completed his PhD in social work.

Oh's research revolves around the intersection of poverty, social welfare policies and the epidemiology of behavioral health, and is grounded in his experience and educational background in economics, sociology and social welfare. In particular, Oh examines risk factors and consequences of poverty and behavioral health, as well as the development and evaluation of social policy to support youth and families with economic disadvantages.

Currently, he investigates how effective job skills training and support services can positively influence long-term economic and behavioral health outcomes among youth and parents with employment barriers.

RAMONA DENBY-BRINSON

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, PROFESSOR

Dr. Ramona Denby-Brinson joins Ohio State from Arizona State University, where she was associate dean for research with the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions and professor in the School of Social Work.

Her scholarly interests involve policy, programming and treatment issues relevant to children and families, child welfare, children's mental health and culturally specific service delivery.

Denby-Brinson has published extensively and is recognized nationally as a leading expert in culturally adapted child welfare services that are responsive to the needs of local and national communities.

Her work was honored with the 2014 Harry Reid Silver State Research Award. Using curricular innovations, Denby-Brinson focuses on academic preparation that equips students with solution- and evidence-oriented approaches to address protracted and emerging social challenges.

ALAN K. DAVIS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Alan Davis' clinical and research training was motivated by the following question: Why do evidence-based psychotherapies fail, and how can we improve them?

As part of his training, he worked primarily with adults in a variety of community and clinical research settings, including academic medical centers, university clinics, community programs and long-term acute care hospitals. Davis delivered a variety of evidence-based and experimental psychotherapies to individuals diagnosed with substance use and trauma-related mood and anxiety disorders.

His research interests and expertise focus on contributing to the ability to help those suffering with substance use and mental health problems. Understanding how to improve clinical outcomes through new treatments, such as psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy, and developing ways to conceptualize substance use and mental health problems through a strengths-based approach have guided his career.

 VIEW THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK FACULTY DIRECTORY ONLINE AT [GO.OSU.EDU/CSWFACULTY](https://go.osu.edu/cswfaculty)



New advocacy director helps students learn to champion for justice

ADVOCACY

SUPPRESSION OF VOTING RIGHTS. Lack of support for refugees. Mass incarceration. A reduction in SNAP benefits.

When the status quo doesn't work for the people social workers serve, it's time for a change.

"As a college, we've done some cool stuff, but it wasn't institutionalized. We needed someone to provide education around issues and to communicate those issues in a social work way," says Lisa Durham, assistant dean of strategic initiatives and community engagement.

"There's a piece of our DNA as a profession to do this work," says Steve David (BA '10, MSSW '14), director of advocacy. David joined the college in 2016 as community engagement manager and moved into his current position in March.

Dean Tom Gregoire agrees. "Social work has always distinguished itself among the helping professions by our intentional advocacy," he says. "It's not sufficient to help people come to terms with the life they have. It's necessary to be a voice for people who don't get heard."

Students and alumni learn to navigate the political and policy worlds through workshops, trainings and outreach opportunities. The college's existing programs, like the annual D.C. Fly-In, are getting new twists, David says. In past years, students participating in the Fly-In used fact sheets prepared by other institutions about issues. Now, they research issues of interest to them. They work in groups building knowledge and understanding of the impacts of policy on vulnerable populations.

"Students develop skills in a new way and have ownership. They're learning that a small intervention can be put into practice and you can get sustainable change," David says.

The college also recently hosted its annual Community Engagement and Action Conference on the needs of New Americans, along with a voter registration drive in September.

Much of the college's advocacy work is done in collaboration with Ohio State's Office of Governmental Affairs, John Glenn College of Public Affairs and other units, as well as through off-campus collaborations with agencies, communities and the National Association of Social Workers Ohio Chapter.

"We're very much in an age that social work's values and priorities are being attacked. Folks feel that and want to do something in a larger scope," David says. "We're helping them build the skills to do that work effectively." ■



Congresswoman
Joyce Beatty
addresses students
during an alumni
reception at the
D.C. Fly-In.

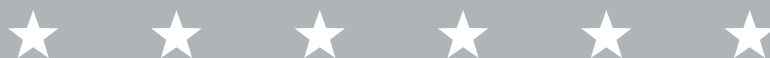




Participants in the 2019 D.C. Fly-In stand with Dean Tom Gregoire.



O-H! Christina Babus-Harvey, left, and Raevyn Yarber show their school spirit outside of the United States Capitol.



D.C. FLY-IN

A VISION OF ADVOCACY FOR WASHINGTON

FOR SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS, the D.C. Fly-In is an opportunity to make an advocacy mark on the Hill. Anna Bowersox (MSW '19) talked about how she felt in May before the annual trip to the nation's capital.

