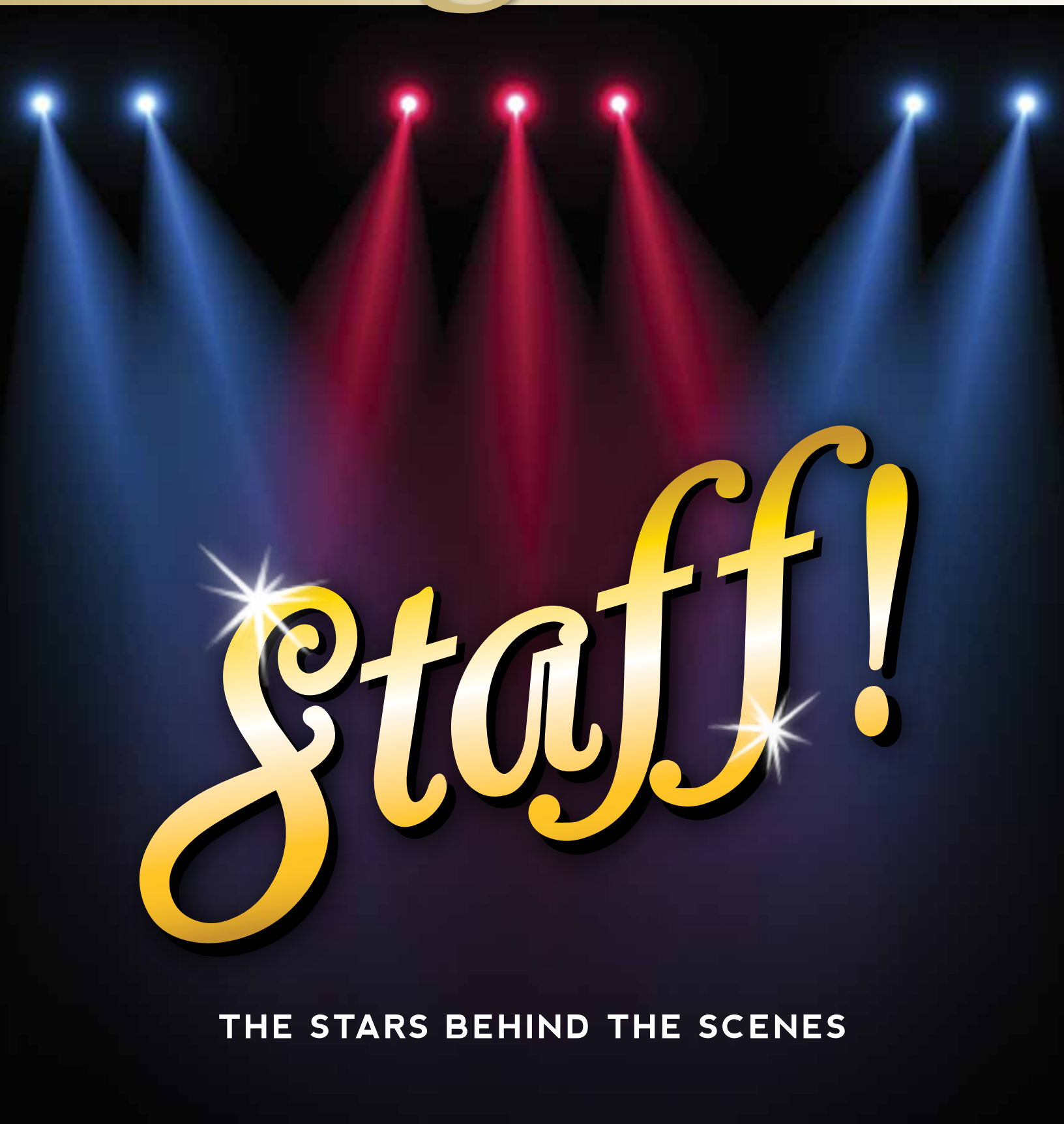
Bridges

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MAGAZINE SPRING 2014



THE STARS BEHIND THE SCENES

Bridges

Bridges is the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work 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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Greetings Alumni and Friends,

After what has been a very tough, very long winter, I am happy to welcome you to the spring 2014 issue of *Bridges*.

This issue is filled with news and photos that highlight the school's dynamic staff members, some of whom have been here for almost half a century. No orientation program, information session, speaker series, or alumni event could have taken place without the hard work of the school's staff.

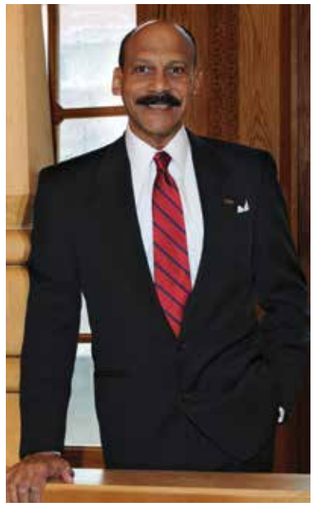
Unquestionably, the long-term success of the school has been due in no small part to the innovative ideas and tireless dedication of the men and women who run its programs and departments. Staff members work both in front of and behind the scenes; they are most often the first to greet students upon their arrival, the last to see them off as newly minted graduates, and the people who students may seek out to sustain future contacts with the school. Most certainly, this tribute to our staff is one that is long overdue and most assuredly deserved. We do hope that you enjoy this issue, and in particular, we hope that you enjoy viewing the photos of some individuals who you might not have seen for years.

This spring, we are happy to welcome two new field education coordinators, Vanessa Beck and Cecily Davis, to the Office of Field Education. They are both already making significant contributions to the field office and the school. We also are pleased to welcome our new director of constituent relations, Tony Gacek. I'm sure many of you will be hearing from Tony in the coming months. It is indeed our hope that, with your support, we can create additional opportunities for our students such as those afforded by the James J. and Noel W. Browne Leadership Fellows Program (see page 4).

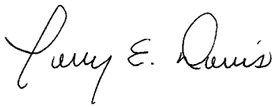
Research always has been an integral part of the school's mission. No one understood that more than former doctoral program director Barbara K. Shore, who passed away last fall. Shore's forward-thinking policies still are impacting the school and the profession. For example, three years ago, the school hosted a major meeting for the national Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE), which Shore helped to found.

This past January, the school also lost a great friend and advocate with the passing of Wendell Freeland, a longtime Board of Visitors member and former Tuskegee Airman. Freeland was a fascinating man who was a leader during some of America's most turbulent civil rights struggles. The school has benefited greatly from the contributions of such trailblazers as Shore and Freeland.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that the school is continuing to enjoy strong enrollments, wonderful and unique opportunities for students, and a rigorous academic environment. In short, the school is doing very well. As always, we invite you to visit us in person or online, and you are always welcome to join us for our speaker series in the Cathedral of Learning. Visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu for dates and times.



"UNQUESTIONABLY, THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN DUE IN NO SMALL PART TO THE INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND TIRELESS DEDICATION OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO RUN ITS PROGRAMS AND DEPARTMENTS."



Larry E. Davis
Dean
Donald M. Henderson Professor

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MSW Program

This year, the Master of Social Work program welcomed an incoming class of 220 students who are more diverse than ever before. The MSW orientation was expanded to include events spanning three days, giving new students a chance to meet academic advisors, faculty curriculum coordinators, field advisors, and student leaders and learn basic graduate school survival information.

The addition of a student support coordinator eased the transition to Pittsburgh for students from out of town by providing help with everything from finding a suitable apartment on the bus line to online registration for classes.

The program also welcomed new full-time faculty member Gerald Cochran, who teaches Health Systems and Public Policy, and new adjunct instructors Portia Adams, Carol Brackett, Hilary Brown, Linda Deafenbaugh, Melissa Hardoby, Veronica Kozar, Nathaniel Morley, Shirley Salmon-Davis, Michelle Snyder, and Michael Yonas. Our new adjunct advisor is Romodore Abdullah.

Several informal gatherings were held for the program's international students, allowing them to meet each other and build support networks. For the first time, international students could elect to share Thanksgiving dinner with a faculty member and his or her family.

In December, the program celebrated MSW graduations at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (17 graduates) and the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (17 graduates) as well as on the Pittsburgh campus (57 graduates).

