Bridges

University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work
Winter 2023



Bridging the Gap in Health Care

Bridges

Bridges is the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work alumni magazine. We selected the name Bridges largely because of its symbolism. The term provides an important metaphor for both our profession and our school. Social work is a profession that has, as part of its mission, the goal of building and sustaining bridges among individuals, families, groups, neighborhoods, and communities, and we felt that the title Bridges captured this part of our professional mission. At the same time, the city of Pittsburgh has more than 450 bridges, and Allegheny County has almost 2,000, suggesting an uncompromising desire of the city's inhabitants to remain connected with one another. In keeping with this heritage, it is the school's goal to sustain and build bridges among those needing social work services; our students, alumni, faculty, and staff; the community; and corporate and governmental partners. We believe that the information in this magazine is an important way to achieve this goal.

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BRIDGES MAGAZINE CREATIVE TEAM

School of Social Work

Dean ..... Elizabeth M.Z. "Betsy" Farmer
Editor ..... Devin Harris Cecere
Director of Communications ..... Shannon Murphy

Office of University Communications and Marketing

Assistant Creative Director ..... Jane Dudley
Marketing Manager ..... Marygrace Reder
Editorial Associate ..... Sarah Jordan Rosenson
Production Manager ..... Chris Markle

Writer ..... Sharon Blake

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2117 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

412-624-6304

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Dear alumni and friends,

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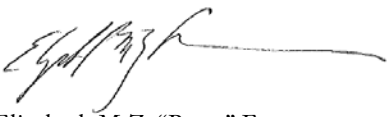
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All the best,



Elizabeth M.Z. "Betsy" Farmer
Dean, School of Social Work
University of Pittsburgh



CRSP Celebrates 20 Years

For 20 years, Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) has been a leader in bringing thought-provoking research and discussions about race and social issues to local, national, and international audiences.

Based in the University's School of Social Work, CRSP began its 20th anniversary celebrations with a virtual event featuring a lecture by esteemed disability rights advocate and White House Champion of Change Haben Girma in February 2022. "Disability Justice: A Conversation with Haben, the Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law" was the inaugural Florence Gibbs Momeyer Endowed Lecture.

In November 2022, the center hosted the inaugural Dr. Larry Davis Black Excellence in the Academy Awards and Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Center on Race and Social Problems at the National Aviary. The celebration honored the legacy of Davis, who served as dean of Pitt's School of Social Work from 2001-2018, and the accomplishments of Black Pitt faculty. Davis died in March 2021.

The 2022 award winners were as follows:

Emerging Scholar: Amanda Boston, assistant professor, Department of Africana Studies, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Excellence in Faculty Mentorship: Esa Davis, associate professor of medicine and clinical and translational science, School of Medicine; director, UPMC Tobacco Treatment Service; and director, Career Education and Enhancement for Health Care Research Diversity Program

Excellence in Community Engaged Scholarship: James Huguley, associate professor and associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion, School of Social Work

Excellence in Leadership: Valerie Kinloch, Renée and Richard Goldman Dean, School of Education

Academic Excellence: Sandra Murray, professor, Department of Cell Biology, School of Medicine

Trina Shanks, director of the University of Michigan School of Social Work community engagement and professor of social work, gave the keynote address honoring Davis.



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New Center Will Be a Hub for Mental Health Services Research

The School of Social Work's newest center, the Center for Research on Innovations, Services and Equity in Mental Health (RISE-MH), aims to be an interdisciplinary hub for mental health services research that can immediately move the needle on mental health practice and policy.

The idea for RISE-MH grew out of a previous enterprise at the school, the Center for Interventions to Enhance Community Health, which also focused on mental health research and helped to establish the University's expertise in the field. RISE-MH will continue this work with an expanded focus on equity and access.

RISE-MH investigators are currently working on cutting-edge projects that will directly affect mental health services. Among these is a large multisite project led by Assistant Professor Nev Jones that aims to understand and improve the work, school, and disability benefit decisions and outcomes of youths and young adults with early psychosis. RISE-MH Codirector and Associate Dean for Research Shaun Eack is conducting a comparative effectiveness study of two treatment approaches for patients with schizophrenia across New England.



Shaun Eack

"The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is ideally positioned to develop impactful interdisciplinary work that can truly change mental health policy and practice in ways that will improve the well-being of some of our most vulnerable citizens," says Associate Professor Catherine Greeno, who also serves as RISE-MH codirector.



Catherine Greeno

Anyone interested in knowing more about RISE-MH's efforts to improve mental health services should contact Greeno at **kgreeno@pitt.edu** to learn more about current projects and how to participate in ongoing work group meetings.

New Faculty

The Center on Race and Social Problems added two new faculty members: **Kyaien Conner** (MSW '94, PhD '08) is the new director, and **Ron Idoko** is the new associate director.

New Staff

Ashley Barr-Soske is the Behavioral Health Scholars Program fellowship coordinator.

Student services added two new team members in 2022. **Susanna Cammarata** is the new academic registration and records manager, and **Bethany McLaughlin** is the new coordinator of the MSW Program.

Monica Henderson is the new program and outreach coordinator for the Race and Youth Development Research Group.

Kerri Meeks-Griffin joined the school's leadership team as the new director of recruitment and admissions.

Kelsey Ott-Sudik is the student training program coordinator for the Roth and Hartford fellowship programs.

The Just Discipline Project added **Cyndi Perlow** and **Jennie Smith** as restorative practice coordinators.

Hollen Tillman is a coordinator with the Pittsburgh Wage Study and the Coalition for Opioid and Addiction Leadership Fellowship.

Faculty Promotions

Sara Goodkind and **Jeffrey Shook** were named full professors.


Conner


Idoko


Barr-Soske


Cammarata


McLaughlin


Henderson


Meeks-Griffin


Ott-Sudik


Perlow


Smith


Tillman


Goodkind


Shook

Faculty Awards


James Huguley

Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **James Huguley** won the 2022 Dr. Larry Davis Black Excellence in the Academy award in Community Engaged Scholarship.


Nev Jones

Assistant Professor **Nev Jones** won the Pioneer Award from the National Association of Peer Supporters and a 2022 Judi Chamberlin Joy in Advocacy Award from the National Coalition on Mental Health Recovery.


Mary Elizabeth Rauktis

Research Associate Professor **Mary Elizabeth Rauktis** has been named president of the Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter of the Fulbright Association. She also was awarded a grant by the Fulbright Specialist Program, part of the larger Fulbright Program, to travel to Assam, India, in August 2022.

Professor **Jeffrey Shook** was selected for the 2022 Tracy Soska and John Wilds Outreach and Engagement Leadership Award by the University of Pittsburgh. Named in honor of the clinical associate professor emeritus and the former assistant vice chancellor for community relations at the University, respectively, the award recognizes faculty or staff who serve the University through their outstanding dedication to University-community connections.

Mann Taught 30+ Years at Pitt Social Work

Aaron Mann joined the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work faculty after a career in public service focused on youths, job development and training, and youth programs. Mann began his School of Social Work career under the tenure of Dean David Epperson and also served as a member of the search committee that recruited the next dean, Larry Davis. In addition, Mann was the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) Program director for several years.

When Mann's third dean, Betsy Farmer, was recruited by the School of Social Work in 2018, she said she was amazed by the number of students who told her about Mann and what a positive difference he made in their lives. Clinical Assistant Professor Elizabeth Mulvaney noted Mann's "advocacy, teaching, [and] commitment to and fantastic mentorship of BASW students." Current BASW Program director Toya Jones says that she misses Mann's "wisdom and commanding presence" in the school's Cathedral of Learning classrooms and offices.

From his earliest job as an inner-city youth director at the YMCA in Hamilton County, Ohio, to his work teaching and mentoring social work students at Pitt, Mann feels fortunate that he's been able to incorporate his values into his long career, which has focused on "investing in people and developing human services so that folks can get what they need to succeed." The school celebrated Mann's retirement in the spring of 2022.



The VanKirk Career Center Is Here for You

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work's VanKirk Career Center has a wide array of services to help you achieve your career goals. The center offers individual consultations, workshops, and job fairs throughout the year. You also can find job opportunities from all areas of the field on the center's website. In addition, the center provides support to alumni who are preparing to take the social work licensure exam.

Visit socialwork.pitt.edu/student-resources/career-services for more details about upcoming events and workshops.

CWEL Turns 25

On June 8, 2022, the School of Social Work and the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center celebrated 25 years of the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program.

Following welcoming remarks from Pitt Social Work Dean **Betsy Farmer**, **Helen Cahalane**, principal investigator of the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs, opened the program by stressing the importance of the child welfare partnerships that exist across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the commitment to strengthening the public child welfare workforce.

Cahalane also acknowledged the other colleges and universities across the state that partner with Pitt and help to mentor and develop the next generation of child welfare professionals: Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania Western University, California, Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Marywood University, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, West Chester University, and Widener University. To date, there have been 1,613 CWEL graduates across all programs.

Cahalane also was honored with the Wilbur I. Newstetter Award in recognition of her distinguished commitment and service to the School of Social Work as leader of the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs for more than 16 years. This award is named after the first dean of the School of Social Work, who served from 1938 until 1962.

The Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture was given by Virginia "Ginger" Pryor, principal associate at Abt Associates Inc. Pryor has more than 30 years of experience leading child welfare and social services policy and system improvement initiatives. Her talk, "The Power of Hope: Leading and Serving in Child Welfare," touched on the role of child welfare workers in creating an ecosystem of hope with "community sitting in the center." According to Pryor, this ecosystem should include "folks with lived experience—our community leaders, other family members, the church—working in partnership or codesigning with state government, federal government, the children's bureau, national partners, our philanthropic partners. … [A]s a leader, we have to learn how to humble ourselves to go into communities."

The event also included a tribute to Professor Emeritus **Edward Sites**, who shared his memories of the creation of the CWEL program.

Student News and Awards



Doctoral student **Ana Flores** was awarded the/a Provost's Dissertation Year Fellowship for Historically Underrepresented Doctoral Students for the 2022-23 academic year.