"I remember being worried that I was going to say the wrong thing or that I wouldn't have the answers if asked a difficult question," says Bowersox. But as discussions with legislative aides progressed, she recognized something.

"They didn't have all the answers either. And that was kind of the whole point, right?," continues Bowersox. "There we all were together, having a conversation and trying to learn from each other how to best solve the problems facing our communities."

The D.C. Fly-In was established as an annual trip beginning in 2017. For the first two years, the College of Social Work partnered with the University of Alabama. This year, with its student roster climbing to 21, the college went solo. Taking a separate trip allowed for more focus on students' policy interests and an opportunity to discuss bills introduced by the Ohio delegation.

The 2019 D.C. Fly-In lasted three days and included meetings led by college staff as well as special guests such as Lucy Gettman, executive director of Women In Government. Gettman worked with students to sharpen their advocacy skills.

"Our students blew me away," says Steve David, the college's new advocacy director and a second-time staffer for the trip. "You get a sense of their passion when we're doing the prep work, but when we're actually talking with policymakers you can see things really come to life for them."

During the prep sessions, students practiced pitching a social work-focused bill to legislative aides in a variety of Congressional offices.

"This allows you to demystify the process, giving you the opportunity to home in on what you're really there to do—to tell impactful social work stories," David says.

Representatives Steve Stivers and Joyce Beatty, members of Congress from Ohio, spoke to students at a reception with alumni, the Ohio State government affairs team and members of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs Washington Academic Internship Program. Students also had a meet-and-greet with Senator Sherrod Brown.



The trip was topped off with a visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, which has become a powerful part of the experience.

"Exposing students to the museum's history shows them why advocacy work is so important," says Katie Justice, director of career services and alumni relations.

The D.C. Fly-In also leads to opportunities beyond the classroom. Shortly after her trip, Bowersox was hired as a legislative aide to State Representative Brigid Kelly. She credits the Fly-In experience with moving her toward a bright, passion-filled career.

"The Fly-In pushed me to grow in my skills, expand my knowledge and be confident in my capability," says Bowersox. "It helped land me in my current job in the legislature."

Next year, the college has its eyes set on guiding even more students toward tackling the importance of advocacy. ■

Turning sick care into well care for people and their pets

Amidst the barking and panting of seven puppies inside her Columbus home, Donna Cramblett takes deep breaths on her living room sofa and counts backwards from 100 by sevens. Cramblett, 87, is the first recipient of a home visit from the POP (Pet Owner and Pet) Care partnership of The Ohio State University Colleges of Nursing, Veterinary Medicine and Social Work. This innovative, first-of-its-kind program launched in February with support from an Emergent Innovations grant from the Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation.

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING'S *TRANSFORMATIONS IN NURSING AND HEALTH* MAGAZINE. STORY WRITTEN BY PHIL SAKEN; PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW WEBER.

"The dogs give my mom comfort," said Deborah Catlett, Cramblett's daughter. "They help her out emotionally and give her something to do, because she pets them and it takes her mind off a lot of different things."

"This is a great idea to have this program. There are a lot of older people that have pets and they can't get out, or they can't get anybody to take care of their pets, but they need them. They need them for emotional support."

POP Care creates a nurse practitioner-led, interprofessional team to bring proactive, holistic well care to homebound adults with multiple chronic conditions and their pets. While nurse practitioner and social work students—supervised by faculty—examine and evaluate patients like Cramblett, veterinary medicine students and faculty can dive into the health history of animals living in the home, including updating vaccinations.

"This is a five-year dream come to fruition," said Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, APRN-CNP, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN, vice president for health promotion, university chief wellness officer and dean of the College of Nursing, who is the creator of POP Care and principal investigator for this grant. "We currently live in a reactive, sick-care health care system. People get sick, they come in, get treated. But we have to turn sick care into well care, and we have to optimize people's and pets' health to the greatest extent that we can. That's the intent of POP Care: to improve the health and well-being of these older adults and their beloved pets."

POP Care pays homage to the "One Health" concept endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which suggests that the health of people can be directly connected to the health of the animals and environment



Dean Tom Gregoire
with his dog, Pippin.



From left, back row: Nursing Dean Bernadette Melnyk, Social Work Dean Tom Gregoire, Katie Reid, Gina Wilkins, Laurie Millward, Marris Metzger and Nikki Ochoa; front row: Holly Dabelko-Schoeny and Katie Klakos; dogs: Honey Doo Melon, Pippin, Oskar and Bose

around them. In POP Care, the pets are integrated into the people's plan of care and the people are integrated into the pets' plan of care.