A new advanced elective, Social Work Practice and Traumatic Stress, also is being offered. Several additional offerings are currently under development, as are new partnerships with other professional schools that will enhance interdisciplinary education for MSW students.

Finally, 11 MSW students competed in the 2013 Allegheny County Department of Human Services Local Government Case Competition. The School of Social Work placed the most students on prize-winning teams of any professional school in the competition. Participating students were Laura E. Ashcraft (MSW '13), Curtis Conrad, Megan Fabbri, Elizabeth Gordon (MSW '13), Chenlin Liao, Yanan Liu, Stephanie Miller, Tiffany Smith (third place), Yiqun Sun (third place), Andrea Thurau (MSW '13) (first place), and Qian Zhu (second place). ■





Top photo pictured from left to right: Jennifer Barbish (Class of 2015), Cheryl Tingley (MSW '09), Karen Emerson (MSW '11), and Frankie Johnson (MSW '09); Bottom photo: Eric Peters (MSW '11), Steve Joyce (MSW '13) (in background), and Tony Sowers (MSW '11).

Browne Leadership Fellows Program Preparing Civic Leaders

The James J. and Noel W. Browne Leadership Fellows Program is an interdisciplinary fellowship aimed at preparing students to be engaged civic leaders working for economic and social justice.

The Browne Leadership Fellows Program in the School of Social Work is consistent with the mission of the undergraduate social work program to advocate for social policies and resources to meet basic human needs; to create accessible, responsible, and accountable human service programs; and to deliver quality services to those in need of support.

Undergraduate students from across Pitt are invited to apply to participate in a spring term seminar in preparation for participating in summer community action projects. The 2013 fellows partnered with organizations in Manchester, Millvale, and South Oakland, receiving hands-on experience in community change. ■



The 2013 Browne fellows with James (third from right) and Noel (far left) Browne and Dean Larry Davis (far right), from left to right: Zeba Ahmed, Pietra Bruni, Miriam "Mimi" Frisch, Nora Fergany, Zachary Segal, Dominique Benzio, Kimaya Padgaonkar, and Samantha Levinson

WELCOME, NEW STAFF



VANESSA BECK



CECILY DAVIS



TONY GACEK

VANESSA BECK (MSW '10) and **CECILY DAVIS** (MSW '09) are new field education coordinators in the Office of Field Education.

TONY GACEK is the new director of constituent relations.



DEAN INDUCTED INTO PRESTIGIOUS SOCIETY

Dean Larry E. Davis was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare on January 18, 2014, at the academy's induction ceremony in San Antonio, Texas. Davis was one of 17 inductees who, according to the academy's Web site, "represent an elite group of social work teachers, researchers, and leaders who have dedicated their professional careers to the advancement of the profession."

The academy is an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare through high-impact work that advances social good.

RECEPTION FOR CARL HART



Dean Larry E. Davis hosted a reception for Carl Hart on February 11, 2014. Hart gave the lecture "Challenging Assumptions about Drugs" the following day in the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic auditorium. Hart is an associate professor of psychology in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at Columbia University.

2014 SPRING SPEAKER SERIES

All lectures are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning. Lunch will be provided; registration is not required.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture
"Social Work Interventions to Improve Cognition and Recovery in Schizophrenia and Autism"
SHAUN EACK, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY
Sidney A. Teller Lecture
"Recognizing and Supporting the Global Social Service Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities"
ROBIN S. MAMA, Dean, School of Social Work, Monmouth University

REED SMITH SPRING 2014 SPEAKER SERIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
"Race, Equity, and Urban Education: Issues That Divide"
H. RICHARD MILNER, Professor of Education; Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education; and Director, Center for Urban Education, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh

MONDAY, MARCH 3
"Americans by Heart: Undocumented Latino Students and the Promise of Higher Education"
WILLIAM PEREZ, Associate Professor of Education, School of Educational Studies, Claremont Graduate University

THURSDAY, APRIL 8
"Navigating Toxic Inequality"
THOMAS M. SHAPIRO, Director, Institute on Assets and Social Policy, and Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
"'Jedi' Public Health: A Structural Approach to Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Health Inequality"
ARLINE T. GERONIMUS, Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, and Associate Director and Research Professor, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BASW Program

The 2013–14 academic year has been another exciting one for the BASW program. The program continues to grow, with student enrollments increasing for the third consecutive year and graduates going on to exciting social work jobs as well as graduate programs. BASW students continue to shine both inside and outside the classroom.

- Senior **Nick Chubb**, an intern at Just Harvest, wrote a letter in response to a *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* editorial regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding cuts in Pennsylvania.
- Junior **Kristen Hochreiter** continued to build upon her study abroad experience in Africa by working to raise money to support the economic empowerment of young people in Uganda.
- Junior **Alyssa Kurtz** worked with her service sorority to coordinate a fundraiser to support four Pitt students who were left homeless by a Thanksgiving Day explosion.
- BASW students joined more than 3,200 classmates for Pitt Make A Difference Day.

The contributions of these students are only a small example of how undergraduates exemplify the values of the social work profession every day. To learn more about the BASW program, please visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu/academics/bachelor-arts-social-work-basw. ■

BASW Student Research Accepted at National Conference

Senior **Brittany McBryde** was invited to present at the 2014 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). McBryde will present findings from her study, The Impact of "Confidence" on Nurse Practitioner Referral Rates for Diabetes and Tobacco Usage. This interdisciplinary research was conducted with Betty Braxter from the School of Nursing with support from the Center on Race and Social Problems and the Division of Student Affairs.

The mission of NCUR is to promote undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity done in partnership with faculty members or other mentors as a vital component of higher education. ■



Congratulations, Brittany!

NEW BASW CLUB LEADERS ELECTED

The BASW Club strives to promote and enhance the development of the academic and social aims and interests of BASW students. Actively working to promote student and community interest in and interaction with the School of Social Work through monthly meetings and service projects, it plays a critical role in the strength of the BASW program.

Club officers:

President
ALYSSA BELSTERLING

Vice President
KRISTEN HOCHREITER

Internal Secretary
SHEILA KIRKPATRICK

Business Manager
EMILY GERLACH

External Secretary
JULIE CARMEN

To learn more about the BASW Club and upcoming events and activities, visit **www.socialwork.pitt.edu/student-resources/basw-club** or e-mail **baswclub@gmail.com**.

Summer Research Program Announced

During the summer of 2014, research opportunities will be offered to two to three BASW students in the areas of behavioral health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and gerontology. Aspects of education and community development also will be integrated into this research. Students will work eight to ten hours weekly throughout the summer term and will be awarded a stipend.

For more information, visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu/researchtraining/undergraduate-research.

Center on
Race & Social Problems

Race Research ONLINE Directory

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE RACE RESEARCH ONLINE DIRECTORY?

The Web site, **www.crsp.pitt.edu**, of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work's Center on Race and Social Problems has always been a great source for race-related research and other center activities. But with its searchable database, you can connect instantly to 10 years' worth of videos, publications, and other center information—a treasure trove of data helpful for research, grant preparation, and teaching. It is a truly unique repository for race-related information from top researchers, scholars, educators, practitioners, and policymakers.

Users can access information on CRSP's seven areas of focus: education; economics; criminal justice; race relations; health; mental health; and families, youth, and the elderly.

Among the resources included in the directory are more than 100 videos of lectures from the speaker series, summer institutes, and Race in America conference; pilot studies and other research projects at the center; hundreds of publications, including the journal *Race and Social Problems*; educational resources, such as graduate course listings and award-winning student papers; and a listing of all center activities.

WWW.CRSP.PITT.EDU



THE DIRECTORY CONTAINS RACE-RELATED INFORMATION AND RESOURCES SUCH AS:

- More than 100 videos of lectures from the speaker series, summer institutes, and Race in America conference
- Pilot studies and other research projects at the center
- Hundreds of publications, including the journal *Race and Social Problems*
- Educational resources, such as graduate course listings and award-winning student papers
- A listing of all center activities



Staff members first row (left to right):
Monica Ceraso, Shannon Murphy, Dan'Talisha Deans, Michael Schrecengost, Laura Stephany, Rosie Rinella, and Mary Pat Elhattab

Back row (left to right):
Marcia Piel, Amy DeGurian, Megan Soltesz, Frank Puchalski, Vanessa Beck, Lynda Rose, Darlene Davis, Tony Gacek, Rachel Winters, Theresa Fabrizio, John Dalessandro, Colleen Scholl, and Deborah Robinson

Staff!