BASW student **Christina Gremba** was presented with a 2022 Empowerment Award from Pennsylvania Women Work.



Doctoral student **Soobin Kim** received the Outstanding Dissertation Proposal Award from the Korean American Social Work Educators Association.

MSW student **Jen Silver** was elected as an MSW student representative to the board of directors of the National Association of Social Workers Pennsylvania chapter.

Doctoral student **Cortney VanHook** received the 2022 Dr. Shaffdeen A. Amuwo Emerging Leaders Award from the Black Caucus of Health Workers. VanHook also received an American Public Health Association Public Health Social Work Section conference scholarship.



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Q&A with Mary Elizabeth Rauktis

Last year was a busy and exciting time for University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Research Associate Professor Mary Elizabeth Rauktis (PhD '93). She received a grant through the Fulbright Specialist Program, which is part of the larger Fulbright Program, and traveled in August 2022 to teach at Assam Don Bosco University in India. She also became president of the Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter of the Fulbright Association.





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We asked Rauktis to share more about her Fulbright experience, what she currently is working on, and her life outside Pitt Social Work.

Q: Congratulations again on the Fulbright Specialist Program grant! What is the social work program like at Assam Don Bosco?

A: Thanks! The Fulbright program is a wonderful opportunity for faculty, students, and staff, and I would encourage anyone interested in learning more about it to contact me at **gpittsburgh@fulbright.org**. Senator J. William Fulbright's belief in creating the program was that it is in meeting people in their communities and learning about them that we create a peaceful and connected world. It's been an honor to be a Fulbright scholar (Portugal, 2017) and specialist (India, 2022). I learned far more than I ever expected during my time in country.

Social work in India has a curriculum very similar to that in the United States. However, the structures are somewhat different. Undergraduate education is three, not four, years. Doctoral social work is very different, with less course work and more time for dissertation. I taught both undergraduate and graduate students in social work and psychology. The students do "block" field placements, so they do most of their course work in the beginning and then are in the field full time for almost nine months. All students at Assam Don Bosco do service projects, regardless of their major. Some of the projects implemented by faculty and students were improving potable water and mushroom cultivation for sale and consumption, a green library in villages, and a training program for electric tradespeople.

Q: What are you currently working on?

A: I'm working on an edited book that the faculty from Assam Don Bosco are writing on their service projects. I also worked on creating a study with the social work faculty at Assam Don Bosco on readiness to implement foster care in Assam, which they just finished and presented to UNICEF.

We are very excited to honor World Social Work Day next month! A group of students in the Global Perspectives class is planning the day (Tuesday, March 21)

and events throughout the week to raise awareness of the role of social work in the world. We hope to share some portion of the activities online with alumni.

Q: Tell us about your journey back to Pitt Social Work.

A: When I left in 1993, it was with no intention of returning! I was in my mid 30s and had worked during the time that I was completing my PhD at Pitt; back then, the doctoral program was not funded, and one could be a part-time student. Frankly, I was tired of the academy and wanted to get on with my life, as it felt as though I had been at Pitt a long time! I took a position at the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, which had just created a new evaluation unit, working with Pamela Twiss (MSW '87, PhD '93). From there, I went to work for Pressley Ridge, an international provider of children and family services, and became more expert in the child welfare side of programming, specifically residential and foster care.

I never expected to come back as faculty [in 2007], although I had taught as an adjunct in the research class sequence. When I was initially approached by Professor Emeritus Edward Sites for the position of researcher in the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs, I was excited by the opportunity to teach the next generation of social work professionals.

Q: What do you like to do when you aren't at work?

A: With my daughter grown and living on her own, I now have more time to do things that I love, such as volunteering at Animal Friends' Chow Wagon Pet Food Bank, sorting food and delivering to more than 30 pet food pantries in the region. I also foster cats and kittens.

I love to stand-up paddle! On summer weekends, you can find me at Moraine State Park boarding and sometimes camping. I read a great deal as well and quite widely. I've taken on reading David McCullough's "Truman," which is 1,120 pages long. I hope to finish it in the next year!

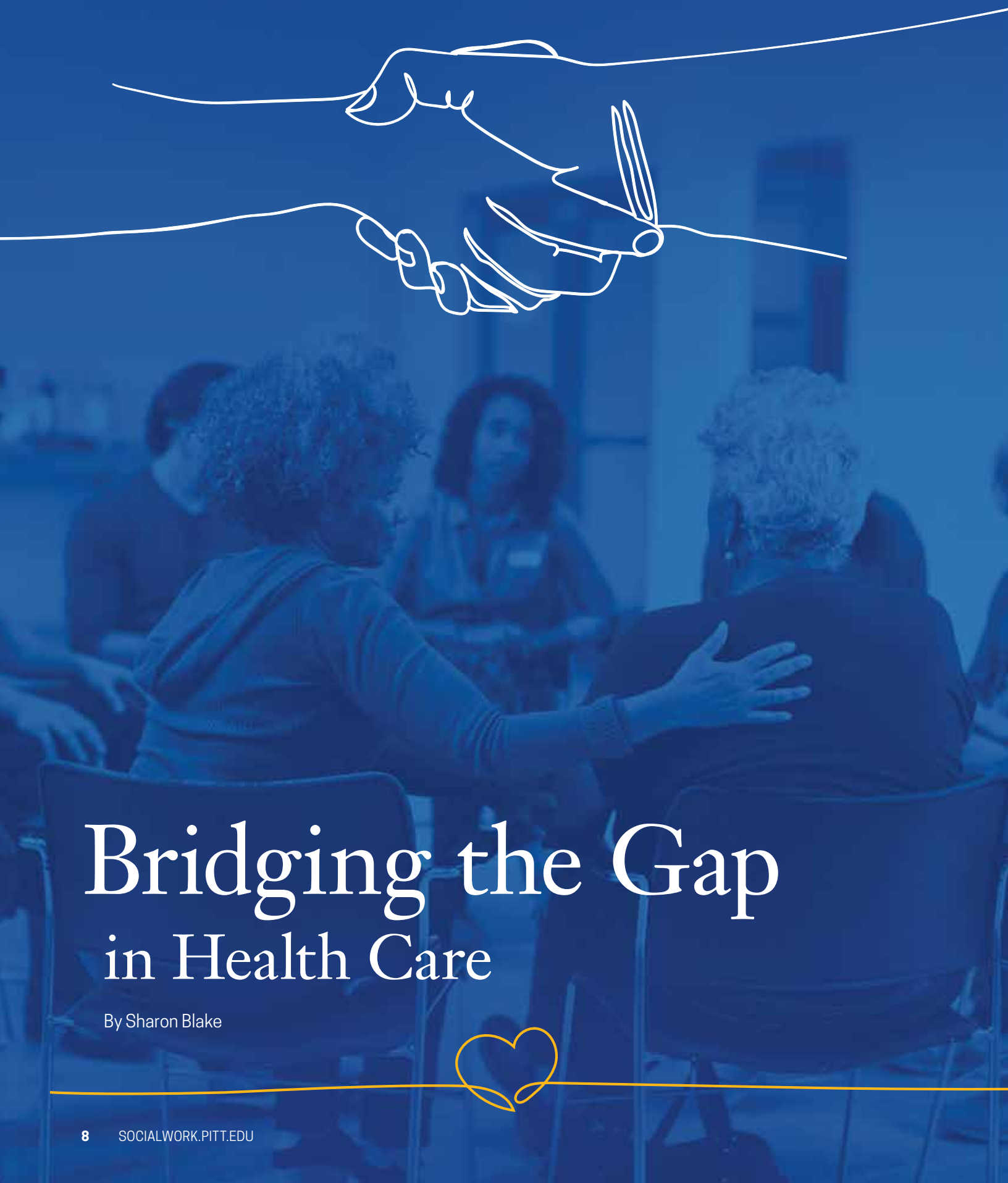


New Programs and Courses from the Office of Professional and Continuing Education

In 2023, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Office of Professional and Continuing Education will be:

- launching a new hybrid continuing education (CE) course series called Racial Justice and Liberatory Practice and a new CE Intensive titled Mental Fitness;
- adding new programs to our on-demand CE course offerings every month;
- offering monthly CE program highlights (and discounts!) through our email newsletter;
- recruiting a new cohort for our LCSW/LSW Supervision Matching Program (made possible through grant funding from Staunton Farm Foundation) for social workers with traditionally marginalized backgrounds; and
- continuing to provide live, virtual, and asynchronous CE course options for licensed professionals to obtain their necessary CE hours in the way that is most convenient for them.

More information about all these options (and the sign-up form for our email newsletter) can be found at socialwork.pitt.edu/professional-continuing-education.



Bridging the Gap in Health Care

By Sharon Blake

It's a sunny Tuesday afternoon in November 2022, and about a dozen older Black women are gathered in a room in the Thelma Lovette YMCA in Pittsburgh's Hill District. Robin Sheffey, a program manager for the Pittsburgh nonprofit organization Steel Smiling, speaks with these women about their mental wellness every two weeks.

"Ladies, we are mothers and we are sisters, but we have to love ourselves first," says Sheffey as the women, several of them using walkers, settle into their seats.

This session, which is being held two days before the Thanksgiving holiday, features a mindfulness exercise to instrumental music, tips for self-healing, and the reminder to the women to love themselves.

"When's the last time anybody hugged themselves?" asks Sheffey. "Let's do it now."

Asked what they have planned for that week, the ladies' conversation naturally turns to cooking and preparations for everything from candied yams to Cornish hens. As they exit an hour later, they are reminded to talk to someone if they feel stressed and to find the time to just sit and relax a bit.

This population is an important one for mental health workers to reach. Steel Smiling founder and CEO **Julius Boatwright** (MSW '11) is positioning his organization as Pittsburgh's Black mental health intermediary. He says that Black community elders hold crucial life lessons.

"Older Black women possess stories that have the potential to transform generations," he says. "Robin's group helps to validate the women's lived experiences while also providing them with peer support."