"We know from research that the human-animal bond—especially for our older neighbors who live by themselves—is beneficial to both parties' well-being," said Laurie Millward, DVM, MS, DACVP, assistant professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, who also leads outreach efforts for the college. "So we are helping integrate the health care of the pet with that of the humans

"This is an innovative project that recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in serving our community. Students trained in this program will learn how to work with colleagues from other professions, all on behalf of the client."

— DEAN TOM GREGOIRE

who love them. It is our hope that by merging those two, we help enhance the health and well-being of both."

Participating students and faculty from the College of Social Work are assessing social determinants of health, including access to nutritious food, transportation and opportunities to engage with others socially in order to connect patients to resources that can help address those needs.

"This program can change the way we educate students and care for underserved populations in our communities," said Holly Dabelko-Schoeny, PhD, associate professor in the College of Social Work, whose research and expertise include testing innovative interventions to support the well-being of older adults. "Clients will have a one-stop shop in their home—access to primary care, social service support and veterinary medicine. We are very excited about learning how both students and clients benefit from this experience."

"Giving students the opportunity to work on a project with other disciplines gives them a chance to see how other disciplines interact with clients in their homes and really build on that interprofessional work," said Katie Klakos, director of field education for the College of Social Work. "The students are learning communication

skills, how to be adaptable to whatever needs come at them and how to work with clients in their home environment."

Students participating in this interdisciplinary program are assigned individual patients and provide home care once a week for four weeks. Approximately 60 students from the three colleges will assess 60 households during this pilot program. A final data analysis based on surveys and health outcomes is expected in December.

Melnyk, a pet owner and mother of a veterinarian, has grand aspirations for the POP Care model, intending to scale the model across the United States to other universities that have nursing, veterinary and social work colleges.

"When we talk about transforming health and transforming lives, this innovative strategy is the type of creativity so needed in today's health care system," Melnyk said. "This collaborative partnership among our health sciences colleges has great potential to change the face of well care, not only for the population of people and pets in our own community, but also to serve as a national model for the country to emulate."

Catlett saw the care provided to her mom and her dogs during the first home visit on that snowy February morning and thought the same thing. "I think this is a great idea. I hope it goes everywhere." ■

ALUMNI | ACROSS THE



PENNY M. CARROLL
MSW '93

📍 **North Carolina**

Current position:

Clinical lecturer and MSW student advisor at North Carolina Central University, College of Behavioral Social Sciences, Department of Social Work in Durham

Current social work issue in your city:

Affordable housing, access to health care and insurance, poverty, mental health, obesity-diabetes and food access.

What do you miss most about Ohio State?

Visiting students at field agencies and watching their skills and knowledge improve as a result of their practicum experiences.



CRYSTAL HAMBROCK
MSW '19

📍 **Tennessee**

Current position:

Academic advisor at Austin Peay State University

Current social work issue in your city:

Clarksville is a very transient community because of its proximity to Fort Campbell Army Base. With mental health being a common concern in both the military and college student populations, a current issue is a lack of adequate resources and services.

What do you miss most about Ohio State?

The beginning of autumn semester when new students arrive and the campus is so full of energy.



TAYLOR KRCEK EVANS, PHD, LCSW
MSW '09

📍 **Georgia**

Current position:

Owner of Spectrum Athens, LLC, providing therapy and community support to people age 16 and above with anxiety, depression, ADHD and autism

Current social work issue in your city:

In Clarke County, our poverty rate is the fifth highest in the nation. Almost 40 percent of residents are poor, roughly 36,000 people. The annual median household income is \$28,403 (source: OneAthens.org).

What do you miss most about Ohio State?

Everything! But this time of year I especially miss experiencing fall on campus. Oh, and yummy buckeye-flavored fall treats!



COUNTRY



KATHRYN ICENHOWER

PHD '77

California

Current position:

CEO and co-founder of SHIELDS for Families, Inc.

Current social work issue in your city:

Homelessness and the intersection with substance abuse are the most prevalent issues in Los Angeles. Currently, more than 90,000 individuals and families are homeless in our city. Much of this is due to the lack of accessibility and availability of substance use disorder treatment because of changes made in the state's treatment system, which has forced the closure of many programs and a reduction in the comprehensiveness of services provided.

What do you miss most about Ohio State?

Football Saturdays! I am a fanatical Buckeye. I arrange my schedule to go to at least one game a year in the 'Shoe and always go to postseason games.