TAKE CENTER STAGE

A new graduate student walks into the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. He's not only new to the school and the University, he's new to Pittsburgh. He's not sure what to take care of first or where to go. A staff member puts down what she's working on to answer not only the questions he has but also the ones he didn't even know to ask. She's gracious as she gives him as much of her time as he needs. You would never know that she has a document she has to finish if she's going to get out of the office on time. But by the time the student leaves, he's clear about what he needs to do. He's also gotten a few tips about the best place to grocery shop in his new neighborhood and how to find a good mechanic for his car. He walked in wanting to take care of necessary paperwork. He walked out beginning to feel like part of a community.

Going over and above the call of duty—that's what the staff of the School of Social Work does day in and day out. Dean Larry E. Davis calls the support, administrative, and professional staff members the school's "unsung heroes." He is voluble in his praise. "They really do a lot of good work. They relate to students. They're committed to the students and to the school. Often they're like the stage crew behind the stage.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

They make sure the lights come on and that all the props are in the right place, all the materials are there for registration, students get registered for classes on time, and everything goes off for commencement. They make sure that the school runs well," he says. "It's one thing to say you want a good school, but it's another thing to have really dedicated, loyal people who make that happen."

Morton Coleman (MSW '60), professor emeritus of social work, director emeritus of Pitt's Institute of Politics, and onetime acting dean of the School of Social Work, has seen the inside of many community organizations, foundations, and corporations. What strikes him is the way the staff at the School of Social Work not only carry out their jobs but do so in a way that reflects the mission of the school.

"The way the staff relate to the whole world outside is really important," he says. "They're the point-of-contact people, and they're remarkably nice and thoughtful. Whether they're in the dean's office or any of the staffing offices, they're so respectful and pleasant and easy to deal with and efficient. They produce an image of the school that's a very positive image. Social work is supposed to be a caring profession, and the staff is a caring staff. They are nice to and concerned with people when they come in, when they have problems. I've noticed that over all the years that I've been there—and that's a long time."

The staff have two basic roles, Coleman adds. "One is to support the academic activity of the school," he says. "But maybe as important is that they're the face of the school to the community. That face has been a really good face over all these years."

One of the first faces people see when they step into the dean's office is that of Monica Ceraso, receptionist and administrative assistant. "Monica certainly typifies the idea of being really pleasant, nice, caring, and efficient," says Coleman. Her job as the greeter is important, says the dean, adding that everybody who comes in wants to show her new baby pictures or chat about what's been going on with them. "She's the social chair," Davis says, adding that she's in a tough spot because of all the other work she is expected to accomplish in addition to making visitors feel welcome.

"THEY'RE THE FACE OF THE SCHOOL TO THE COMMUNITY. THAT FACE HAS BEEN A REALLY GOOD FACE OVER ALL THESE YEARS."

-MORTON COLEMAN, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SOCIAL WORK

Davis also points with pride to what he calls his "kitchen cabinet." These are the senior staff members who meet every Monday morning to review the latest in each area—the status of grant applications, say, or the number of doctoral candidates or enrollment trends. They also play a role as his unofficial advisors, he says. "They're thinkers. They take their task to improve the school seriously," he says, adding, "That's why I think the school has done so well. They don't just carry out their own functions; I use them to help me think about the mission and the future of the school."

He mentions Director of Finance and Business Megan Soltesz, who he says is so much more than a number cruncher. "Meg will come to me with ideas about how to improve the budget. She's not just coming to me and saying, 'You have $10,000 for this and you have $5,000 for that.' She's actually coming with an idea about what to do about the state of our financial affairs. I refer to her as the [Troy] Polamalu of the school: She is all over the place. She is committed, she works hard, but she also sees things outside of her lane, so to speak. She's not just playing her position. She'll make comments about whatever it is in the school that she thinks needs to happen."

Director of Field Education John Dalessandro is another senior staff member. A former medical social worker with an interest in end-of-life care, Dalessandro works with the roughly 500 agencies with whom Pitt partners for social work students' field practicums. Says the dean, "He's just wonderful. He's conscientious. People love him."

Before Davis became an administrator, he taught group work. That's what his Monday morning meetings are like, he says. He feels a palpable sense of achievement when members of his kitchen cabinet assist each other with something that is challenging one of them. "They're sharing ideas and helping each other," he says. "They're a thinking group, not just a task group." In fact, he says, "You'd think people would be not so happy about a Monday morning meeting, but that's not true. They come; they talk; and when the meeting's over, they keep talking." When he leaves the room at 10:30, they're still talking, he laughs. "They like each other. The staff is a very good group."

The staff is a very important part of the team, says Associate Professor Emeritus Mary H. Page, adding that no program can be effective without having a sense of teamwork, commitment, and loyalty. "The mission of the school itself suggests that there are certain qualities that are very, very important. Some of the staff see students, members of the community, field instructors, and other people who work throughout the larger system of the University. They are in contact with them all the time," she says, "so it behooves them to be able to use a range of skills—interpersonal as well as technical skills—in order to make the kind of contribution that they do. And this we have seen."

Page remembers her first secretary at the school more than 40 years ago—a jewel, she calls her. "I was head of group work," she says. "Louise [Webb] had been there when I came into the school. Even though I had been a field instructor and had connections with the field, coming into a school for full-time work—that's a whole different bag. But she knew the ropes. She was so helpful in getting me oriented to a position there. I don't know what I would have done without her."

"IT'S ONE THING TO SAY YOU WANT A GOOD SCHOOL, BUT IT'S ANOTHER THING TO HAVE REALLY DEDICATED, LOYAL PEOPLE WHO MAKE THAT HAPPEN."

-LARRY E. DAVIS, DEAN

Even more than that, because of Webb's connections with other staff and faculty members as well as with people throughout the University, she was able to share extraordinarily helpful insights and information with Page. "We should never underestimate the value that the staff brings to the whole," Page says. "Working relationships, being able to have a laugh together, as well as the willingness to do more than one is asked—these things all make a big difference in creating the kind of place that a school of social work should be."

Yes, as the new graduate student found out on his first day, it's not just that the staff gets the job done. It's the way that they go about it—with care, with commitment, and with grace. Let's hear it for our unsung heroes. It's time for the staff of the School of Social Work—for the staff that is the great big heart of the place—to take a bow. ■



Office of the Dean (left to right): Darlene Davis, Colleen Scholl, Rosie Rinella, Monica Ceraso, and Megan Soltesz

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

The Office of the Dean pulsates with activity. Phones ring and visitors stop in every day. But the office doesn't miss a beat thanks to the right people being in the right positions. The dean's engagements—from meeting with a student to speaking at a conference—are managed by the assistant to the dean, who also books the school's speaker series, edits *Bridges* magazine, oversees special projects, and provides staff support to the faculty search and promotion and tenure committees—and that's just barely scratching the surface. All endeavors are not only meticulously planned but carefully considered in terms of cost efficiency. Keeping a watchful eye on the school's budget is the finance and business director, who oversees the day-to-day operations and long-term planning for all business, financial, compliance, and research administration activities within the school. The office's administrative staff members provide support in multiple ways, from greeting students to managing payroll to coordinating activities for continuing education, cosponsored education, and the school's Institute of Peer Education. They embody what the Office of the Dean is there to do—support the students, faculty, and staff of the School of Social Work.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT/ OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

With dozens of lectures, conferences, and events held annually, the School of Social Work strives to engage not only its more than 10,000 alumni but the entire Pittsburgh region in the groundbreaking work being done at the school. It's a lot of territory to cover, but these two offices have perfected the art. The Office of Development plays a critical role in maintaining the school's relationships with its alumni and also cultivates opportunities for alumni to support their school through gifts—large or small—given now or pledged for the future. Such gifts can fund scholarships and fellowships that give today's students the opportunity to be involved in cutting-edge research and practice in the field. The Office of Marketing and Communications works to shape the school's image, influence key stakeholders, and enhance understanding of and participation in school activities. It provides direction and oversight for advertising, Web design, and social media and serves as the liaison to the University's Departments of News Services and Communications Services.