The social determinants of health

The health outcomes of the women who meet regularly at the YMCA depend on far more than their genes or the medical care they receive. They are closely related to their lived experiences—their childhood upbringing, the house where they live, whether there is a store nearby that sells healthy foods, or even how safe they feel walking around at night. These social determinants of health are shaped by many factors, including social policies, political systems, and systemic inequalities.

A study cited by the National Academy of Medicine found that medical care itself only accounts for 10-20% of the contributors to people's health outcomes. By contrast, social determinants play a much bigger role,

continued

Older Black women possess stories that have the potential to transform generations. Robin's group helps to validate the women's lived experiences while also providing them with peer support.

Julius Boatwright



A study cited by the National Academy of Medicine found that medical care itself only accounts for 10-20% of the contributors to people's health outcomes.



making up 80-90% of the contributing factors. Addressing these determinants appropriately is fundamental to improving health and its long-standing inequities.

This is nothing new to social workers. Considering someone's housing or access to food speaks to social work's core values. What is new is that more and more social workers are entering the medical field to help bridge that gap. And the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is a driving engine behind that initiative, with several core programs that are training students to become a vital part of any medical team.

Programs, fellowships, and a certificate

Pitt Social Work has long offered a certificate in integrated health care (IHC) and fellowships that focus on health and the ways that physical health and mental health treatment and services need to be approached in an integrated and holistic way. Over the years, the Cannon, Baker, Hartford, Roth, and other fellowship programs have given students extensive and in-depth experiences in health care settings. This strong tradition continues with the following current programs:

The Behavioral Health Scholars Program focuses on children and adolescents with behavioral health needs. The federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funds this initiative, in which second-year master's students learn about integrated treatment models so that the needs of these young people can be addressed in a variety of settings.

The Coalition for Opioid Addiction Leadership Fellowship, also HRSA funded, is open to second-year master's students and places them in settings where treatment for people with opioid use disorders is desperately needed. These fellows learn interventions that treat these disorders and have field placements on interprofessional teams of providers.

The Roth Fellowship is open to bachelor's and first and second-year master's students and helps them to develop a deep understanding of the connection between behavioral health and physical health in a field placement with UPMC Health Plan. The insurer funds the program and places students in a variety of clinical experiences but always in an integrated health team setting.

The Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education places bachelor's and master's students in settings with older adults. Student placements may range from palliative care and community-based providers that help individuals age in place to work focused on policies that impact the service delivery system for older people.

Students in all four of these programs receive stipends of up to $10,000 and participate in special monthly seminars with social workers from integrated health care professions.

Beyond these specific fellowships, the IHC certificate prepares master's students specializing in direct practice with the skills to work in numerous health-related settings. In all, about one-third of the school's 459 students are being trained for working in integrated health care settings.

Pitt Social Work Professor **Daniel Rosen** says that there has been a greater awareness on the part of health systems in

> Health care happens *between* visits.
>
> Daniel Rosen





> We don't work with a medical hierarchy on this team. We all bring something to the table. We are all equal. We all have a superpower."
>
> Tanisha Bowman

the past 15 years that social workers possess the clinical skills and experiences to really engage all patients, especially those with greater risk factors, in the kind of support that goes way beyond the doctor's office.

"Health care happens between visits," he says. "We cannot expect a doctor to be able to get into the root causes of the upstream factors that are impacting someone's life and to be able to do the care coordination piece around that. Our health care system is not set up for that."

Rosen says that a great example of this work is a recent two-year project that examined the social determinants of oral health. Social work students joined a new training series in pediatric dentistry for students at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. They were able to shed new light on why some people can't adhere to a strict dental care regimen.

"The dental students couldn't understand why children, in some cases, were not brushing their teeth at night. It's because their parents were not at home—they were working a night shift," says Rosen. Similarly, suggesting a diet of fresh fruit and vegetables may not mean much to a family living in a food desert. Someone with transportation barriers may have trouble getting to a dental appointment in Oakland, even if they live only a mile away.

"It was incredible to hear the dental residents talk about how valuable it is to have the social work piece," says Rosen. "Social workers look at the why."

Rosen says that he has seen former social work students move on to careers in hospital emergency rooms, in cancer wards, and as part of a team of paramedics. He says that addressing the lived experiences of individuals, especially those facing barriers to care, is what social work has always been about.

Students enrolled in IHC classes cover topics like health policy and medical terminology so that when social workers are part of a team, they can speak the same language as the doctors, nurses, and physical therapists and can effectively contribute their knowledge, perspectives, and professional expertise within the interdisciplinary team.

Big voice in a small town

That is the exact situation **Tanisha Bowman** (MSW '16) experiences daily in her role as a palliative care social worker at Butler Memorial Hospital, where she helps people come to terms with serious life-limiting illnesses. She assists them in getting their affairs in order and coming to peace with what's happening and connects them with any support they may need, be it help for anxiety or walkers or grab bars for their home. She and her five-member team also deal with patients at the hospital's busy outpatient clinic.

"We don't work with a medical hierarchy on this team," says Bowman. "We all bring something to the table. We are all equal. We all have a superpower."

Bowman says that in her past life as a social worker in general practice, she came to expect not to be heard or listened to. But that changed when she came to Butler Memorial Hospital.

"I walked in here—a Black woman with purple hair [and] covered in tattoos—and whatever my lane is, that's my lane. I was brought here to tell them what was missing," she says.

She says that her nursing manager may spend an hour on the phone with patients, just listening. Bowman sometimes attends their funerals. Her staff is leaning more into community work, including Bowman building a grief wall at the hospital. Covered with 100 mums that community members replaced with small white paper cranes, it commemorated National Grief Awareness Day. She is building longer-term relationships with her outpatients.

Active in leadership and advocacy for years, Bowman has presented at several conferences, most recently presenting with her colleagues on the concept of the interdisciplinary health care team. She loves bringing all that passion to her job.

"I drive an hour to get to work for a reason," she says.

continued



> With every patient, I feel as though I am contributing in a significant way.
>
> Ji-Eun Choi

Making a difference in Boston

Farther north, at Massachusetts General Hospital, **Ji-Eun Choi** (MSW '20) is a clinical social worker at Internal Medicine Associates, the hospital's largest primary care clinic with more than 100 doctors and two social workers. She sees patients who have symptoms of mild to moderate depression and/or anxiety.

Choi often works with patients who have physical health conditions, such as long COVID. She has seen firsthand how closely physical and mental health conditions are intertwined and how they impact many aspects of her patients' lives. After working with Choi, the patients tell her they are much better able to handle their stressors.

"With every patient, I feel as though I am contributing in a significant way," says Choi. "I feel appreciated by the medical team and the patient, and that really keeps me going."

Choi spread her wings far and wide during her time at Pitt. She interned at Family Resources' therapeutic preschool, designed for children needing behavioral and emotional support, and at Positive Health Clinic, an HIV clinic of the Allegheny Health Network. She had her own caseload and worked alongside infectious disease doctors and social workers.

"I was very much part of the team," says Choi, who earned an IHC certificate alongside her Pitt Social Work degree.

Choi also has volunteered with people who are unhoused and currently does pro bono work for people who are seeking asylum in the United States. Choi says that hearing their stories can be incredibly difficult, "but it reminds me why I chose this field in the first place."

It's not all work for this busy social worker. She was a flute player for the Duke University Symphony Orchestra while getting her undergraduate degree there in neuroscience. Not only does she regularly video chat with the former members of the flute section, but they all recently met up at a friend's wedding and performed for the bride, also a flute section alum. According to Choi, serving as a member of the orchestra and as its president during her senior year taught her skills she brings to the job today, like organization and collaboration.

"I feel that health care is a team sport," she says.



> They [social workers] have the ability to capture the important information that patients may have difficulty sharing."
>
> Jeff Bolton

Leading the way

Jeff Bolton (MSW '79) is the recently retired chief administrative officer of Mayo Clinic, where for eight years he was responsible for all administrative functions in shared services, education, research, and clinics. He saw many social workers provide a critical liaison between the providers and the patients' families.

Bolton says that the brothers William and Charles Mayo were ahead of their time, bringing social workers on board in 1921.

"Very early on, there was a recognition that social, economic, and emotional challenges can contribute to a patient's illness or interfere with successful treatment," he says.

Today, Bolton says that there are 450 social worker positions throughout the Mayo Clinic system in Rochester, Minnesota; Jacksonville, Florida; and Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona, plus 70 clinics throughout the Midwest. In Mayo's inpatient practice, social workers are assigned to every team. Every patient is assessed and asked about their support system and home environment. Under a social worker's guidance, patients can frequently identify and use their own personal strengths and resources to best manage the psychosocial aspects of their illness.

Bolton has seen firsthand the skills a social worker brings to a medical team.

"They have the ability to capture the important information that patients may have difficulty sharing," he says. He also cites social workers' problem solving, empathy, advocacy, cultural competence, and the ability to empower patients and their family members to be active in the healing process.

Mayo Clinic is seeing fewer readmissions, and Bolton gives a lot of the credit to integrated health care teams. He adds that the pandemic took its toll on frontline workers, including social workers, so retirement announcements are becoming more common. He encourages Pitt Social Work alumni to apply at Mayo, hospitals, and other health care systems across the United States.

Tackling system-level issues

After working as a cardiac social worker in the intensive care unit at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, **Maria José Allen** (MSW '17) moved into a career on the insurance side of health care in April 2022. Working for the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan in Maryland, which manages Medicaid patients, Allen takes on cases in which patients have complex behavioral health diagnoses to help them get the support they need.

She is the social worker on a team of 30 people, including nurses, managers, a chief medical officer, and community health workers. A typical workday might find her at home conducting telehealth sessions or at a hospital conferring with doctors to plot out what the patient needs when they go home to avoid a readmission.

Allen's teammates tend to send anything behavioral health related her way, and that's fine with her, but she also frequently plays the role of coach, teaching them the skills she uses daily, like motivational interviewing.

Working on the other side of the insurance business has been an eye-opener for her.

"When I was working in a big health system's outpatient setting, I remember being frustrated with insurance companies, thinking they were the problem. Now I see the biggest barriers are the social determinants of health. For a homeless member, for example, there's the lack of stable housing, the lack of stable food intake, and the lack of stability for them to even take their meds on time," she says.