MELISSA (COPENHEFER) TRIFILETTI

BSSW '96, MSW '97

North Carolina

Current position:

Stay-at-home mom after 10 years in case management at the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging

Current social work issue in your city:

Charlotte is growing rapidly, and the lack of affordable housing is an issue. I just heard that Charlotte is 51,000 units short of what it needs, and unfortunately it isn't keeping up with the demands growth brings. Many people move here from regions with a high cost of living (i.e., New York, New Jersey, New England, California). While they find affordable housing relief here, it causes housing costs to rise for those who are natives.

What do you miss most about Ohio State?

The people! I developed great relationships with CSW students and staff. I still stay in contact with some of them, such as Sharon Schweitzer, Ronda Griffith Bivens and Dianna Barrett. Dr. Stanley Blostein was also a great role model. I wasn't in his class, but he was such a kind gentleman who gave great advice and support when I was a work study student. Jodi Rice was also a wonderful mentor and field instructor. My years in the CSW were not only formative to my career but they influenced me personally as well.



ALAN S. ENGEL

BSSW '67, MSW '69

Kentucky

Current position:

Retired in 2010 as an executive with a nonprofit agency

Current social work issue in your city:

Drug addiction and homelessness are two major issues facing Louisville, and because of my background I am able to be part of some solutions.

What do you miss most about Ohio State?

Graduate school because it was terrific and enabled me to better understand human behavior, community structure, group dynamics and, most important, how to distinguish between real and not-so-real research. Thank you, Dr. Behling!



Suzanne Pelletier-Capitini
and Larry Capitini

Carry on!

SCHOLARSHIP TO FURTHER FOCUS ON TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

When Suzanne Pelletier-Capitini (MSW '02) set out to serve and support victims of domestic violence through the creation of a women's shelter in her hometown of Lancaster, Ohio, she never imagined the impact her work would have on the entire community, its attitudes and outlook ... even local law enforcement.

As executive director, Suzanne focused her work on trauma-informed care in domestic violence and sexual assault cases at the safe house and outpatient center, which she extensively expanded over time.

"When I started the shelter in 1982, the women of Fairfield County were

unable to file charges of domestic violence," she says. "If police were called, the woman and her assaulter would be told they'd both go to jail."

Suzanne met the issues head-on. "I did a lot of community advocacy and public outreach, confronting biases, myths and misconceptions about domestic violence," she says.

She became an expert witness for domestic violence and other felony cases, carefully explaining the cycle of violence to juries. She is also certified to provide domestic violence training to city and county police officers, during which she discusses victimology.

"I hope it will help someone carry on this work. There's still so much that can be done."

— SUZANNE PELLETIER-CAPITINI

"Over time, people started to listen. There has been a huge change over the past 35 years in how society—Lancaster and Fairfield County—view these crimes," she says. "Today, victims of domestic violence are taken very seriously in Fairfield County, from the mayor to the cop on the street."

To further her work, Suzanne and her husband, Larry Capitini (BS Zoology '71, MS Veterinary Medicine '89), have established the Suzanne Pelletier-Capitini Endowed Scholarship in the College of Social Work. The annual scholarship will support a graduate student interested in working with domestic violence survivors.

"I hope it will help someone carry on this work. There's still so much that can be done," Suzanne says. "Society has made it easier for women to report crimes, but there are still many decisions influenced by an undercurrent of sexism. These issues continue to affect young women."

Now partially retired, Suzanne works part time at the Woods of Parkside in Gahanna. She and Larry—who met 15 years ago when she took her two dogs to the Ohio State Veterinary Clinic—live in Lancaster. They enjoy their children and grandchildren, and take every opportunity to travel.

"Ohio State gave me the ability to give the best service to my community and clients," Suzanne says. "To me that's a very special gift. I want to give future students the same opportunity that enabled me to be of service to others." ■



“It not only makes a difference in a student’s life but also in the lives of people that student will ultimately work with.”

– PAMELA CUSICK

Vote of confidence

PAYING IT FORWARD WITH FUNDING, FORTITUDE

In the early 1990s, Pamela Cusick (BSSW ’93, MSW ’97) was a single, 30-something mom living in her hometown of Lima, Ohio, with two young daughters ... and a dream. Though no one in her family had gone to college, she aimed to earn a degree and work with the elderly.

Pamela took the plunge and started classes in social work at Ohio State’s regional campus in Lima. Eventually she transferred to main campus and, with the help of an unexpected—and anonymous—scholarship, earned her bachelor’s degree in the College of Social Work.