Office of Marketing and Communications: Shannon Murphy
Office of Development: Tony Gacek



OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Keeping the school's technology lightning fast is its Office of Information Technology (IT), which delivers a comprehensive and wide range of technology and support services to the School of Social Work. From helping with a desktop issue to upgrading software to overseeing two student computer labs, the school's sole IT staff member is kept on his toes. The office also administers the school's file servers and assists faculty and staff by providing the capability to create ad hoc database reports using the University's major database systems. Web-enabled surveys are generated and maintained and video/audio recordings of school-sponsored lectures and presentations (both on-and off-campus) are facilitated by the office's staff member. He also works closely with Marketing and Communications to provide support for Web site updates along with managing digital signage systems.

Office of Information Technology: Frank Puchalski

STUDENT SERVICES

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Approximately 600 students are enrolled annually in the school's undergraduate and graduate degree programs. That's a lot of academic goals, hopes, and dreams to be reached. The associate dean for academic affairs, three program directors, and the school's recorder lean heavily on the student services specialist for assistance. This individual helps with posting transfer credits, reviewing academic records at the end of each term, registering incoming students, updating and maintaining advising lists, and approving doctoral dissertation submissions.



Academic Programs:
Mary Pat Elhattab

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

It's the first stop for the next generation of social workers. Each year, the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid strives to enroll an outstanding and diverse group of future or current social work professionals who are committed to economic, community, and social justice. Serving in a gatekeeping role for the School of Social Work, the office is a destination for prospective students and processes all student applications. The office is involved in making all admission decisions for BASW and MSW students (PhD admission decisions are made by faculty) as well as in deciding scholarship awards and helping students to apply for financial aid. All on- and off-campus recruitment events, such as school fairs and information sessions, are planned and coordinated by the office.



Office of Admissions and Financial Aid:
Theresa Fabrizio and Philip Mack

OFFICE OF THE RECORDER

Details and more details. They're the bread and butter of the Office of the Recorder, which has a hand in nearly every aspect of the social work student's educational journey. The office handles tasks ranging from registration to grade verification to responding to inquiries about program requirements. And that's not just at the Pittsburgh campus but also for the Master of Social Work programs at the Bradford and Johnstown campuses. For those up-and-coming graduates, the Office of the Recorder confirms their courses, credits, and GPA requirements to ensure that their names are added to the list in the University's commencement program. Faculty members and program directors also rely on the staff for coordinating course schedules and classroom assignments through the Office of the University Registrar. Additionally, the recorder assists in the compilation of annual statistical reports and creates appointment letters for faculty teaching assignments.



Office of the Recorder:
Marcia Piel and Mary Pat Elhattab

OFFICE OF FIELD EDUCATION

The best way to learn is by doing. Through the Office of Field Education, bachelor's and master's students apply what they've learned in the classroom to real-life practical situations. To make this happen, staff members work to provide all students with an individualized structured field internship experience by partnering with more than 400 agencies that provide more than 925 placement sites for social work students. During the fall 2013 term, the office placed more than 400 students in sites all over Pennsylvania and even in New York State. The office also emphasizes providing service while learning social work practice. The result? More than 300,000 hours of service have been provided annually to the community through partner social service agencies and organizations.

The recent addition of two new field coordinators has allowed for continuity of service and specialization of the workload to increase internal and external customer satisfaction.



Office of Field Education (left to right): Deborah Robinson, Cecily Davis, John Dalessandro, Amy DeGurian, and Vanessa Beck

Center on Race and Social Problems (at right): Dan'Talisha Deans



CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

The path toward social justice requires not only drive and passion but also someone who can crunch numbers, organize data, and keep long-term (and often complex) projects on task and on time. The project coordinator for the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) oversees all aspects of selected research endeavors for CRSP, which was established in 2002 to help lead America in its efforts toward equality by conducting research, mentoring emerging scholars, and disseminating knowledge.

CRSP's project coordinator additionally supports this mission by developing standardized formats for reports, establishing target dates, managing project schedules, and writing findings based on data. Training and supervising other project personnel, facilitating team meetings, maintaining project files, and developing creative ways to produce quality project outcomes also are part of the project coordinator's daily schedule.

RESEARCH PROJECT ON AUTISM AND SCHIZOPHRENIA

Research with impact is a core principle for the School of Social Work. One major study already is offering potentially groundbreaking results: the Advanced Support and Cognitive Enhancement for Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ASCEND) Program. ASCEND is composed of a team of talented researchers and committed clinicians studying the use of cognitive enhancement therapy and enriched supportive therapy. Led by assistant professor Shaun Eack, ASCEND conducts several studies in which individuals with either autism or schizophrenia are provided with research-based psychosocial treatments. The program uses these novel interventions to improve the cognitive functioning and quality of life of those living with the disorders. Initial results have been encouraging and could offer people with autism and schizophrenia a drug-free comprehensive treatment option that has never before existed.

ASCEND staff members (not pictured) are Summer McKnight, Scott Barb, and Sarah Schreiber.



Child Welfare Resource Center (left to right): Yvonne Pyne (front); Lucinda Gore and Wendy Unger (middle row); Ellen Fraker, Eugene Detter, and Rob Winesickle (back row)



Allegheny County Department of Human Services Training and Student Internships (left to right): Michele Kustra, Kaneca Austin, Margie Remele-Erwine, and Corrie Harold



Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates and Child Welfare Education for Leadership programs (left to right): Lynda Rose, Rachel Winters, Michael Schrecengost, Laura Stephany, and Yvonne Hamm. Not pictured: Dou-Yan Yang

CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS

CHILD WELFARE RESOURCE CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Improving life outcomes for children and their families is no small feat. It's a mission that requires multiple levels of support and collaboration. The staff of the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs (CWERP) strive to strengthen child welfare services to children and families in Pennsylvania by adding to the number of educated professionals equipped to deal with the increasingly complex demands of public child welfare practice. Many of these current or future professionals are students in the school's Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates and Child Welfare Education for Leadership programs, for which CWERP provides administrative, research, and programmatic support to faculty and students. This includes data system design, development, and maintenance; budgeting and financial management; and research related to child welfare practice and classroom instruction.

Adding to the efforts to educate change makers is the school's Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC), a national leader in training direct service workers, supervisors, administrators, and resource (kin or nonkin) parents to provide social services to abused and neglected children and their families. It provides children and youth agencies with individualized training and technical assistance services and is a national leader in providing organizational effectiveness interventions to public child welfare agencies and in developing continuous quality improvement initiatives designed to improve the outcomes of children and families served by the child welfare system.

Finally, CWRC will assist the Allegheny County Department of Human Services in recruiting and supporting resource parents. In October 2013, the county received nearly $2 million in federal grants to help match children of all ages to foster homes. ■

A "Rosie" Outlook

Even after all these years, Rosemary Rinella has a soft spot in her heart for her old Royal manual typewriter. They were quite a team. Those keys could clatter as fast as she could type. Not only did Rinella have speed, but her work also was flawless. If Wite-Out was counting on much business from her in those years, it was out of luck.

Come May 6, 2014, Rinella, assistant to the dean, will have completed 46 years on the staff of the School of Social Work. The Royal manual may be gone, but Rinella's role at the school has only evolved. She has grown from a capable young woman about to graduate from high school to a consummate professional with a multifaceted position of responsibility. Along the way, she's gotten married, raised a family, and worked for four deans. And she's still going strong. "I really love my job," she says. "It's been a wonderful experience and career."

"The queen of social work," John Wilds says exuberantly. The assistant vice chancellor for community relations has known Rinella for a long time. "You will not find a more wonderful human being than Rosie," he says. "She's always ready to help you solve any problem. She has this passion for what she does, and she does it well."

Professor Emeritus Morton Coleman had just come from the mayor's office in 1970 to be the school's acting dean when he met Rinella. "For a 17-year-old, she had mature judgment. She was very diplomatic—exactly what you need. If you wanted to get something done, it was always done right," he remembers. "An administrative assistant is sort of an extension of yourself, and she was a better extension of me than I was!"