Allen also is helping to launch and manage the state-funded Maternal Opioid Misuse program for Maryland, which provides support for any pregnant woman who has a history of opioid use disorders. Add that to her normal caseload and she is telephoning about 70 people a month. But the pregnant women often are difficult to reach. Even if she does find them, many are not ready or willing to participate. For those women in a good place in their recovery, undergoing a drug screening can be a trigger. Others feel

continued

that divulging details about their past is too invasive. But Allen is not discouraged. She knows that she can help some of them through her regular case management program and "is keeping tabs on some of them so they still have some support."

She has an eye on possibly working in the policy realm in the future, saying it's frustrating seeing the system work "top down" instead of "bottom up."

"I feel like unless you are really seeing what is happening on the ground, you can't really make policy that is going to truly help people without making their lives much more complicated," she says.

On the West Coast, **Henry Loubet** (MSW '75) is CEO of San Francisco-based Bohemia Health, a company that provides health care organizations—ranging from health plans to physician groups—with the strategies they need to succeed. He says that social workers play an important role in administration and management, organizational development, and population health.

While they do a lot to decrease unnecessary doctor and hospital visits, Loubet says that "the most important contribution a social worker can make in a medical setting is working with socially and economically disadvantaged populations, especially in the Medicare Advantage and Medicaid space." These groups are those who are least likely to see successful outcomes with traditional models of care and often require the most holistic supports to bolster their medical treatment.

Back in Pittsburgh, Boatwright has a goal of seeing that every Black city resident has a positive mental health experience by 2030. He and his staff at Steel Smiling want to build a sustainable mental health infrastructure with other organizations doing mental health work with Black populations, including the Kingsley Association; the Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center, Inc.; Center of Life; and the Homewood Children's Village. It's a person-centered, community-based approach.

"We're aware that some Black folks are just now beginning their mental health and wellness journeys," he says. "If we can be thoughtful about connecting with them in their neighborhood spaces, we increase the probability of them gaining access to treatment."

Boatwright also is investigating how Steel Smiling can provide financial assistance to local Black residents to help them offset the cost of mental health treatment. The goal is to remove as many barriers as possible and to meet the client where they are in the moment—in the community. Boatwright has embraced this holistic approach to wellness himself; he recently became a registered yoga instructor.

Whether it's a cancer patient in Butler, a person seeking psychiatric care in Boston, or a senior woman attending a wellness workshop in Pittsburgh's Hill District, all are being assisted by Pitt Social Work alumni who are active and valued members of medical teams.



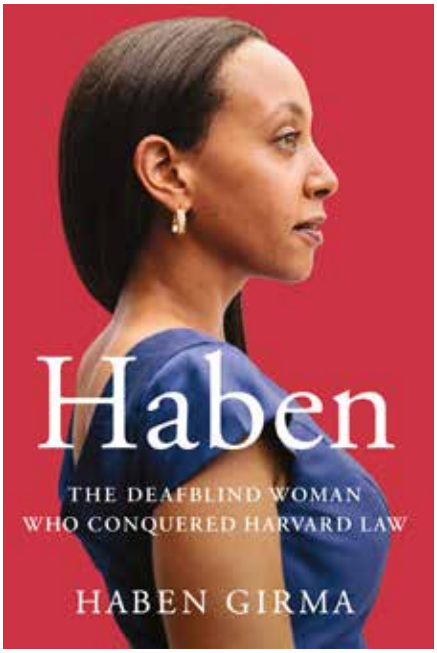
"I'm a prime example of this reality," he says. "It's important to expose folks to myriad wellness options so they can make the best choices for themselves."

Whether it's a cancer patient in Butler, a person seeking psychiatric care in Boston, or a senior woman attending a wellness workshop in Pittsburgh's Hill District, all are being assisted by Pitt Social Work alumni who are active and valued members of medical teams.

As Bowman states: "I just want to matter—and I do."

Lawyer and Human Rights Activist Featured at Inaugural Momeyer Lecture

On Feb. 2, 2022, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) hosted the Florence Gibbs Momeyer Endowed Lecture featuring lawyer and human rights activist Haben Girma as part of CRSP's 20th anniversary celebration. Pitt Social Work graduate **Alan Momeyer** (MSW '72) and his brother, Richard Momeyer, established the annual lecture in 2021 to recognize the legacy of their mother, a pioneering Pennsylvania social worker and advocate for children.



"Ableism comes up in our schools, in government policies, in employment. It is so widespread that a lot of people don't notice it."

—Haben Girma

As executive director of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens (PARC), Florence Gibbs Momeyer filed a landmark lawsuit in 1971 against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that ultimately guaranteed children with disabilities the right to an education in public schools. As the first right-to-education suit in the country, Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania played a critical role in the fight for educational access for children with disabilities.

The school selected Girma as the inaugural Momeyer Lecture speaker because of her own pioneering path. Girma is the child of refugees and the first deafblind person to graduate from Harvard Law School. The civil rights lawyer and public advocate spoke during her virtual lecture on topics ranging from ableism and accessibility to race and language. She described ableism as a persistent problem in American society that affects us all. She explained, "Ableism comes up in our schools, in government policies, in employment. It is so widespread that a lot of people don't notice it. ... Ableism is so widespread that it's considered fact rather than a systemic problem."

Girma said that she has faced more obstacles in her life stemming from ableism than from her disability status. These have included being denied employment and educational opportunities, having her contributions marginalized, and being told she would not succeed by people in positions of power. As the child of refugees from Ethiopia and Eritrea, she also has faced racial discrimination.

Girma sees many opportunities for people with disabilities to change the world for the better. "The dominant narrative is [that] disability is a burden on society," she said. "I had to learn to define disability for myself. And I found that disability is often an opportunity for innovation. If you can't do something one way, there are other, alternative ways to do those things."

She encouraged others to rethink their perceptions of disability status as a weakness or shortcoming and urged institutions to create opportunities to allow people with disabilities to fully participate in public life.

Girma has received numerous accolades for her work. She's been honored by former President Barack Obama as a White House Champion of Change, has been included in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list, and has received the Helen Keller Achievement Award from the American Foundation for the Blind. Her memoir, "Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law," has been featured in The New York Times and O, The Oprah Magazine, and on the "Today" show.

Nearly 300 attendees from around the country tuned in to hear Girma's virtual lecture.

The Florence Gibbs Momeyer Endowed Lecture is an annual lecture program presented by Pitt Social Work and CRSP that features leading speakers on the topics of rights, equity, access, and inclusion. The Momeyer Lecture is the third endowed lecture at Pitt Social Work and takes place every spring term.

Library Social Work

Fellowship Offers Students Unique Opportunity for Community-based Training

By Penny Miller



Since 2019, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work has partnered with the Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA) to offer qualified Master of Social Work (MSW) students the opportunity to work in local libraries. The Library Social Work Fellowship is on trend with growing recognition that librarians and social workers share common interests in connecting individuals to services, programs, and resources that benefit the individual and ultimately enrich the entire community.

As **Tracy Soska**, University of Pittsburgh emeritus clinical associate professor of social work and former Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA) program director, notes, "The public library systems and the discipline of social work share a common history, both originating in the Progressive Era of social and political reform."

Research shows that Americans still appreciate the value of their public libraries. A 2013 Pew Research Center study found that 67% of Americans felt a public library closing would directly affect their family, and 90% felt that such a closing would adversely affect their community. Through the dedicated work of Soska and his library and foundation colleagues, the school fellowship offers 12 Pitt Social Work MSW students a generous stipend and invaluable experience in a growing and vital practice area for social workers.

ACLA brings together a total of 46 public libraries delivering services in more than 70 locations in the region, including 19 locations of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, under the tagline "Connecting Communities." While each library remains independent, the association expands the resources of local libraries beyond what they could accomplish individually. Kelci Degnian, who was the projects and partnerships manager at the time at ACLA, notes that Soska's membership on the board then was crucial to getting the Pitt Library Social Work Fellowship off the ground. She also notes that bringing social work to libraries aligns with the public perception of them as being safe spaces: "Libraries are trusted places, and library staff are trusted faces. At Brentwood Library, seniors can pick up their books and a box of food, so the experience is less stigmatizing than visiting the food bank."

Brentwood Library, a member of ACLA, served as the pilot site for the Pitt Library Social Work Fellowship in October 2019. Despite people needing a variety of extra resources during the pandemic, library director Dennis Luther sees the library fellowship as a strong and growing resource and says he wouldn't be surprised if it becomes standard to have a social worker in the library. He says that before the fellowship started, he relied on Soska's social work expertise when he ran out of answers for some library patrons: "I used to think we needed a security guard, but then I realized we need a social worker."

MSW student Kelly King (BASW '19) is doing her fellowship placement at the Millvale Community Library. The Millvale library offers a variety of community-oriented programs every month of the year: tool sales, sewing classes, digital media workshops, cooking classes, gardening workshops, and many others. It also offers a space for the local state representative to hold office hours. In addition, the library has pioneered a "free fridge" accessible from the street, working with 412 Food Rescue to supply perishable food items and prepared meals to anyone who needs them, with no questions asked and no judgment.

As the library's fellow, King finds great satisfaction in being able to connect people with the many community organizations that offer what they need, from English as a second language classes to free furniture to after-school activities for children. Responding to client needs requires listening closely, problem solving, creative thinking, and a deep knowledge of what resources are available and right for the situation. King is specializing in COSA for her social work degree. She notes, "As a community social worker, we don't want to come into a neighborhood or other area and tell them what we think they need. This is all about listening and responding to what



needs and resources are already there or creating something new that they actually want. The important part is to make the connections for people and be a face and a place that is welcoming and warm."

Annie Rummell is a full-time MSW COSA student doing her library fellowship at the Carnegie Free Library of Swissvale. One of 19 libraries that Andrew Carnegie built in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, this library has served local residents for more than 100 years. Although Rummell started her academic career with a BA in accounting, she has always had a strong interest in social justice, and she notes that libraries are "one of the last free resources to the community with no barrier to entry." At her fellowship, she describes helping patrons to access food, find help paying utility bills, and locate affordable housing.