In the early days, she’d rise before dawn, get the kids ready for school in Lima and head out for the hour-long commute to Columbus. “I’d get here by 7 a.m. to find a parking space,” she says. “There used to be a place I could get coffee and a bagel, and sit and take in the tranquility of early morning on campus. I’d pinch myself—I’m really going to college!”

Pamela laments she never found out who nominated her for the scholarship. “I was so honored to receive it,” she says. “It not only helped me financially, but also gave me a nice vote of confidence. Now, I want to do the same for someone else—somebody who may be

sitting at home wanting to go to college, but just can’t afford it.”

For Pamela, paying forward comes in the form of a generous gift to the university to establish the Pamela M. Cusick Endowed Scholarship Fund in Geriatric Social Work. Recently recognized by Ohio State’s Board of Trustees, it will provide an annual scholarship to a student who plans to work with older adults. “I want the funding to help a nontraditional student, someone over 21 going to school for the first time or going back to school,” she says.

Pamela went on to earn her master’s degree and has worked with hospice programs for 13 years, most recently with Hospice of Central Ohio. “I’ve loved it ever since,” she says. “Hospice is a passion and a calling. It’s an opportunity to be there for people during a crucial and meaningful time in their lives, but a time they’re often not prepared for.”

Now retired, Pamela continues to work about 20 hours a week at Hospice of Central Ohio. She also spends time with daughters Angela Roewer, an accountant in Cincinnati, and Julie Stevenson (BSSW ’00), who works with young children at Columbus School for Girls.

Why give back to the university through an endowed scholarship? “Because it makes a difference,” Pamela says. “We all know it’s expensive to go to college. If you can help, it not only makes a difference in a student’s life but also in the lives of people that student will ultimately work with.”

Most of all, she adds, “I’m tickled the scholarship will be here long after I’m gone.” ■

4,500 pounds of veggie love

Congrats to **Maggie Griffin** (BSSW '17, MSW '19), whose Unity Fridge project has yielded amazing results—4,500 pounds of produce for the season—*three times more than last year!*

Maggie's novel project has established a garden that provides free produce to families living in food deserts across Columbus, allowing them to take home a bag of fresh vegetables for 40 weeks.

Thanks to Maggie and the many incredible volunteers who helped make this possible!



THIS YEAR'S YIELD INCLUDED:



1,500 pounds of tomatoes



500 pounds of onions



300 pounds of peppers



1,072 pounds of squash



390 pounds of sweet potatoes



538 pounds of lettuce, beets, carrots, etc.

Time and change will surely show How firm thy friendship ... OHIO!

The Ohio State University was founded in 1870 as one of America's great land-grant universities. Despite time and change across our university and around the world, Ohio State's aspiration is as clear today as it was 150 years ago: to illuminate the pathways that change lives and improve communities through education, research, and health and well-being.

This year, Ohio State is celebrating its 150th anniversary—its sesquicentennial. For a century and a half, students, alumni, faculty and staff have imparted their passion, expertise and devotion to humankind to solve challenges at home and around the globe. *Wherever there are Buckeyes, there are champions for people and their potential.*

As we embark on this journey to celebrate our history, honor the present and envision the next 150 years of excellence, we focus on three main priorities.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Together, we grow lifelong leaders to make a difference in the world.

DISCOVERY

Together, we advance knowledge to shape a better tomorrow.

HEALTHY, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Together, we nurture community well-being to improve lives and build better futures.

Hand in hand with Ohio State's focus is the innate calling of our social workers to be the change the world needs. It is through collaboration and compassion that we are able to tackle complex social issues, in turn creating more opportunity, justice and healthier outcomes for everyone.

On October 3, the university announced its next transformative campaign, *Time and Change: The Ohio State Campaign*. It is because of you that we are able to continue to advance and support our mission, our students and our outreach. It is our hope that you will join forces with us as we embark on this transformative journey—supporting, uplifting, mentoring and celebrating our students, our faculty and the communities we serve and love so fiercely.

To learn more, please visit campaign.osu.edu



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

**TIME
AND
CHANGE**
THE OHIO STATE CAMPAIGN



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Introducing two new online certificate programs!

The College of Social Work is committed to supporting its students not just while they are here on campus but all through their professional careers.

The Office of Continuing Education continues to roll out in-depth training to assist social workers in a variety of fields. For 2020, we are excited to introduce two new certificate programs: Social Enterprise and Impact Investing, and Building Addiction Knowledge for Frontline Workers. They will be added to our existing programs: Leadership in Human Services Management, and Advanced Certificate in Serving Veterans and Their Families.

All trainings are offered online. For more information, visit csw.osu.edu/continuing-education.