"I can't do anything without Rosie. She keeps me on schedule and on target," Dean Larry E. Davis says. He laughs about his schedule being so complicated that he has to check with Rinella before he even makes plans to go to a movie. "She's the collective memory for the school," he adds. "She's seen it change a lot, too. It would be impossible to run the school without her."

The dean jokes that Rinella's job is to look after him. But, in truth, he has significantly expanded her authority and responsibilities. Many of the school's flagship projects and events are under her purview. In 2010, she played a big role in managing the ambitious Race in America conference put on by the School of Social Work and Center on Race and Social Problems. In addition to her duties as assistant to the dean and manager of personnel and administrative services, Rinella oversees the School of Social Work Speaker Series and is the assistant editor of *Bridges* magazine. "The dean has given me a lot of decision-making roles that I didn't have previously, but I have enjoyed them thoroughly," she says.

Jim McDonald (MSW '82), head of global philanthropy for the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation and a member of the school's Board of Visitors, has maintained a relationship with Rinella that goes all the way back to his days as a student in the 1980s. "I always knew I could turn to Rosie," he says. "She has boundless energy and warmth. You always felt you were part of her family. And she treats everyone the same way."

Anyone who has seen Rinella angry on the job isn't stepping forward. She is reputed to never lose her cool—a quality this youngest of nine children attributes to her mother. "She was the strongest woman I have ever known. She kept her cool, was always calm, and handled things as they came up," says Rinella. "I am my mother's daughter. If I feel myself getting overwhelmed, I sit for a minute, collect myself, and then keep moving. That's how I've lived my life."

As a philosophy, it's short and sweet, a proven winner — just like Rinella.



"You will not find a more wonderful human being than Rosie. She's always ready to help you solve any problem. She has this passion for what she does, and she does it well."

-JOHN WILDS,
ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A Message from the Office of Development

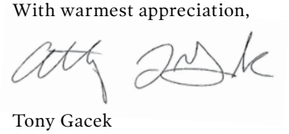


As I join the accomplished team at Pitt's School of Social Work, I am struck by the generosity and engagement of alumni, corporate and foundation supporters, and friends. Their loyalty and commitment to the school's mission help make the School of Social Work a leader in the local community and a voice on the national and international stage. I consider myself privileged to have the opportunity to help advance the school to the next level.

The Office of Development opens dialogues with various constituencies on how they might enrich the lives of the next generation of social work leaders—our students, researchers, and faculty—through tax-deductible gifts given now or pledged for the future.

Please visit **www.socialwork.pitt.edu/alumni/ways-give** to learn more about the School of Social Work's fundraising initiatives. And please don't hesitate to reach out to me to learn how you can make an impact. I am excited for this opportunity, and I look forward to strengthening your relationship with Pitt and the School of Social Work in the years to come.

With warmest appreciation,



Tony Gacek
Director of Constituent Relations
412-624-8604
tony.gacek@ia.pitt.edu

ALUMNUS RECEIVES STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

Pennsylvania Society of Directors of Volunteer Services Honors Kim Giovannelli



KIMBERLY GIOVANNELLI (MSW '83), director of community services at Allegheny Valley Hospital (AVH), was selected from among 10 nominees to receive the 2013 Evelyn Burston Award. The annual award is given by the Pennsylvania Society of Directors of Volunteer Services (PSDVS) to a director of volunteer services who best exemplifies Burston's vision, energy, and professionalism.

Burston is a recognized pioneer in the field of volunteer management. Her career spanned 20 years, from 1957 to 1977, and her accomplishments were respected and emulated by her state associates.

Giovannelli began her career at AVH in 1980. Among her many accomplishments at the hospital over the past 34 years are the development of PriorityCare, a 30,000-member affinity program for seniors aged 55 and older; the establishment and operation of a personal emergency response service for more than 400 subscribers; and her directorship of volunteer resources. Her responsibilities include recruiting and managing 264 volunteers ages 13–99; acting as a liaison to the hospital auxiliary, the volunteer chaplains, and the community clergy; and coordinating the hospital's speaker's bureau and community outreach events.

Giovannelli is a member of the Western Chapter of PSDVS and is serving as the 2013–14 chapter president. She is a graduate and past board member of Leadership Alle-Kiski Valley.

She was nominated for the Burston Award by Bill Englert, AVH's vice president of operations and business development. The award is a tribute to Giovannelli's leadership skills, commitment to volunteer management, and personal involvement in both the hospital organization and the larger community.

In addition to her MSW degree from Pitt's School of Social Work, Giovannelli also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and psychology at Duquesne University and a Master of Public Management degree at Carnegie Mellon University's H. John Heinz III College. ■

CONGRATULATIONS, LEGACY LAUREATE

An Interview with Francine McNairy





Francine G. McNairy (MSW '70) recently retired from a self-described "awesome journey" in academia that spanned nearly 40 years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in sociology in 1968, her Master of Social Work in 1970, and her Doctor of Philosophy in rhetoric and communication in 1978, all at the University of Pittsburgh.

McNairy has led an illustrious career in academia, holding progressively more responsible appointments at Clarion University of Pennsylvania and West Chester University of Pennsylvania before joining Millersville University of Pennsylvania as its provost in 1994. McNairy became the first African American woman to head a Pennsylvania state university in 2003, when she became Millersville's 13th president.

On September 27, 2013, McNairy was named a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate, one of the highest honors bestowed on a Pitt alumnus. The Legacy Laureate program recognizes Pitt alumni who have excelled both professionally and personally and who exemplify the best in leadership qualities and commitment to the greater good of their professions, their communities, and the world.

What made you choose the MSW program at Pitt?

"I did not choose the MSW program at Pitt; it chose me. I was not the best undergraduate student, and I was unsure about what my next step would be after graduation. One day, I was in the commuter cafeteria (the "tuck shop") when Mildred Pratt (PhD '69) walked in. Dr. Pratt indicated that the School of Social Work was recruiting minority students. She asked the room if anyone was interested. I raised my hand to indicate my interest. At the time, I had little knowledge of social work. However, if the school was interested in me, then I was interested in the program. Dr. Pratt's visit to the tuck shop that day was the turning point in my life. I applied, and I was accepted."

How did your training as a social worker support your role as an academic leader?

"I promised myself that if I was accepted into the school, I would take my academics more seriously than I did as an undergraduate student. And so I did. As I matriculated through the program, I still had a limited appreciation for what "traditional" social workers did professionally. For example, traditional social work students do their practicum experiences in agencies, but I did not feel like that track was the best path for me. But I had a strong commitment to the ethics and values of social work. I wanted to have an impact on people's lives. None of my practicums was the typical field experience. The school kindly worked with me to create my own practicums.

"In my first year, my classmate, the late Mary Baltimore, and I established a recruitment office in the school to recruit students of color into the MSW program. I had to use all of the skills that I was learning in social work to establish relationships with undergraduate programs and schools that had never heard of the school. In my second year, I worked at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, where I worked as an assistant to the executive director because I wanted firsthand experience in administration. Both of these experiences were very positive for me and began to shape my desire to be in higher education administration. They gave me a solid core of skills, and I knew I could put them into action in a college environment."

Which faculty members influenced you?

"Mildred Pratt changed my life, but it was Anne Jones (MSW '64), who was my advisor, and Mary Page who encouraged me and motivated me. I considered them my mentors."

What does the honor of Legacy Laureate mean to you?

"It is such an honor to think that my alma mater would consider what I have done with my life so worthy to earn this award.

"But I never accomplished what I accomplished by myself. What was achieved in the School of Social Work was because 17 students were working together to urge the school to change. And like those in the School of Social Work, there were so many people who stood by me, encouraged me, nurtured me, and mentored me. This award is about those people and what they've done to support the efforts I have tried to make. Lastly, this award symbolizes second chances to me. Remember, I was not a strong undergraduate student, and the School of Social Work gave me a second chance." ■

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Pitt–Bradford MSW Graduates Pursue Formation of New Alumni Group





STEPHANIE ECKSTROM

An enthusiastic group of University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Master of Social Work (MSW) alumni has been meeting to discuss the potential for a Pitt–Bradford MSW alumni group.

Since 2002, the School of Social Work has offered its MSW degree on a part-time structured basis at the Bradford campus. Every two years since, a new cohort of students has begun its graduate school journey, with most of the students juggling full-time work and family responsibilities.