Mary Phan-Gruber, former CEO of the Jefferson Regional Foundation and a social worker and adjunct instructor in the school, notes that the Pitt Library Social Work Fellowship grew out of a project begun in 2013 that conducted community assessments to discover how libraries could better connect with the community. These assessments asked key questions, such as "What is happening outside the library walls?" and "Who in the community is the library not connecting with but should be?"

In response to what they learned, the libraries expanded their programming to specifically address those perceived gaps and explored the possibility of bringing a social worker on staff, which led to the development of the Pitt Library Social Work Fellowship. From that time, the fellowship has been carefully implemented and supported with on-site supervisors and an ongoing evaluation process of what works well and what can be improved.

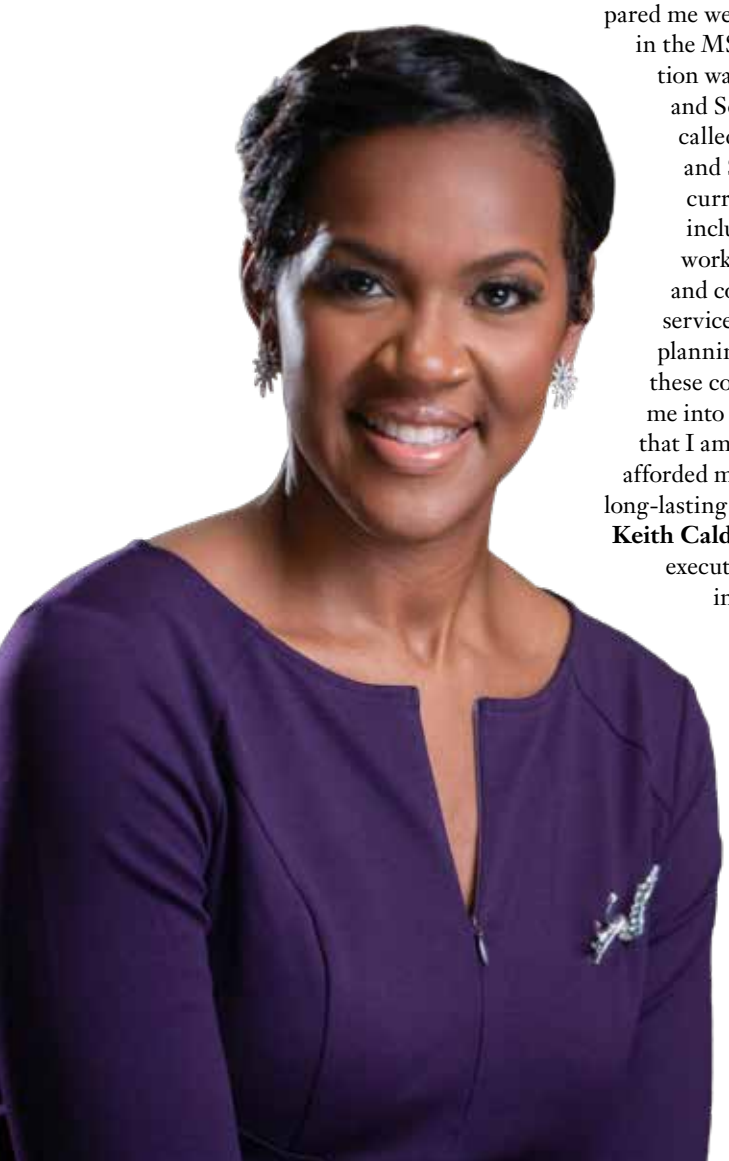
Soska notes, "This exciting partnership between social work and libraries evolves from common community needs that align with both professions. Libraries serve as civic hubs that are essential connectors of information, education, and resources." Libraries remain one of the few places in a community where people can gather to access valuable resources without having to purchase something first. Libraries, as public and civic institutions, and social work, as a professional discipline, share a strengths-based perspective in assisting members of the community. Patrons in libraries and clients in social work are seen not as victims but rather as resourceful and resilient agents of change—proactively seeking information and services that can help them to navigate adverse situations.

> "Libraries are trusted places, and library staff are trusted faces. At Brentwood Library, seniors can pick up their books and a box of food, so the experience is less stigmatizing than visiting the food bank."
>
> —Kelci Degnian



Deans Returns to Pitt in New Role

In October 2022, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work graduate Dan'Talisha Deans (MSW '12) became the inaugural director of development for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) in the University of Pittsburgh Division of Philanthropic & Alumni Engagement. Deans is based in Washington, D.C., but visits the Pittsburgh campus regularly to connect with colleagues, fellow alumni, and donors. We recently caught up with her to ask more about her new role and what it's like returning to Pitt.



Welcome back to Pitt! Can you share more about your role at the University?

"My position is responsible for fundraising that promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging at Pitt. Specifically, this role is responsible for developing strategy that drives engagement and fundraising among diverse populations, particularly underrepresented communities, with a focus on participation, pipeline development, and major gifts fundraising. This role includes collaborating and partnering with [the] Pitt Alumni Association; the Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; [the Division of] Student Affairs; schools; and centers in order to move the needle in this work.

I would say that Pitt Social Work prepared me well for this role. As a student in the MSW program, my concentration was in Community Organizing and Social Administration (now called Community, Organization, and Social Action). The curriculum of this program included courses on fundraising, working with diverse populations and communities, human service management, research, and planning. The skills I gained from these courses have helped to develop me into the professional and leader that I am today. The school also afforded me the opportunity to gain long-lasting mentors that include **Keith Caldwell** (MSW '02), now executive director of place-based initiatives in Pitt's Office of Engagement and Community Affairs, and **Tracy Soska** (BA '74, MSW '78), clinical associate professor emeritus, who have both been by my side on my professional journey since I was a student. I can't thank them enough for how they have supported me. Lastly, under the leadership of former Dean Larry E. Davis, who has since passed away, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Cuba with the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) and was later hired as the first project coordinator for CRSP."

What are some projects that you are excited to work on this year?

"At this point, I am still settling into my role and taking the time to identify areas of priority. As I continue to have conversations with internal and external stakeholders about DEIB ideas, goals, and efforts, I will then be able to identify more projects in this space. Right now, my first call to action is to develop and implement a strategic plan that focuses on fundraising among diverse constituencies inclusive of, but not limited to, BIPOC communities, Latinx [noun needed here?], LGBTQIA+ communities, people with disabilities, veterans, first-generation students, and other underrepresented communities. Some of the projects that will be added to my portfolio include an effort called Elevate All Pitt Voices, continued work around the National Pan-Hellenic Council pilot project, and the Investing in Our Future campaign led by the African American Alumni Council."

Thinking back on your time at Pitt Social Work, what are some of your fondest memories?

"One of my greatest memories as an MSW student at Pitt was serving as the action chairperson for the Civic Action Movement, a student-led organization with a mission to equip the community to advocate and address issues of social justice. One of the major projects I had the opportunity to lead was an effort called Appetite for Advocacy: Political

Empowerment in Social Work. My team and I worked together to invite social workers in politics to serve on a panel to educate, empower, and encourage our social work students. At that time, I had already had a goal to work in the federal service, but I think this nurtured my desire to want to be a Presidential Management fellow, which I became in (year?). I have always enjoyed making this kind of impact in public service."

On your days off from work, what do you enjoy doing for fun?

"Well, since graduating from the MSW program, I gained a very special title. That title is "Mom." In my time off, it brings my heart the greatest joy to spend time with my 1-year-old son, Levi. He is a pretty amazing little guy, and I'm better because of him."

Is there anything else you would like to share with your fellow alumni?

"One of my favorite acronyms is OFLAG, coined by TRP Enterprises, Inc. It reminds me that everything in life is an "opportunity for learning and growth." In my life, I've had a lot of challenges and hurdles that I've encountered along with my successes. Rather than be stifled by those curve balls or brick walls, I decided to rise above the challenges in front of me and make sure I noted any lessons from them because they would only make me stronger. So, my encouragement to everyone is to remember OFLAG on your journeys and to say to any challenges you face, 'Brick wall, get out of my way!' "

Grants



Associate Professor **Jaime Booth** is coinvestigator on the project Investigating Links among Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, Neurobiology, and Internalizing Symptomology funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.



The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is excited to announce a new grant-funded partnership with the Office of Gender-Based Violence at Arizona State University to expand Survivor Link through the Public Health AmeriCorps program. Professor **Sara Goodkind** will manage the program, which will include funding for nine field placements at local nonprofits, training, and networking nationwide with other social work students dedicated to disrupting gender-based violence.



James Huguley, associate professor and associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the School of Social Work, and Ming-Te Wang, professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Education, have received a $4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education to expand their Just Discipline Project model to other middle schools.

A new project led by social work faculty members will be receiving a Faculty Internal Research Pilot Project Grant to explore burnout among BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) graduate students. Taking Off the Cape: Removing the Cloak of Invincibility to Support BIPOC Graduate Students is led by Child Welfare Education for Leadership Academic Coordinator **Alicia Johnson** and includes faculty members **Yodit Betru**, assistant professor and MSW program director; **Aliya Durham**, assistant professor and director of community engagement; **Toya Jones**, assistant professor and BASW program director; and **Deborah Robinson**, field assistant professor.



Assistant Professor **Nev Jones**, Lisa Dixon of Columbia University, and Howard Goldman of the University of Maryland have received a $3.6 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for their project, Optimizing Disability Benefit Decisions and Outcomes in First Episode Psychosis.

Associate Professor **Mary Ohmer** and Jason Beery of the UrbanKind Institute have received a grant from AmeriCorps for their Research for Equity and Power project. Community researcher **Donnell Pearl** will assist with the project.

Research Associate Professor **Mary Rauktis** and Arnold Arluke, professor emeritus at Northeastern University, have been awarded a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to explore pet ownership in lower-income communities. This is the first time ASPCA has funded research at the University of Pittsburgh.



The Pittsburgh Foundation awarded $1.3 million to University of Pittsburgh health sciences researchers through 10 grants, including more than $500,000 for addiction-related research and resources. This funding will support Pitt's Center for Research on Health Care's Department of Medicine's Bridging Connections in Addiction Research, a consortium to develop and nurture a multidisciplinary addiction research community that includes Professor **Daniel Rosen**.



The Richard King Mellon Foundation has awarded the University of Pittsburgh $250,000 to support the Pitt Black Faculty Development Initiative, a program that seeks to improve the lives of Black Pittsburghers by supporting research focused on equity, health, and well-being in the city. This program is part of the larger Race and Social Determinants of Equity, Health, and Well-being Cluster Hire and Retention Initiative. The office of Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Development **John Wallace**, along with the Center on Race and Social Problems in the School of Social Work, will steward the grant.

Publications

Race and Social Problems, the Springer journal that is housed in the Center on Race and Social Problems, has received an increase in its impact score to 2.88, placing it in the top quartile of journals in its category.

Professor **Valire Copeland** wrote two entries in the "Encyclopedia of Social Work": "Black Women and Maternal Death" and, with **Shaun Eack**, professor and associate dean for research, an entry about former Pitt Social Work dean Larry Davis. Copeland also published "Cardiovascular Disease and African American Women" in the spring/summer 2022 edition of the National Association of Social Workers' Health Specialty Practice Section newsletter.

Dean **Betsy Farmer**, postdoctoral fellow **Daniel Lee** (PhD '18), **Christina Huerta** (PhD '21), and doctoral student **Amanda Cruce** completed a study that collected surveys from 1,418 people who were incarcerated at the Allegheny County Jail. The study, requested by the Inmate Welfare Fund of the Jail Oversight Board and funded by the Inmate Welfare Fund and Allegheny County Department of Human Services, focused on jail residents' experiences and views on a variety of issues, with an intent to provide point-in-time data that could drive change and provide a baseline for annual surveys in the jail.



Assistant Professor **Victor Figuereo** published a chapter in "The Edinburgh Companion to the Politics of American Health," titled "The Role of the Health Care System on the Incorporation of Latinxs into American Society."



Professors **Sara Goodkind** and **Jeffrey Shook** and Kess Ballentine (MSW '17, PhD '21) published an article in the December 2022 issue of Health Affairs, titled "How Low-paid Parents Navigate the Complex Financial Landscape of Benefits Cliffs and Disincentive Deserts."

Goodkind, coauthor Beth Sondel, colleagues from the School of Social Work, and other collaborators have completed the report: "Post-Shuman Visioning: Reimagining Safety for Young People and Communities." Pittsburgh's Shuman Juvenile Detention Center was closed due to unsafe conditions in September 2021, and in the aftermath, Allegheny County leaders have been faced with difficult decisions about what comes next.

The Pittsburgh College Access Alliance; Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **James Huguley**; and other researchers from the School of Social Work and Center on Race and Social Problems published a report, "Strength for the Journeys: Lessons from African American Families on Academic Programming and Educational Involvement in Greater Pittsburgh," which discusses findings on African American families' educational involvement and experiences in the greater Pittsburgh area before and during the pandemic.

Results of the Pittsburgh Hospital Workers Survey, produced by Shook and other members of the Pittsburgh Wage Study team, were released in an April 2022 report. This survey was the largest of Pittsburgh hospital workers ever conducted.

Reflections from the Alumni Advisory Board Leadership

"Nothing changes if nothing changes."

I remember hearing this during my first year in the School of Social Work's master's program. I was complaining to a friend about a process I believed to be biased, unfair, and unjust. My friend encouraged me to embody the essence of a social worker rather than wear the label. His exact words were, "If you are that upset, you should do something about it, but don't keep complaining about it. If you feel that strongly about it, you should speak up."

> **"Nothing changes if nothing changes."**



His challenging encouragement was the catalyst that transformed the trajectory of my work as a social worker.

Since that conversation, I have stopped settling for a conscious awareness that systems are broken. Instead, I actively pursue opportunities to create what does not exist and remove what is not working. This is the work we are doing within the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Alumni Advisory Board.

As board chair, I invite you to join me in revising the systems that no longer support our advancement. When we neglect to refine the systems that harm us, we willingly accept the past as our present truth and our children's future.

Today is a great day to get involved and create change together. Will you join us?

Ke'Amber Ford (MSW '20)
Board Chair

In the 2022 fall term, I was asked to speak in an undergraduate social work class. Thrilled, I accepted. Walking into the Cathedral of Learning with the winter decorations in full swing, I was overcome with nostalgia (cheesy, I know). Being given the opportunity to talk about my social work journey to those just starting out was exciting and a great reminder of why I went into this field.



Why do I say all of this? Because the energy of being around other social workers is palpable. If you miss that, just like I did, please consider joining us on the Alumni Advisory Board. It's a wonderful opportunity to give back to the school and to continue building connections we made while there—and to make new ones!

Hope to see you soon!

Ariel Goehring (MSW '17)
Board Vice Chair

There's Still Time to Donate to Pitt Social Work

Feb. 21, 2023, marked the seventh-annual Pitt Day of Giving, the University of Pittsburgh's most important fundraising day of the year. During this 24-hour online event, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of Pitt came together to celebrate the University's founding in February 1787 by making a gift to the areas that mean the most to them.

If you missed Pitt Day of Giving, there's still time to make your donation to Pitt School of Social Work at giveto.pitt.edu/giveSOC. You can also encourage your classmates who may have missed the day to make a gift and feel free to share the link with others in your networks.



2022 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Members of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work community gathered on Oct. 20, 2022, to celebrate the newest group of Distinguished Alumni Award recipients and the first in-person awards ceremony since 2019. Following opening remarks from Dean Betsy Farmer, the program's emcee, Toya Jones (MSW '07), assistant professor and BASW program director, moderated a panel discussion with the awardees about their experiences in the field.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest alumni award conferred by the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Honorees have achieved the highest standards of excellence in their careers, advanced knowledge of the social work profession, and supported policies and practices that champion equal rights for all.

Congratulations to this year's eight Distinguished Alumni Awards recipients!



SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

HELEN CAHALANE (MSW '79, PHD '96)

Principal Investigator, Child Welfare Education and Research Programs, and Clinical Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

Helen Cahalane has primary responsibility for oversight of the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center and two education programs: Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates and Child Welfare Education for Leadership. These programs operate in collaboration with 17 schools of social work in Pennsylvania, including Pitt Social Work. Cahalane works closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services; the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families; and the organization Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators.

Cahalane has focused on workforce development, with particular emphasis on organizational factors that influence retention in public child welfare. She is currently the principal investigator on a workforce excellence grant awarded by the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute and previously served as a coinvestigator for the evaluation of Pennsylvania's Child Welfare Demonstration Project.

Cahalane has been honored with a Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award at Pitt. She also is a licensed clinical social worker, a 45-year member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and an expert witness for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. She has received honors that include the Career Achievement Award from the National Staff Development and Training Association, being named Social Worker of the Year by the Southwest Division of NASW, and the Wilbur I. Newstetter Award from Pitt Social Work.



SOCIAL WORK INNOVATION

KYAIEN O. CONNER (MSW '04, PHD '08)

Associate Professor, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, University of South Florida College of Behavioral and Community Sciences

Kyaien "Kya" Conner is a tenured associate professor of mental health law and policy at the University of South Florida (USF) College of Behavioral Health and Community Sciences. She is chair of the USF Faculty Senate's Council on Racial Justice and serves as the special assistant to the dean on diversity and inclusion. Conner received her bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in social work, a master's degree in public health with a specialization in minority health and health disparities, and a PhD in social work, all from the University of Pittsburgh. She also received postdoctoral training in psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital.

Conner's research investigates the factors that influence disparities in health and mental

health service use and treatment outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities. She focuses on the development and evaluation of culturally meaningful approaches to improving behavioral health for Black Americans. Conner recently coproduced a video series titled "This Is My Brave: Stories from the Black Community," which used storytelling as a culturally sanctioned strategy to amplify the voices of Black and brown Americans with mental illness, to reduce stigma, and to encourage Black Americans living with mental illness or substance use/abuse to seek care.

Conner has received several awards for teaching in addition to recognition for her work as a public speaker. She presents nationally on issues regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion; anti-racism; and race-based trauma and its impact on mental health.



SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP

JAMES BROWNE (MSW '73) AND **NOEL BROWNE** (MSW '74)

[job descriptions needed?]

Noel Browne started out in social work at the nonprofit Easterseals. James Browne started out with eight years of education to be a Catholic priest. Independently, the two decided to enroll in the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. There, they met and decided to get married and start a family. After graduation, James Browne ran into an old classmate. He and the classmate decided to start an investment advisory business that was not insurance based. The interpersonal tools that they learned as social work students were critical for their business to succeed. Today, their business, Allegheny Financial Group, has more than $5 billion under management and more than 100 employees. The same guiding principles that they learned in school continue to guide their business today.

James and Noel Browne have given back to the school where they met by endowing a named chair in social justice and a fellowship to educate non-social work students in social work values.



SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

DARLA L. POOLE (BASW '87, MSW '88)

Chief Operating Officer, Auberle

Darla Poole has been a member of the Auberle executive team since 1998. Auberle's mission is to help build strong individuals, families, and communities throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania. Poole has served in various capacities at the organization, including in-home services manager; director of planning and continuous quality improvement; director of community services; and, currently, chief operating officer. She also has served on several board committees, including personnel, program, and field of vision.

Over the course of her career, Poole has served on the boards of numerous nonprofits serving children, families, and animals. She has led and participated in community collaboratives and groups. She currently represents Auberle as cochair of the Mon Valley Providers Council steering committee and serves on the Human Services Center Mon Valley board of directors.

Poole received the Mon Valley Women of Achievement Award in 2007 and the KDKA Hometown Hero Award in 2016 for her work founding Gray Paws Sanctuary and saving senior dogs. Most recently, she received a Pittsburgh Business Times Women of Influence award in 2019.