The program now has 92 alumni, and the professional and personal relationships they developed within the Pitt–Bradford MSW program have become the foundation of a growing community of professional social workers.

An official alumni group focused in the northwestern Pennsylvania region could strengthen that community, as such an organized effort could support not only alumni and current MSW students but also professional social workers in the region.

An alumni committee composed of Pitt–Bradford MSW graduates has been formed and has met with both Stephanie Eckstrom, Pitt–Bradford MSW program coordinator, and Bobby Simmons, director of career services and alumni affairs, to discuss logistics and ideas for the potential alumni group.

For more information, please contact Eckstrom at **sae102@pitt.edu**.

TO DATE, THE ALUMNI GROUP'S GOALS ARE

1. to create a regional network of professional social workers to share resources, opportunities, strategies, support, etc.;
2. to mentor current social work students, both formally as field instructors and informally inside and outside the classroom;
3. to advocate for the procurement of professional training and educational opportunities;
4. to serve as part of an advisory board to the MSW program, especially with regard to program recruitment, marketing, and curricula; and
5. to organize an alumni recognition award specific to the Bradford region.

Also, a Facebook page has been created specifically for this group and can be found as UPB MSW Alumni. ■

Find us on **Facebook** as UPB MSW Alumni

ALUMNUS CLOSES ONE CHAPTER OF SOCIAL WORK CAREER

Roy A. Capenos (MSW '89) has retired after a 24-year career as a health care social worker specializing in mental health and crisis intervention for the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System. Capenos' decision to retire was predicated, in large part, on a physical disability resulting from a motor vehicle accident that occurred in July 2010.

In addition to an MSW, Capenos holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pitt's writing program and an Associate of Arts degree from Robert Morris University.

Capenos wishes all the faculty, staff, and students of the School of Social Work happiness and success in all their endeavors. He sends a special thank-you to Don Miller, his mentor, who was instrumental in Capenos' receiving a second-year scholarship, and to Mary Pat Elhattab, who helped him in so many ways. Although retired, Capenos retains his license to practice and is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers. ■



Spring at the Pittsburgh campus

STAY CONNECTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK!



Pitt Career Network

Register to serve as a mentor to a current student or to network with fellow alumni.

The Pitt Career Network is an online networking service for Pitt alumni and students that provides the opportunity to discuss careers and job prospects, learn about your field in new places, have a positive impact on someone's future, and make valuable connections with other alumni.

For more information and to sign up, visit **www.alumni.pitt.edu/networking**.

ROOTS OF HISTORY

Downsizing? Need more space?
Want help to save your collectibles for the future?
Help to preserve the history of the School of Social Work!

The School of Social Work and the University of Pittsburgh Archives Service Center are seeking contributions to help document the school's history.

You can "liberate history" from your attic; closets; file cabinets; dresser drawers; bookshelves; garage; basement; or wherever you store keepsakes, memorabilia, souvenirs, and treasures.

Of value to the collection are correspondence, meeting minutes, brochures, event programs, faculty papers, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, photographs of identified persons and events, and any other items associated with the school's history.

For more information or to arrange a donation, please contact Professor Emeritus Edward W. Sites at 412-731-5298 or esites@pitt.edu.

We Are Looking for You!



The School of Social Work is seeking alumni who might be interested in becoming field instructors for our students.

BASW and MSW interns provide more than 300,000 hours of service to agencies and organizations like yours every year. Being a mentor is a very rewarding experience and gives you a hand in educating and preparing the next generation of social workers for service.

If you are interested in becoming a field instructor, please visit **www.socialwork.pitt.edu/academic-programs/field-education** for more information.

Keep Us Updated!

Have you become a member of the Pitt Alumni Association's online community?

This online service exists to help alumni connect with each other and with the University. Here you can locate and reach out to other Pitt alumni. If you have been out of touch with your alma mater, you also can update your contact information to begin receiving Pitt news and other materials.

Check out the Pitt Alumni Association online community at **www.alumni.pitt.edu/connect**.

Did You Know?

The Office of Career Services is open to alumni as well as students from the School of Social Work.

Our specialization in social work careers will provide you with the information and connections necessary to empower people, lead organizations, and grow communities. The Office of Career Services hosts student and alumni networking events and career development workshops throughout the year. Our free job posting service provides employers with a direct connection to the region's top talent.

Visit **www.socialwork.pitt.edu/student-resources/career-services.php** for full details on upcoming events or to schedule an appointment.



Spring 2014 CRSP Update

The year 2013 was one of growth and collaboration for the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP). In the fall, CRSP launched its new one-of-a-kind Race Research Online Directory. The directory, a collection of more than a decade's worth of lectures, publications, and other center information, has already made an impact. Since August 10, 2013, there have been more than 7,800 unique visitors to the directory.

As highlighted in the fall 2013 issue of *Bridges*, the center held the first Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty (REAP) summit in June 2013 for the purpose of forging partnerships among peer centers in order to strengthen race-related research and future collaborations. CRSP plans to host a second summit in June 2014.

Additionally, in July 2013, CRSP partnered with the Heinz Endowments to host the conference A Call to Conscience: Effective Policies and Practices in Educating African American Males. Hundreds of local educators joined keynote speaker John Jackson, president and CEO of the Schott Foundation for Public Education, and panelists from across the country to address the achievement gap, mentoring, and other issues at the forefront of education.

RESEARCH

As it has been from the beginning, executing a high-quality, multidisciplinary applied research program is at the core of the center's mission.

The center's research advisory panels (RAPs), which are aligned with the center's seven areas of focus, continue to bring together faculty members, students, and professionals with similar interests to share their research and publications and work individually or in groups to publish and develop new research initiatives.

The center's journal, *Race and Social Problems*, now in its sixth year of publication, featured a special issue in March 2014 about social problems facing Asian Americans. Articles included "Challenges in Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Urban Asian American Adolescents: Service Providers' Perspectives" by Ariane Ling, Sumie Okazaki, Ming-Che Tu, and Joanna J. Kim and "The Success Frame and Achievement Paradox: The Costs and Consequences for Asian Americans" by Jennifer Lee and Min Zhou. These articles and many more are available for free online through the Race Research Online Directory.

THE CHAIRS OF THE RAPS IN 2013–14 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Criminal Justice
DAVID HARRIS
School of Law

Economic Disparities
RANDALL WALSH
Department of Economics

Educational Disparities
RALPH BANGS
CRSP

Families, Youth, and the Elderly
FENGYAN TANG
School of Social Work

Health
DANIEL ROSEN
School of Social Work

Interracial Group Relations
MICHAEL TILLOTSON
Department of Africana Studies

Mental Health
SHAUN EACK
School of Social Work







Photo (top left): Front row (left to right), Daniel Rosen and Shaun Eack; back row (left to right), Mikhael King, Quanisha Miller, Carol Burgman, Tiffany Smith, Yuzhao Xie, Victoria Powell, Kyra Forman, Kate Eppinger, Felicia Bright, Larry E. Davis, Holly Achee, Reynaldo Sil Pacheco, and Ralph Bangs

Photo (center): Front row (left to right), Zhi, Burgman, Forman, and Rosen; back row (left to right), King, Bright, Smith, Powell, Achee, Miller, Davis, Eppinger, and Eack

Photo (top right): Front row (left to right), Bangs, Eppinger, Powell, Forman, Achee, and King; back row (left to right), Miller, Bright, Burgman, Lisa Ibekwe, Smith, and Xie

EDUCATION

As an integral part of the School of Social Work's educational programs, CRSP is a place to mentor and cultivate emerging scholars.

In cooperation with Pitt's Office of Residence Life, the center matched undergraduate students with faculty mentors from the Schools of Nursing and Social Work and the Department of Africana Studies to work on research projects on race such as A Mother-Daughter Healthy Habits Intervention Feasibility Pilot, Arts as a Vehicle for Promoting Recovery and Transformation, Nurse Practitioner Knowledge and Perceptions, and Perceptions of and Needs for Adolescent Mental Health Services in Primary Care.