ADVANCING EXCELLENCE AWARD

RICHARD GARLAND (MSW '96)

Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health

For the past 30 years, Richard Garland has worked with at-risk youths and adults, specializing in the prevention of violence related to gang and drug activity. He has worked closely with gang leaders and gang-involved youths, helping to facilitate conversations between gang members in the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. His work has been covered by various news outlets, including WESA (Pittsburgh's NPR news station), Pittsburgh City Paper, and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Garland is currently director of the Violence Prevention Initiative in the Pitt Public Health Center for Health Equity. His research examines the reasons for homicides within Pittsburgh and Allegheny County and aims to find sustainable programs and solutions to combat violence in the region. He also coordinates the Gunshot Reoccurring Injury Prevention Services, or GRIPS, project at Pitt Public Health. GRIPS is a research initiative involving gunshot wound victims at four local major trauma units.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICE AWARD

JESSICA MURRAY (MSW '14)

Owner, Jessica Murray, LLC

A two-time Pitt graduate, Jessica Murray graduated with her bachelor's degree from the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences in 2012 and her master's degree from the School of Social Work in 2014.

Since that time, Murray has spent most of her professional career working in the behavioral health department at Auberle, a local nonprofit organization. She began her work in the field as an outpatient therapist with a specialized focus on trauma. Over the course of the eight years that she was involved with the organization, she became a member of the agency's executive team as director of its behavioral health department. While in this role, she earned a workplace certificate in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and led numerous DEI initiatives.

Most recently, Murray started her own business in which she provides therapy services in a private-practice setting, consults with organizations on leadership training and DEI initiatives, and gives back to the profession by supervising up-and-coming clinicians seeking licensure. She also remains connected to the University of Pittsburgh through Pitt Social Work's Alumni Advisory Board, for which she served a two-year term as board chair, and as a mentor for the Panthers Forward program.



RISING STAR AWARD

MIRACLE JONES (MSW '20)

Director of Advocacy and Policy, 1Hood Media

Miracle Jones is a community organizer and queer activist who works in the Pittsburgh area for 1Hood Media. She works to advocate for equity along the intersections of gender, race, and class. Her work focuses on implementing abolition-based principles and transformative justice through writing, policy, and advocacy.

Jones currently serves as vice president of the board of the Pennsylvania Youth Congress, a statewide LGBTQ youth advocacy organization. Previously, she served as a member of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey's community health and safety transition committee, helped to mentor and support the next generation of feminist leaders as part of the Women & Girls Foundation's GirlGov program, and was a featured speaker at the 2021 TEDx event hosted at Carnegie Mellon University.

Do you know a Pitt Social Work alum who is making an impact on the field at a local, regional, national, or international level? Nominate them for a Distinguished Alumni Award! Descriptions of the award categories and nomination form are located on the Pitt Social Work website at socialwork.pitt.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni/distinguished-alumni-nominations.

News and Notes

1960s



The papers of University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Professor Emeritus **EDWARD W. SITES** (MSW '64), dating from 1958 to 2019, are now open for researchers through the University Library System. This collection of papers is a great resource for anyone interested in the history of Pitt Social Work or social work activities in Western Pennsylvania.

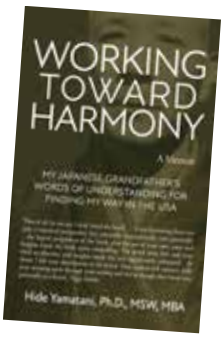
1970s

Civil rights activist and Marshall University social work professor **PHILLIP W. CARTER JR.** (MSW '70) was honored by the City of Huntington, West Virginia, which designated 9th Street between 4th and 5th avenues as Phil Carter Plaza.

RUSSELL CURRY (MSW '72) received the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from Region 4 of the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Curry was recognized for his work as a member of the board of directors of A Caring Place Child Advocacy Center in Wintersville, Ohio.



Pitt Social Work Professor Emeritus **HIDENORI YAMATANI** (MSW '73, PhD '76) released a new book about his life and family. "This memoir focuses on the impact of the life lessons my grandfather taught me in post-WWII Japan," writes Yamatani. "Working toward Harmony: A Memoir: My Japanese Grandfather's Words of Understanding for Finding My Way in the USA" can be found on Amazon.



1980s

JAMES A. CHAVIS (MSW '89) was named head of school of LIFE Male STEAM Academy in Wilkins Township, Pennsylvania.

1990s

MICHAEL BEARY (MSW '93) was appointed by Ireland's minister for health to the board of Tallaght University Hospital, located in Dublin.



FRED W. BROWN JR. (MSW '98), president and CEO of The Forbes Funds, was ranked 13th on the 2022 Nonprofit Pennsylvania Power 100 list by City & State Pennsylvania. Established in 1982, The Forbes Funds support more than 530 human service and community-based nonprofits in Western Pennsylvania.

CATHERINE A. GARVEY (MSW '91) was recognized as one of the American Public Human Services Association's Outstanding Local Members at the 2022 National Health and Human Services Summit. Garvey is director of the Department of Community and Human Services in Alexandria, Virginia. She also serves on the School of Social Work's Board of Visitors.



Then Governor Tom Wolf and First Lady Frances Wolf recognized 11 women, including **TERRY MILLER** (BASW '90, MSW '92), as 2022's Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania, highlighting their extraordinary achievements and contributions to the commonwealth.

MARGARET SMITH (PhD '99), a faculty member in the social work department at Pennsylvania Western University Edinboro since 2004, was honored in March 2022 during the university's 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Awards reception.



The Pitt Alumni Association presented **JOY STARZL** (MSW '97) with the 2022 Bill Baierl Distinguished Alumni Service Award. This award recognizes volunteer service to the University that has had a significant impact on advancing the University's mission. Starzl serves on the School of Social Work's Board of Visitors and created the Joy Starzl Scholarship Fund at Pitt Social Work, which offers financial support to students working toward a Master of Social Work degree.

2000s

PARRIS J. BAKER (PhD '07), an associate professor at Gannon University, was named a scholar-in-residence at the Jefferson Educational Society in Erie, Pennsylvania. Baker also became a regular contributing writer for the society with his new biweekly series, "Truth in Love."

CHARLES SMALL (BASW '06, MSW '07), who rose through the ranks of sports administration at Pitt after four seasons on the basketball team, was named director of athletics at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

2010s

LAUREN BISHOP (MSW '11, PhD '15), associate professor at the University of Wisconsin Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, received the 2022 Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award from the Society for Social Work and Research.

RIKELL FORD (MSW '17), **JOHNNIE GEATHERS** (MSW '13), and **JESSICA GURLEY** (BASW '10, MSW '12) were honored by the New Pittsburgh Courier at the 2022 FAB 40 Awards.

CORDELIA NEMITZ (MSW '18) received the May 2022 Clinical Excellence Award from the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. She is the first social worker to receive this award.

MARK L. RUFFALO JR. (MSW '12) was named codirector of the psychotherapy track for the University of Central Florida's psychiatry residency program. He serves as an instructor of psychiatry at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine and as an adjunct instructor of psychiatry at Tufts University School of Medicine.



KATHRYN VARGAS (MSW '10) was named the City of Pittsburgh's director of parks and recreation. Vargas is responsible for overseeing and providing safe and exceptional parks, facilities, and programs through effective leadership, collaboration, and innovative thinking.

2020s

MICHAEL DUBINSKI (MSW '21) was nominated by his classmates at Marquette University Law School to receive the Ralph J. Huiras Law School Citizen Award and accompanying full-tuition scholarship for his second year of law school.

ANETTE NANCE (MSW '20) was selected as one of 48 emerging leaders for Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.'s 2022-23 Leadership Development Initiative cohort, an eight-month program for high-potential young professionals. This creative and innovative leadership training program has served as a model for several other programs across the country.

Congratulations to **ALIYA DURHAM** (MSW '02), **KIERA MALLETT** (MSW '15), **ANETTE NANCE** (MSW '20), **TIERRA THORNE** (MSW '19), and **KIMBERLY WASHINGTON** (MSW '99) on being named 2023 SWAG (Social Worker Appreciation of Greatness) Award recipients! Created by **SHARISE NANCE** (MSW '06) in 2019, the annual SWAG Awards recognize "social workers in the Greater Pittsburgh area who exemplify servant leadership through their commitment to promoting advocacy, social justice, generational healing and building stronger communities."

In Memoriam

1940s Selma L. Latner (MSW '45)
Anne B. Schwartz (MSW '47)

1950s Amelia P. Bunder (MSW '57)
Frances M. Galardi (MSW '56)

1960s Winfred P. Buckwalter III (MSW '61)
John L. Conway (MSW '65)
Sidney Deutsch (MSW '65)
Lois E. Eisenhard (MSW '60)
Nancy S. Gant (MSW '69)
Carol S. Gongaware (BAS '67)
Ronald Kottler (MSW '60)
Maryann N. Mason (MSW '69)
Richard J. Norwood (MSW '64)
Juanita L. Ryzner (MSW '68)

1970s Joseph E. Cook (MSW '72)
Rita P. Davis (MSW '71)
Ann W. Delo (MSW '74)
Judith R. Elikan (BASW '74)
Evelyn J. Fulton (BA '74)
Runetta C. Gee (MSW '75)
Ellinor R. Huppert (MSW '71)
Mable L. Millner (MSW '76)
Stephanie D. Morrison (BASW '76, MSW '82)
Paul L. Neidhardt (MSW '74)
Jane D. Novinger (MSW '77)
Lenore H. Tishman (MSW '70)
Margaret A. Wilson (MSW '73)
Joan C. Wolfson (MSW '79)

1980s Catherine M. Amann (BASW '80, MSW '83)
Adrienne M. Geiger (MSW '88)
V. Donald Hall Jr. (MSW '82)
Monica A. Ridener (BASW '88, MSW '92)
Randi Rubin (MSW '87)
David A. Steffan (BASW '89)

1990s Michael Friedlander (MSW '93)
Kimberly S. Kuzior (BASW '97, MSW '98)
Jennifer J. Patterson (MS '99)
Marla J. Perlman (MSW '94)
Anthony L. Pugliese, Jr. (MS '97)
Phillip S. Quinque (MSW '96)
Anthony J. Silvestre (PhD '92)
Barbara A. Stoops (MSW '99)

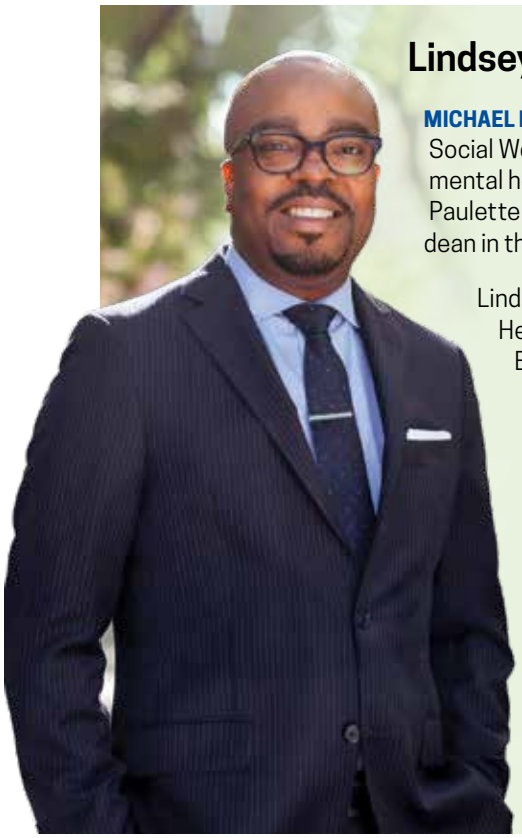
2000s Robert W. Aikin (MSW '04)
Rhoda V. Hickman (MSW '03)
Charlotte C. Manges (MSW '07)
Jason F. Munsie (MSW '09)
Megan A. Nebel (MSW '08)
Caroline T. Skonsky (MSW '01)

2010s Monica A. Wignot (MSW '16)

The Reverend John M. Noah (MSW '83)
March 3, 1943-March 1, 2022

Born in Pittsburgh, Noah lived his whole life as both an ordained Presbyterian minister and a licensed social worker. He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1969 and served churches in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wyoming. He was a member of Palo Duro Presbytery in Lubbock, Texas. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Barbara Beyring Noah.





Lindsey Appointed Dean of NYU Silver School of Social Work

MICHAEL LINDSEY (PhD '02) was appointed dean of the New York University Silver School of Social Work beginning July 1, 2022. Lindsey is an expert on race and child and adolescent mental health and a highly regarded scholar of generational poverty and inequality. He is the Paulette Goddard Professor of Social Work in the Silver School and is the first African American dean in the school's history.

Lindsey is a nationally recognized leader in the field of child and adolescent mental health. He chaired the working group of experts supporting the Congressional Black Caucus Emergency Task Force on Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health, which created the report "Ring the Alarm: The Crisis of Black Youth Suicide in America." He also was appointed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the Community Preventive Services Task Force.

Lindsey is a distinguished fellow of the National Academies of Practice, an Aspen Institute Health Innovators Fellowship recipient, and a fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. Prior to being named NYU Silver dean, Lindsey was the Constance and Martin Silver Professor of Poverty Studies and executive director of the NYU McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research.

Lindsey holds a PhD in social work and an MPH from the University of Pittsburgh, an MSW from Howard University, and a BA in sociology from Morehouse College. Lindsey also completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in public health at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Darrell Wheeler Appointed President of SUNY New Paltz



DARRELL P. WHEELER (PhD '92) was appointed president of the State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz effective July 18, 2022. Wheeler boasts an extensive career in academic leadership and more than 30 years of research and community partnership experience in health disparities research.

Prior to joining SUNY New Paltz, Wheeler served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Iona College. He also served as dean of the School of Social Welfare and vice president for public engagement at the University at Albany and dean of the School of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago, and he has held academic positions at Hunter College, the City University of New York, Columbia University, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Wheeler's extensive scholarly work focuses on Black men who have sex with men communities. He has been the principal investigator on numerous federally funded research projects and currently serves on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Wheeler also is a member of the executive management committee of the HIV Prevention Trials Network, cochair of the HIV Prevention Trials Network Scholars Program, and a member of the Pitt Alumni Association board of directors.

Wheeler uses research, teaching, and community engagement strategies to apply data and evidence-based practices to address health disparities among marginalized and oppressed groups. He also has worked to promote the scholarship and success of underrepresented minorities in higher education through his mentorship and advocacy.

Wheeler received his PhD in social work and MPH in health administration from the University of Pittsburgh, his MSW in health and mental health from Howard University, and his BA in sociology from Cornell College. He served in the U.S. Air Force and as an intern officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

BRANDON THOMAS (BASW '20, MSW '21)

Pitt School of Social Work Offers More than an Education

When I think of who has influenced me and guided me on my life journey thus far, there are many people I could thank, including family, friends, and classmates. But there are some truly exceptional individuals from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work community that deserve special recognition: Keith Caldwell, Jessalynn Oliver, Misha Zorich, Dean Betsy Farmer, Holly Hickling, Catherine Geeno, Brianna Lombardi, and Mary Elizabeth Rautkis. Each one of these people taught, encouraged, and supported me in numerous ways.

I met Caldwell, who is now the executive director of place-based initiatives in Pitt's Office of Engagement & Community Affairs, during my undergraduate studies when I needed a positive male role model. Initially, our conversations centered around what classes to take and when. Later, our conversations were about goals and what I wanted to do with my degree. Then I allowed myself to share my past and present struggles with him. Like many students, I had many different challenges in school, but Caldwell always provided support, wisdom, and encouragement. He didn't always offer advice; it was more about allowing me to talk things out and come up with solutions. Through Caldwell, I could look deep inside myself for encouragement, motivation, and, most importantly, confidence.

I describe Oliver as my cheerleader; she always greeted me with a huge smile. She encouraged me by continuously checking in on how I was and introducing me to everyone who came into her office. She was the person who pushed me to go into the MSW Program, saying, "So you're going on to get your master's, right?" like it was the most natural next step in the world for me.

As I was trying to develop a research/training project while a student, I got amazing guidance from Zorich, whose confidence and influence motivated me to be more sure of myself. She challenged me in many ways. She always wanted to know what I was thinking and why, and she encouraged me to voice my opinions. She taught me that while we are supposed to think carefully before we talk, we can also speak up. With the newfound confidence that she helped to instill in me, I applied for and was accepted to the Edith M. Baker Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Fellowship, which helped me to secure my present job of counseling emergency medical personnel about opioid abuse across a territory that spans the state and covers parts of Ohio and Virginia.

Greeno and Farmer both made it possible for me to finish my undergraduate studies and move into the MSW program, pointing me toward financial support resources when I was unsure if I would be able to afford to complete my final term. They also taught me that it was okay to ask for help and that I should not feel embarrassed. Although I thought other people could benefit more from financial support, they told me I was worthy and that they believed in me. Something I learned from that experience that I bring to my patients in my current practice is that there are two parts to help: asking and accepting. Many of us can get over the hurdle of asking, but the real challenge is accepting the help offered and understanding that you are worthy of it.

So many others played a role in my success in the MSW program. Lombardi, who has since left Pitt, and Rauktis helped me with my scholastic efforts, and I want to thank them for their tireless efforts in helping me to become a researcher and presenter.

Hickling, who then was the head of the Honors College Research Fellowship, which I was honored to receive, kept in touch with me and encouraged me even after the fellowship ended. Her guidance led me to become a staff member of the University of Pittsburgh's PERU program, training first responders on the opioid public health crisis.

All these beautiful individuals have taught me many life lessons that I have taken with me out into the field and pass on to the populations I serve. There are three lessons that really stick out to me:

- Look deep within yourself for the confidence, encouragement, and strength to push forward.
- Things may not always happen the way you want them to; they happen the way they are supposed to, and with patience and calmness, you may realize that your situation turned out better than you could have imagined. We as humans look for the instant gratification but should learn to seek the long-term satisfaction.
- Never give up! I can remember after leaving these mentors' offices, I was almost always smiling and always felt better. I knew I could keep going.



Why I Give:

ELIZABETH MULVANEY, LCSW
Direct Practice Chair and Clinical Assistant Professor,
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work



Please tell us more about your role at Pitt Social Work.

The central part of my work for the past 11 years has been teaching master's and bachelor's degree students. I am energized by having the chance to learn from such talented groups of emerging social workers.

I began working part time for the school in 2005 as its first Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) coordinator, which allowed me to encourage more people to pursue geriatric social work (something I still do). For the past two years, I have been doing a bit more administratively by serving as the Direct Practice chair for the MSW Program.

What motivates you to give back to the school?

As someone who has mostly worked in the nonprofit sector, I have always thought I need to believe in the mission and work of my employer. And if I believe in it, I need to support my employer in the same way that I would support other causes. I believe in our students; I believe in the service they will provide to people, families, and communities; and I believe in their potential to transform our world little bit by little bit. I know my donations help to enable them to do that.

Do you support a specific fund or program at the school?

While my donations support many aspects of the school (such as scholarships), I always dedicate part of my giving to the HPPAE and gerontology programs in the school. We are an aging society that has not reimagined the way our systems are designed to take advantage of the potential that new reality offers. I am excited to see how our gerontology students are working to eliminate ageism and shape new ways for people to thrive at all ages.

What other causes or organizations do you support?

I financially support a variety of causes, including social services, legal services, education, health and aging interests, and the arts. I also volunteer time and effort in the area of aging, particularly with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging and Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh.

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School of Social Work

2117 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Ave.
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The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and the Center on Race and Social Problems present the Florence Gibbs Momeyer Endowed Lecture featuring



photo by Rosalie Winard

Temple Grandin, PhD

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

6 p.m.

University Club
123 University Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Register today at urltocome.pitt.edu.

If you are unable to attend in person, the lecture will be live-streamed.

The Florence Gibbs Momeyer Endowed Lecture was established to advance understanding of timely social work topics in the areas of equity, inclusion and human rights.

Sponsored by the School of Social Work and the Center on Race and Social Problems