The center also encourages race-related scholarship by offering awards for the best student papers on race. The 2012–13 winners were S. Amanda Dumas and Timothy Ohlsen. Dumas earned an MS in clinical research at the School of Medicine in 2013 and received the master's student award for her paper, "The Pediatrician's Contribution to Child Healthcare Disparities." Her sponsor was Ralph Bangs, CRSP associate director. Ohlsen, who earned a BS in neuroscience at the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences in April 2013, received the undergraduate student paper award for his paper, "Lead Exposure in Larimer: Danger and Potential Presented by Redevelopment." His sponsor was Waverly Duck, assistant professor of sociology. Both papers are available through the Race Research Online Directory. Ohlsen currently is a student at Pitt's School of Medicine.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

In March 2014, School of Social Work Dean and CRSP Director Larry Davis and Ralph Bangs, CRSP associate director, along with faculty members Daniel Rosen and Shaun Eack, traveled to Cuba with nine Master of Social Work students during spring break. The trip is part of the Cuban Social Policy Issues course. The students spent eight days visiting mental health centers and various community service projects as well as a Latin American medical school. ■

Please feel free to join us at the center at any one of our lectures or to view our activities online at ***www.crsp.pitt.edu****. As always, we appreciate your continued support.*

This edition of *Bridges* features a research update from our newest faculty member, **Gerald (Jerry) Cochran**, whose work addresses the growing epidemic of opioid abuse.

ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS

We are pleased to introduce Gerald (Jerry) Cochran, a new faculty member whose work addresses the growing epidemic of opioid abuse. Misuse of prescription painkillers is on the rise in our society. Unintentional deaths caused by opioid analgesics quadrupled in the period from 1999 to 2008, highlighting the urgency of this issue. Cochran's research aims to intervene at one of the most important sources of opioids: the pharmacy. Cochran is adapting interventions that will help pharmacists identify people with hazardous patterns of opioid use and refer them to social workers and others for brief interventions designed to reduce the harm they might cause to themselves and others.

After completing his master's degree in social work, Cochran worked as an emergency room social worker in a Level I trauma center and held a second job analyzing policy data. "The vast majority of patients I served were receiving care for conditions related to substance abuse," Cochran states. "I realized the vital role health care settings have in assisting those with substance abuse problems. My goal is to use sound clinical research to develop effective substance abuse services."

Pharmacies are a prime source for diversion of prescription painkillers for illicit use, but pharmacists have few tools to help them address this situation. Cochran is adapting screening and brief intervention (SBI) tools for them. SBI is an evidence-based approach developed by the World Health Organization and adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health organizations in the United States to address hazardous alcohol use. In SBI, front-line health providers screen pharmacy users for problem use and provide very brief counseling sessions or referrals to social workers for people identified through the screening as being at high risk. Substantial evidence proves the effectiveness of this approach with alcohol, which has led to its being included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as an intervention for primary care settings. This technique shows great promise for adaptation for use in other front-line health care settings, such as pharmacies, for opioid misdirection.

Cochran's recent work, supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, showed that people who reported the highest levels of risk factors and the highest numbers of injuries were the most likely to benefit from SBI treatments, providing encouragement for this approach to people at risk. Additionally, he has shown that more than half of 739 pharmacists surveyed in Utah and Texas believe that SBI is a service that they should provide.

"My goal is to translate SBI for multiple health care settings by conducting clinical research that can be translated directly into policy," says Cochran. Opioid abuse is reaching epidemic proportions. Cochran's work recognizes that health care settings are critical locations in identifying people who abuse substances and reaching them with effective interventions. This work will affect social work education and practice, as social workers will play a crucial role in delivering these powerful SBIs in multiple settings for multiple substance use disorders. ■

"MY GOAL IS TO TRANSLATE SBI FOR MULTIPLE HEALTH CARE SETTINGS BY CONDUCTING CLINICAL RESEARCH THAT CAN BE TRANSLATED DIRECTLY INTO POLICY."

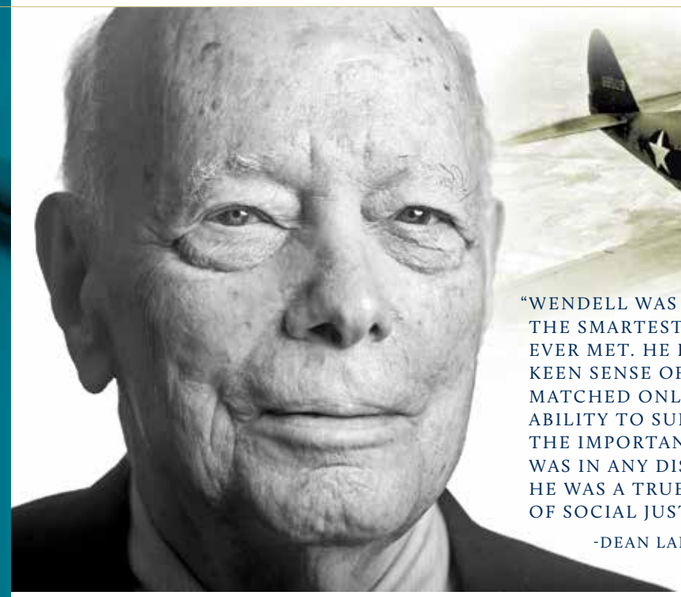
-JERRY COCHRAN

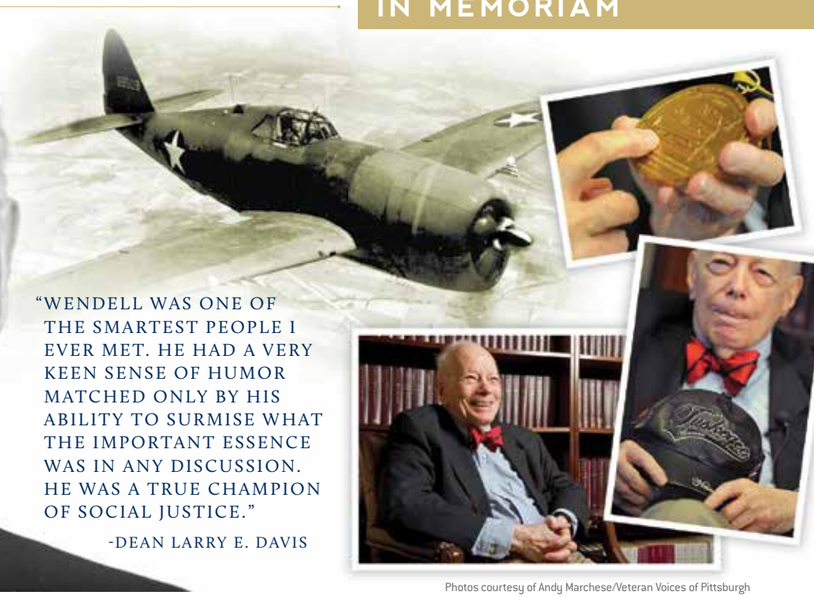


RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Cochran, G., Field, C., and Lawson, K., "Pharmacists Who Screen and Discuss Opioid Misuse with Patients: Future Directions for Research and Practice," *Journal of Pharmacy Practice*, 2014.

Cochran, G., Field, C., Lawson, K., and Erickson, C., "Pharmacists' Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs Regarding Screening and Brief Intervention for Prescription Opioid Abuse: A Survey of Utah and Texas Pharmacists," *Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research*, 4(2): 71–9, 2013.





"WENDELL WAS ONE OF THE SMARTEST PEOPLE I EVER MET. HE HAD A VERY KEEN SENSE OF HUMOR MATCHED ONLY BY HIS ABILITY TO SURMISE WHAT THE IMPORTANT ESSENCE WAS IN ANY DISCUSSION. HE WAS A TRUE CHAMPION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE."

-DEAN LARRY E. DAVIS

Photos courtesy of Andy Marchese/Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh

A RELENTLESS LEADER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Wendell Freeland | January 23, 2014

One of the longest serving members of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Board of Visitors, Wendell Freeland, a noted Pittsburgh attorney and civil rights leader, died in January 2014.

Born in Baltimore, Md., in 1925, Freeland was a member of the famous World War II Tuskegee Airmen. He spent his life fighting for equality and justice and was a tireless leader for civil rights.

Freeland's first foray into protest occurred in 1945 during the Freeman Field Mutiny, in which he and more than 100 other Black officers entered the Whites-only officers club at Freeman Field in Indiana. He and others in the group were arrested and then arrested again after refusing to sign a statement declaring they would not enter the club. The charges were eventually dropped, and three years later, President Harry Truman issued an executive order to racially integrate the military.

After World War II, Freeland married his wife, Jane, in 1946; completed his degree at Howard University, from which he graduated cum laude in 1947; and then went on earn his law degree at the University of Maryland School of Law in 1950.

Freeland accepted a position at the Smith Jones law firm, and he and Jane moved to Pittsburgh, where Freeland quickly became a local civil rights leader, taking on legal cases such as integrating the Highland Park swimming pool.

Additionally, he held leadership positions in many local organizations, including serving as chair of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh from 1962 to 1967. There, he helped lay the foundation for desegregation and the hiring of Black teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

In 2013, the Urban League honored Freeland by creating the Wendell G. Freeland Living Legacy Award to recognize those who uphold the league's mission.

Also that year, Freeland was one of three surviving Pittsburgh-area Tuskegee Airmen who attended the dedication of an exhibit in their honor at Pittsburgh International Airport.

"Wendell was one of the smartest people I ever met," said School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis. "He had a very keen sense of humor matched only by his ability to surmise what the important essence was in any discussion. He was a true champion of social justice."

In addition to his wife, Freeland is survived by his son, Michael Freeland, and his daughter, Lisa Freeland, federal public defender for the Western District of Pennsylvania. ■

AN ADVOCATE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Barbara K. Shore | October 23, 2013



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Longtime School of Social Work professor and former doctoral degree program director Barbara Shore died on October 23, 2013, at the age of 92. Shore was a celebrated faculty member whose incredible dedication to the school continues to positively impact the school's doctoral students.

Shore served as the doctoral program director from 1975 to 1978 and 1984 to 1992. During her tenure, she not only maintained top-notch interdisciplinary training with a strong research emphasis but also strengthened the program's community research involvement and international recruitment and increased the recruitment of underrepresented students from throughout the United States. She also oversaw the enhancement of required courses in policy analysis and research methodology and implemented annual student/faculty retreats, which facilitated communication as well as program self-study and renewal.

SHORE WAS A CELEBRATED FACULTY MEMBER WHOSE INCREDIBLE DEDICATION TO THE SCHOOL CONTINUES TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE SCHOOL'S DOCTORAL STUDENTS.

She was instrumental in the creation of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE), a national organization composed of doctoral program representatives addressing common interests, including standard setting and assistance for the rapidly growing number of doctoral programs in social work during the 1980s and 1990s. Today, there are more than 80 doctoral degree programs that are members of GADE.

Shore also was an active member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), for which she served as Pennsylvania state chapter president from 1975 to 1980 and as NASW national program chair from 1978 to 1983.

Friends and colleagues remember her as a trailblazer in her field as well as a tireless advocate for those in need.

Shore was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Jack Shore, and is survived by her four children, Erika Shore (Barry Wofsy), Deborah Shore (Andy Henson), David Shore (Karen Catoe), and Benita Dombrowski (Joseph); her 11 grandchildren and five great grandchildren; her sister, Joan Shames (George); her brother-in-law, Sherman Shore; her sister-in-law, Lorraine Shore; and her many nieces and nephews.

The Barbara K. Shore Doctoral Fund honors Shore's incredible legacy. This special fund allows the School of Social Work to recognize an outstanding doctoral student annually. Memorial donations can be made to the Barbara K. Shore Doctoral Fund at the University of Pittsburgh, Office of Institutional Advancement, Attn: Tony Gacek, Park Plaza, 128 North Craig Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. ■

WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Cathy Cairns | January 21, 2014

A longtime community consultant, Cathy Cairns (MSW '94) worked with many community organizations, including, most recently, Lemington Senior Services. Cairns was best known for her work on the River Communities Project with Professor James Cunningham while she was a community organization and social administration student. Through this effort, she helped to set up and serve as the first director of the Aliquippa Alliance for Unity and Development (now the Franklin Center) following the demise of J&L Steel Works in Aliquippa, Pa. ■

NEWS & NOTES

- **John Ayers** (MSW '98) received a citation as the first African American volunteer resource director of the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.
- **Natalie Bencivenga** (MSW '13) was named the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*'s new SEEN and Style editor.
- **Larry M. Gold** (MSW '80) was named president of the Children's Hospital of Michigan.
- Pittsburgh City Council declared November 19, 2013, **JoAnn Heffron-Hannah** Day in the city to honor Heffron-Hannah (MSW '02) for her work helping children and young adults to transition out of foster care.
- **Carole Coles Henry** (MSW '80), a 2012 Distinguished Alumni honoree, received the prestigious 2014 Judge Jean Williams Community Service Award.
- **Francine G. McNairy** (MSW '70) was named a 2013 University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate (see story on page 19).
- **Rachel L. (McNary) Wilson** (MSW '02) continues to work as chief of clinical services/family advocacy representative at the Fleet and Family Support Center at the U.S. Navy's Naval Station Everett. Last year, she was named Civilian Supervisor of the Quarter, and she recently was named Civilian of the Year. Wilson also received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award from the U.S. Navy and was an honoree at the Seattle Federal Executive Board's Celebration of Public Service.

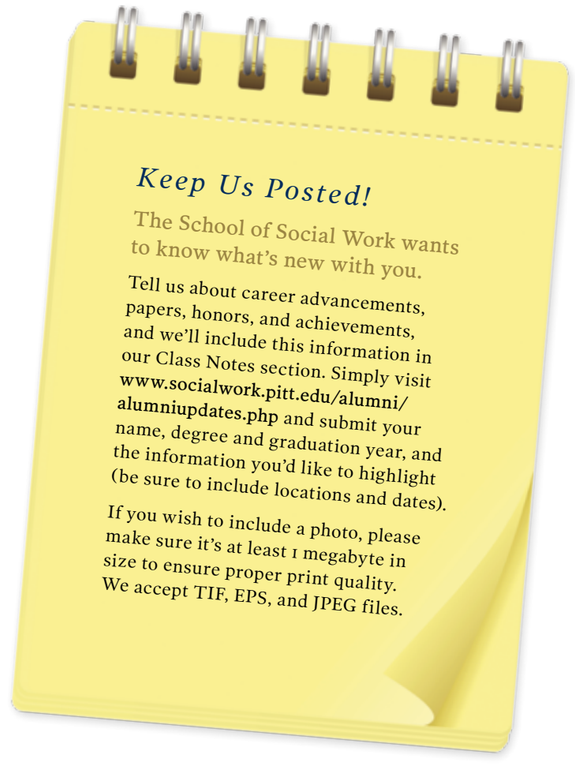
ALUMNI SOCIETY

Your Help Is Needed!

School of Social Work Alumni Society

If you are interested in serving on a committee or learning more about upcoming alumni activities, please contact **Bobby Simmons** at **bobby@pitt.edu** or 412-624-6354.

See page 21 to find out more on how to become involved at the School of Social Work.



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Lead Organizations
Grow Communities

All lectures are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning.

Lunch will be provided; registration is not required. For more information, visit www.socialwork.pitt.edu or call 412-624-6304.





SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture

"Social Work Interventions to Improve Cognition and Recovery in Schizophrenia and Autism"

SHAUN EACK, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY – Sidney A. Teller Lecture

"Recognizing and Supporting the Global Social Service Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities"

ROBIN S. MAMA, Dean, School of Social Work, Monmouth University

CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS | REED SMITH SPRING 2014 SPEAKER SERIES



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

"Race, Equity, and Urban Education: Issues That Divide"

H. RICHARD MILNER, Professor of Education; Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education; and Director, Center for Urban Education, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh



MONDAY, MARCH 3

"Americans by Heart: Undocumented Latino Students and the Promise of Higher Education"

WILLIAM PEREZ, Associate Professor of Education, School of Educational Studies, Claremont Graduate University



THURSDAY, APRIL 8

"Navigating Toxic Inequality"

THOMAS M. SHAPIRO, Director, Institute on Assets and Social Policy, and Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University



THURSDAY, APRIL 24

" 'Jedi' Public Health: A Structural Approach to Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Health Inequality"

ARLINE T. GERONIMUS, Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, and Associate Director and Research Professor, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan