Bridges

University of Pittsburgh
School of Social Work
Spring 2020



What We Can Learn from Each Other

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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Dear alumni and friends,



I hope that this letter finds you safe during the current crisis. It has certainly been a challenging time and has created a whirlwind of change! I have been so incredibly grateful for and impressed with how members of our school, university, and community have stepped up—generosity, creativity, problem solving, and absolute dedication have been so evident. COVID-19 has brought into undeniable focus many of the problems and inequities that plague our society. It also has shown us the possibilities for policy change and collective action.

I don't know what the situation will be like by the time you read this, but wherever you are and whatever you are doing, I hope that you are well, that you are being generous with yourself and with others as we all struggle through this, and that your grounding in social work gives you the ability to see beyond the challenges of today to the needs and possibilities of however tomorrow unfolds. This is a time when I would not want to be anywhere else. To be surrounded by colleagues, students, alumni, and community partners who are making the best of what we're going through and who are working to support and build a better world coming out of this is truly a gift!

We planned this issue of Bridges long before any of us had heard of COVID-19, but the theme for the issue seems even more relevant today. The coronavirus pandemic has brought home the fact that our world is getting smaller, more connected, and more interdependent every day. Over the years, the school has built relationships with partners around the globe, and we look forward to continuing to do so. We hope that you enjoy the highlights of some of these programs and people in the following pages.

As we focus on the immediate demands of the current public health crisis, it is easy to forget the bigger picture. As a school, we are continuing to hire new faculty and staff, support current faculty research and scholarship, expand our community engagement, and enhance our continuum of support for students. Our centers are thriving and growing, and this issue highlights the new leadership for our Center on Race and Social Problems after founding director and Dean Emeritus Larry Davis' retirement. In line with this focus on addressing current issues and creating a better future, the school has adopted a new vision statement that captures our commitment to big-picture change at every level: Transforming our world, our future, ourselves.

> "COVID-19 has brought into undeniable focus many of the problems and inequities that plague our society. It also has shown us the possibilities for policy change and collective action."

In this time of social distancing, remember that you can always follow us on social media, visit us on socialwork.pitt.edu, or join us virtually for a lecture (or speaking engagement) or other event. I love hearing about all of the wonderful work being done by our alumni and broad network of friends and colleagues. Your continued involvement and support help to make the school vibrant and successful!

Wishing us all a future of health, equity, and connections,



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





Each term, the Center for Race and Social Problems hosts a speaker series that provides an opportunity for faculty, students, and community members to engage in race-related discussions of mutual interest.



John Wallace



James Huguley

New CRSP Leadership Announced

The School of Social Work has new leadership at the helm of its Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP). **James Huguley** has been named interim director, and **John Wallace** is the center's new senior fellow for research and community engagement. Larry E. Davis, who founded the center in 2002 and developed its role in leading and elevating race-related conversations and research, retired this past fall to become dean emeritus.

Huguley has been a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work since 2015 and has served as chair of CRSP's Educational Disparities Research Advisory Panel for the last five years. "I'm thrilled to build on the ground-breaking work that Dr. Davis has done in making CRSP a leader in the cultivation and dissemination of race research and evidence-based practices," says Huguley. "Going forward, our team hopes to expand the center's footprint locally and nationally toward an even greater impact on ameliorating social problems and promoting racial justice."

Wallace is the David E. Epperson Chair and professor at the School of Social Work. He will support the center's efforts to expand research activities, opportunities, funding, and dissemination efforts. "I am very excited about the future and look forward to the chance to see CRSP continue to build, lead, and push boundaries on thinking, conversations, and research around race and social problems," he says.

School News continued on page 4

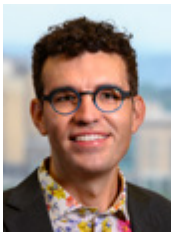
New Faculty



Aliya Durham
has been appointed assistant professor and director of community engagement.



Rachel Gartner
has been appointed assistant professor.



Travis Labrum
has been appointed assistant professor.



Deborah Moon
has been appointed assistant professor.

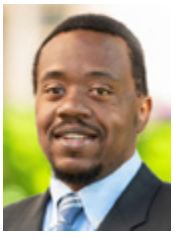
Faculty Promotions



Yodit Betru
is the new director of the MSW Program.



Keith Caldwell
has been named the new associate dean for student success.



Melvin Cherry
has been promoted to lecturer.



John Dalessandro
has been promoted to assistant professor and director of field education.



Amy DeGurian
has been promoted to lecturer.



Alicia Melnick
has been promoted to lecturer.



Mary Ohmer
is the new Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA) chair.



Deborah Robinson
has been promoted to lecturer.

New Staff



Edoukou Aka-Ezoua
is the project support cordinator for the Child Welfare Workforce Excellence Fellows Program.



Molly Allwein
has been hired as the director of professional education.



Devin Cecere
has been hired as a development associate.



Summer Haston
has been hired as the MSW program assistant.

Afternoon of Recognition

The School of Social Work held its spring Afternoon of Recognition for graduating students on Sunday, April 28, 2019, at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum. The keynote address was given by Menah Pratt-Clarke, vice president for strategic affairs and vice provost for inclusion and diversity at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where she also is a professor in the School of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences with affiliations in Africana studies, women's and gender studies, and sociology. •



Annual Board of Visitors Meeting

The Board of Visitors met in spring 2019 to discuss directions for the school and creative ideas for career pathways for social workers. The meeting was held in the Cathedral of Learning and at Pitt's Homewood Community Engagement Center.



Attending the Board of Visitors dinner on April 2 were (from left to right) Henry Loubet, Thomas VanKirk, Steven Paschall, Esther Bush, Dean Betsy Farmer, Alan Momeyer, Marc Cherna, Joy Starzl, and Rod Doss.



Attending the Board of Visitors meeting on April 3 at the Homewood Community Engagement Center were (from left to right) Esther Bush, James Roddey, Thomas VanKirk, Dean Betsy Farmer, Doris Carson Williams, Steven Paschall, Henry Loubet, Alan Momeyer, Joy Starzl, Marc Cherna, and James McDonald.

In Memoriam



The School of Social Work mourns the passing of alumnus **Rodney Rutkowski** (BASW '75, MSW '80). Rutkowski passed away on October 14, 2019, of natural causes at his home in Allison Park, Pa. Rutkowski was an amazing social worker who served the community at UPMC St. Margaret for nearly four decades. He was a past Outstanding Alumni Award winner, a longtime field instructor, and a tireless advocate for Pitt Social Work.



Jesse P. Zeiders, a beloved adjunct instructor for the Pitt-Bradford MSW Program, died on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, following a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Donna, two daughters and sons-in-law, three grandchildren, his mother and stepfather, and five siblings. Zeiders was born August 3, 1961, in Tyrone, Pennsylvania. A graduate of Falconer High School; Jamestown Community College in Jamestown, New York; Idaho State University and Roberts Wesleyan College, Zeiders worked as a licensed clinical social worker and then regional clinical director for Catholic Charities of Buffalo, N.Y. He specialized in trauma and intimate partner violence and greatly enjoyed both his clinical practice and the opportunity to mentor other social workers. Zeiders discovered his true passion for teaching in his initial foray into the classrooms of the Pitt-Bradford MSW program in 2005. In his lengthy and ongoing teaching service to the School of Social Work, Zeiders challenged his graduate students in courses in social work research, cognitive behavioral therpy, intimate partner violence, and trauma. In 2009, he accepted a full-time teaching position at Jamestown Community College, sharing his clinical leadership and insights with the human services program there. He maintained his adjunct teaching load for the Pitt-Bradford MSW program and encouraged his community college students to set their sights on the Pitt School of Social Work.

Zeiders' clinical knowledge was vast, exceeded only by his patience and compassion for everyone he met. Because he integrated his unique sense of humor, extensive knowledge of practice theory, and high expectations into his courses, his social work students consistently reported feeling confident in their professional preparation. Student successes were his successes, and through the professional work of Pitt-Bradford MSW graduates, Zeiders has hada profound positive impact across the Twin Tiers region.

Zeiders embodied the social work philosophy that emphasizes the primacy of human relationships, enacting the words of one of his favorite Virginia Satir quotes: "I believe the greatest gift I can conceive of having from anyone is to be seen by them, heard by them, to be understood and touched by them. The greatest gift I can give is to see, hear, understand and to touch another person. When this is done I feel contact has been made." •

School News continued on page 6

Pitt-Johnstown Hosts 10th Annual Older Youth Retreat

Some 100 youths, ages 16-20, who were about to or who had recently transitioned from foster care convened on the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown campus from August 5-9 for the 10th annual 2019 Older Youth Retreat—an event that welcomed teens from 36 counties across Pennsylvania who have had experience in the state's foster care system to bond with others with similar experiences in a week of motivating talks, social activities, and educational sessions.

Youths and staff participated in the retreat's annual college fair. This included a presentation on the Upward Bound Program; financial aid information; and representatives from universities, technical schools, and the armed forces sharing information about their respective programs. Participants also received an overview of the Fostering Independence Through Education Waiver, which provides a tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate degrees at colleges and universities in Pennsylvania to help reduce the financial burdens on older youths with foster care experience. One participant stated, "I think it's awesome that our state wants to make sure that all youths have an opportunity to grow and have a fighting chance at success like their peers."

Participants also attended a session focused on permanency for older youths. The session included an overview of permanency services in Pennsylvania as well as a panel of youths who spoke about their experiences in the child welfare system. The goal of these sessions is to dismiss the idea that older youths can't find permanent families and supports. Youths had the opportunity to meet with UPJ alumni who recently transitioned out of foster care for a peer mentoring session. In small groups, the alumni addressed questions about their own experiences, housing, and how they handled connections to biological family members and offered educational advice.

At the end of the week, youths and staff presented their final activity projects and the performances they had worked on throughout the week. The unveiling of the retreat banner displaying the retreat theme, refurbished furniture, and a presentation by an improv group were a few of the activities that took place. One of the highlights of the week was the banquet where Pitt School of Social Work Dean Betsy Farmer welcomed the participants on behalf of the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Social Work as well as Helen Cahalane, principal investigator for the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs. Cahalane remarked, "The University is excited by the opportunity to engage more Pennsylvania youths in higher education through the Education Waiver Act and is committed to supporting them throughout their time on campus." The Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board received the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's Affiliate of the Year Award. The banquet concluded with an inspirational message from keynote speaker Anthony Stukes, who transitioned out of Pennsylvania's foster care system.

Additional highlights throughout the week included a dodgeball tournament; the highly anticipated youth versus staff activity; the retreat field games; and finally, the talent show that included dancing, comedy, singing, and rapping. Youths and staff enjoyed a great week full of networking and activities and the opportunity for youths to use their voices in focus groups to help improve the child welfare system. More highlights from the week can be found at payab.pitt.edu/2019_Retreat_Video. •





Professional and Continuing Education Update

The professional and continuing education area in the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work is focused on providing licensed social workers with enhanced continuing education and elevated professional development programming. Stay tuned for some exciting new updates coming soon, including:

- courses offered in winter and summer,
- live and on-demand webinars,
- a new enewsletter to stay connected, and
- a redesigned website to provide an improved user experience.

Along with these updates, our marketing and publication efforts will begin to move toward digital platforms, so make sure you're familiar with the continuing education website (socialwork.pitt.edu/CE) and check there often for updates.

We look forward to seeing you at a training soon! •

VanKirk Career Center Highlights

2018-19 was another busy and productive academic year for the VanKirk Career Center. Here are some highlights:

- More than 100 students and alumni completed a computerized or paper licensure practice test. Our 2018 licensed social worker passing score continues to be well above the national average.
- A wide range of community agencies eager to hire our graduates participated in the annual job fair, which 52 students and alumni attended.
- Nearly 120 students attended our career development workshops.
- 105 students and alumni received individual career development consultations. •

What We Can Learn from Each Other

BY ADAM REGER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GETTY IMAGES
AND TOM ALTANY/PITT VISUAL SERVICES





The world today is a smaller place than it was in previous generations. International flights, long-distance voice and video calls, and email have all opened paths of connection that once were hard to imagine.

And yet we live in an age of increasing nationalism, in which the walls separating people seem to grow ever higher.

What is social work's role in this moment of simultaneous connection and division? What can social workers around the globe learn from one another, and what does their exchange tell us about the essence of social work?

To consider these questions, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work reached out to a number of its alumni who currently work outside the United States to find out how a Pitt education has fueled their international journeys. From an American-born alumna teaching in South Korea to a globe-trotting graduate from Turkey to others who have returned to Indonesia, Malaysia, and South Africa, these graduates show the benefits of an international perspective within the field of social work.

Cover story continued on page 10

What the school of social work offers the world

As one of the top-ranked schools of social work in the United States, Pitt draws students from around the globe. They come to the campus with widely varying backgrounds and with distinctly different plans for how to put their degrees to use.

When Azlin Hilma Hillaluddin (MSW '02) graduated from the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), UUM recruited her to earn an MSW degree abroad and then return to Malaysia to assist the school in developing its new social work program.

While at Pitt, Hillaluddin focused on child welfare and child protection, topics she explored in greater depth while earning a PhD in Australia. She's currently a senior lecturer in UUM's social work program in the School of Applied Psychology, Social Work and Policy.

"I always had a keen interest in working with children, and doing Pitt's [Direct Practice or Community, Organization, and Social Action ??] specialization helped me to accomplish my dream," says Hillaluddin. "I did my practicums at a temporary shelter for girls and later at an outpatient clinic for children with autism. During the practicums, I learned that social work with children covers a wide spectrum of issues and services, from placement and child protection to mental health issues and beyond."

Hillaluddin continues to value the kind of cultural exchange she has enjoyed throughout her academic career, balancing internationally recognized best practices with the localized demands of the Malaysian context in which she and her students work.

"Over here, on this side of the world, we always try to learn from our social work counterparts abroad," Hillaluddin says. "Yes, social work should be designed to suit local practice, but there are many skills and pieces of knowledge that are transferable."

Like Hillaluddin, Yanti Kusumawardhani (MSW '05) came to Pitt to focus on child welfare, and today she works for Save the Children in Indonesia. As a direct response specialist, Kusumawardhani manages about 180 integrated services each month for children with disabilities and their families and works to counter widespread stigma around these disabilities in Indonesia.

"We aim to improve parenting knowledge and skill for families as part of a prevention effort, respond to child protection cases by implementing case management and supervision, and support law enforcers in working with children in contact with the law," she says.

While much of her job is rooted in local conditions and focuses on working within Indonesia's legal system and its network of nongovernmental organizations, Kusumawardhani also draws frequently upon lessons she learned during her time at Pitt. She cites classes with faculty members Helen Cahalane, Lynn Coghill, Patricia Wright and others as having helped her to form a solid foundation upon which her current work has been built.

"A lot of social work theories and approaches have been utilized beneficially all over the world, in many different settings," she says.

Named in September 2019 to the board of the Indonesia Association of Professional Social Workers, Kusumawardhani is poised to continue promoting the foundational theories and approaches she first encountered at Pitt.

What can Pitt learn from the world

But meaningful exchange involves a benefit to both sides. What do School of Social Work students and faculty—and the entire Pitt community—gain from learning and working alongside international peers and from welcoming international visitors into the school community?

"We're at such a critical time to step back and see our place in the world," says School of Social Work dean Elizabeth M.Z. "Betsy" Farmer. "As we think about the values and goals of social work, we're required to think beyond our own experiences and our own community, region or country. We really focus on universal human rights—justice, dignity, community. Interacting with others who come from different places, cultures, and parts of the world helps us to put our own experiences, assumptions and views into perspective, and it helps us to question everything about how we think and what we take for granted."

Current international students are benefiting greatly from the leadership and experience of Medha Kadri, a first-year MSW student from India who serves as the international student representative to the MSW Student Executive Council. Kadri has striven to create a welcoming and informative orientation for incoming international students while also connecting with Dean Farmer in order to highlight concerns and perspectives specific to the school's international students.

> "One of the values of social work I find most important is cultural competency," she says. "Being taken out of my element linguistically, racially and socially really helped me to learn how to approach and serve people different from me."
> —Amber Jones

"We've been able to convey our issues and say, 'This is what we want; this could improve.' And I know it's been really helpful to Dean Farmer," Kadri says. "Now she knows where the gaps are for international students."

In classes and fieldwork, she's found both classmates and faculty to be receptive to hearing her viewpoint as well.

"The school has really appreciated my perspective," Kadri says. "It's diametrically different on some things as compared to American students, but I've always seen that my opinions are encouraged."

Kadri arrived at Pitt after earning a master's degree in health psychology in India, having conducted extensive research on underprivileged adolescent girls. She's drawn upon that knowledge and experience in her work with the Women & Girls Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania, which works toward equal access and opportunity. While Kadri stresses that conditions such as poverty vary dramatically in America and India, her background has been valuable—and valued—in developing curricula for the foundation.

What about American students in the School of Social Work who go abroad? What do they learn from encounters with the rest of the world?

Ask Amber Jones (BASW '18). As an undergraduate social work major, she participated in a pilot study abroad program in 2018, spending the second term of her senior year in Cologne, Germany, working at Lobby für Mädchen, a nonprofit organization that serves girls and young women ages 10–27, while participating in her School of Social Work classes via videoconference.

Jones, a New York, N.Y., native, found the experience of comparing ideas with German social work students while immersed in the country's culture and cuisine to be personally enriching, and also tremendously valuable professionally. German social work culture is organized into a single large network, creating unique opportunities for collaboration quite different from those that exist in the United States.

Jones's experience in Germany, followed by her participation in the six-week Pitt in South Africa program, has deepened her sense of being part of a broader, truly global community. She now lives in South Korea, where she teaches in a public elementary school.

"As an American, unless you travel elsewhere, you don't really see the effect the United States has on the world," she says, noting the English-language signs she has seen in Germany and South Korea. She also mentions discussing the Black Lives Matter movement with South African high school students while learning more about the country's still-prevalent problems from the apartheid era.

"Not only did I gain perspective," Jones says, "but so did the people around me—about the ways America still has room to improve and develop and how there is an opportunity to learn from each other."

Venturing out into the world has helped Jones to develop her approach to serving others.

"One of the values of social work I find most important is cultural competency," she says. "Being taken out of my element linguistically, racially and socially really helped me to learn how to approach and serve people different from me. Though Americans have a shared identity of nationality and culture, there are still so many inequalities, experiences and variations (geologically and regionally) that affect the ability of social workers to relate to and empathize with their clients. Just because you live in the same country as your clients doesn't mean your preconceptions or assumed knowledge of their culture of life experience may be the actuality."

Sometimes recognizing and acknowledging cultural differences can be a critical first step toward bridging the gaps between social work contexts.

Gizem Arat (MSW '10) has found the differences in how social work is viewed across cultures to be instructive. After first returning to her native Turkey for a position as a social worker, she then earned a PhD from the University of Hong Kong.

"In Asia it [social work] is mostly considered an aid to positive health," she says, "whereas in most Western settings, social work paves the way for social justice to successfully achieve positive development in many aspects, not just limited to health."



Amber Jones

Those differences make the concept of cultural competency all the more key, Arat adds.

"Cultural competency is seen more as cultural awareness in Hong Kong, in contrast with the U.S. or U.K., where cultural competency includes cultural awareness, a culturally appropriate manner, knowledge of different cultures, and self-awareness of bias of the social worker," she says. "As a result, cultural competency is still evolving in Asia, where I conduct research projects on how to enhance culturally relevant social service provision for ethnic minorities in Hong Kong."

Arat's experience at Pitt is instructive in the ways that international exchange can sow the seeds for such cultural competency. She found that coming to Pitt from Turkey gave her a perspective that benefited others in her classes.

"My background was a little different," she says. "I could understand both individualistic and collectivist cultural values due to the cultural fusion in my home country."

She is now a research assistant professor at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, conducting research on promoting the social inclusion of minorities from various cultural backgrounds. Through her Pitt experience, Arat says, "I gained the skills to negotiate diverse cultures and dedicate myself to social justice."

What people learn together

Forging connections across borders makes the world smaller, setting the stage for work that empowers, humanizes and finds common ground—instincts that are at the heart of the profession of social work.

"In an increasingly global world, the social work profession remains more relevant than ever before, particularly in light of the increases in international migration and the public health impacts on migrant health, including mental health," says Johannes John-Langba (PhD '04), who now serves as vice president and mental health ambassador of Cape Mental Health Society in South Africa. He previously served as chairperson of the board of directors of MOSAIC, a community organization providing targeted interventions to survivors of gender-based violence, and has worked as a United Nations consultant.

Much of John-Langba's research crosses borders in addition to being extremely timely. As a doctoral student at Pitt, he explored the impacts of violence on women in a refugee camp, while a current project examines associations among social media use, life satisfaction, body image and psychosocial well-being.

Like other alumni interviewed, John-Langba sees social work as striking a balance between the local and the global.

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"Cultural differences do create differences in how social work is pursued in Africa, but the differences are not that dramatic," he says. "This could be attributed to respect for diversity as a core value of social work practice. The emphasis in the Pitt Social Work doctoral program on the need to respect diversity and promote social justice related to nondiscrimination on the basis of culture, nationality, ethnicity, religion, language, race, gender, physical status, and sexual orientation made the translation of the universality of the core value of respect for diversity smooth and natural."

Shared experiences, too, allow people from widely differing faiths and cultures to learn from one another and find ways to offer support and understanding, even at moments of heated rhetoric and hostility.

Hillaluddin was on Pitt's campus during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. She recalls her peers volunteering to walk her home and school faculty members being supportive of and sensitive to her well-being in the days after the attacks, when she and many fellow Muslims feared retaliation from angry individuals looking for someone to lash out against.

"It [9/11] gave a lasting impact to Americans and the rest of the world, including myself," Hillaluddin says. "But those kind gestures helped me feel safe away from my family."

How social work unites people

With so much variation from one culture to the next and so many different social contexts to navigate, what do these alumni see as essential to social work? When a social worker plies their trade in one country versus another, what remains true and essential?

Although its implementation may vary from one country or context to another, Arat says that she sees a common code of ethics underpinning social work practice around the globe.

For Jones, social work is a force for international cooperation, especially in terms of public policy. Social change and human rights also are among its essential qualities.

"The core of social work is community and consensus," Jones says. "The actuality is that you can't help every person, but you can alter the environment and society in which they exist in order to offer opportunity for personal growth and self-exploration. Social work is about empowering and providing equality for the pursuit of happiness and ensuring basic human rights."

Kusumawardhani sees a desire to serve others at the core of social work.

"Our beliefs in everyone's right to justice and equality unite us," she says. "Social work seeks a balance of individual needs and an environment that provides resources and positive behavior."

Though social workers pursue different goals within the profession, she says, "It is obvious that social work functions across policies, resources and practices within institutions, facilities, societies, communities, groups and families to fight for united and integrated efforts to meet individual needs and rights."

John-Langba sees the values of social work not just as essential but also as more timely and necessary than ever before.

"The widespread access [to] and use of social media globally has benefited the social work profession," he says, "but not without [presenting] challenges related to [the] mental health effects of social media use and misuse."

For Hillaluddin, promoting social justice and understanding diversity are core values shared by social work practitioners the world over.

"There are vulnerable groups everywhere that should be protected and supported," she says. "The differences lie in what is deemed appropriate by a society according to local customs and laws. So 'think globally and act locally' might be the appropriate way to explain.

"Nevertheless," she adds, "it is important for social workers to form international alliances and collaborations so that we can learn from each other in order to improve practice for the benefit of our clients and the profession as a whole."

That spirit of international solidarity is alive and thriving at the School of Social Work.

"Cultural differences do create differences in how social work is pursued in Africa, but the differences are not that dramatic. This could be attributed to respect for diversity as a core value of social work practice. The emphasis in the Pitt Social Work doctoral program on the need to respect diversity and promote social justice related to nondiscrimination on the basis of culture, nationality, ethnicity, religion, language, race, gender, physical status, and sexual orientation made the translation of the universality of the core value of respect for diversity smooth and natural."

—Johannes John-Langba

"I think we all benefit when we begin to adopt perspectives of cultural humility, when we start to work on decolonizing our thinking, when we decenter our own culture and assumptions," says Dean Farmer. "There's a whole world that both includes and extends beyond each of us. It's so important for us think beyond ourselves, to recognize the insights that others bring to our understandings and to think about how we can work together." ●

CRSP Update

2019 Summer Institutes

This summer, we held two institutes to sold-out crowds. On June 26, our institute on Race and Hate Crime featured keynote speaker Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of the Tree of Life synagogue. Our distinguished panelists were Esther Bush, Heath C. Johnson, Daphne Retter, and Wasi Mohamed. On July 16, we held an institute on Race and Health Across the Lifespan, which featured keynote speaker Nancy Krieger of the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health and distinguished panelists Paula Braveman, Rollin Wright, Julius Boatwright, and Valire Copeland.



Pictured from left to right are Larry E. Davis, Jeffrey Myers, James Huguley, and Mark A. Nordenberg.



Pictured from left to right are Davis, Farmer, Boatwright, Krieger, Copeland, Braveman, Thompson, and Huguley.

2019 Fall Speaker Series

Our speaker series continues to draw diverse audiences. During fall 2019, we welcomed dean emeritus and founding director of CRSP **Larry E. Davis** for a lecture titled "A Conversation About Race." Subsequently, we welcomed **Alexandra Filindra** of the University of Chicago for "Race, Rights and Rifles: White Racial Attitudes and the Debate over Guns" and **Alexandra "Sasha" Killewald** of Harvard University for her lecture, "The Past Is Present: How Racial Wealth Gaps Perpetuate Across and Within Generations." We closed our fall lecture series with Pitt School of Social Work alumnus, **Michael Lindsey** (PhD '02), who presented "Ring the Alarm: A Looming Crisis for the Mental Health of Black Youth."

CRSP Publications

The CRSP journal, Race and Social Problems, is a highly successful social science journal and continues to bring attention to the issues of race and poverty. The September 2019 issue included articles on White privilege in the United Kingdom, race and social capital, and judgments in cross-race crimes. Access to these articles and an archive of all previous issues of the journal can be found on our website, crsp.pitt.edu.

In August, CRSP's Just Discipline Project released a brief on the two-year results of its collaboration with the Woodland Hills School District aimed at reducing exclusionary discipline and improving student performance. Results showed a 28 percent decrease in the number of students suspended as well as academic gains and evidence that students feel safer. The project team's work also is slated to be discussed in depth in an pcoming issue of Children & Schools. •



Scenic view of Gap of Dunloe, County Kerry, Ireland.

The Irish Connection

BY TRACY SOSKA AND DENYS CANDY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GETTY IMAGES
AND TOM ALTANY/PITT VISUAL SERVICES

When Irishman Denys Candy (MSW '81), came to Pittsburgh in 1979 with his new bride, a Western Pennsylvania native, he was looking for connections to community organizers. He soon learned about the community organizing program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and the name of an organizer he needed to meet. One day, while wandering around the Cathedral of Learning, Candy finally encountered Jim Cunningham, who chaired the school's community organizing program. Cunningham welcomed Candy into his office, where they talked about community organizing. Candy became the School of Social Work's first MSW recruit from Ireland.

It was this Irish connection that would, in 1980, see Candy bring Cunningham to Ireland for his first visit to explore his family's roots as well as the Irish countryside, cities, and towns.

"I wanted Jim to see some of the wild beauty of Ireland and enjoy the hospitality of friends of mine in Sligo, my birthplace, before heading to Dublin city, where I grew up. Jim insisted on driving for a spell—his first time driving on the left and navigating our narrow country roads. We survived, and his driving got a little better on the trip, though I refused to let him drive in Dublin. We had many conversations and made connections that would serve Pitt and the school well for years to come," says Candy.

In 1982, while executive director of the Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC), Candy met Conor Ward, dean of social science at University College Dublin (UCD), and offered to host two students from UCD for a summer internship at CTAC. Ward promised to recruit "two of our best." Candy raised a small grant for stipends from the H.J. Heinz Company and turned to Cunningham to house the students. The Cunningham family would host the students in their home in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Pauline Cooper (MSW '88), from Rostrevor, County Down, and Mary Lou O'Kennedy Bolger (MSW '88), Enniscorthy, County Wexford, arrived that summer. This successful pilot project laid the groundwork for all that followed.

"Jim was a great role model in thinking strategically with a view to building sustainable partnerships and coalitions. We decided to approach Dean David Epperson to seek scholarship funding for students from Ireland to pursue MSW degrees at Pitt while living with the Cunningham family. Dean Epperson readily agreed and later visited Ireland."

Cooper, O'Kennedy, and Bridget McGuane (MSW '88)—deceased, became the vanguard of UCD grads to earn their MSW degrees at Pitt. Jim and Rita Cunningham hosted these young women as well as all the subsequent MSW students from Ireland. Prior to the European Union, the economy in Ireland was quite distressed, so a scholarship for _____in America with the possibility of finding good U.S. jobs was quite attractive to UCD graduates.

Other students from Ireland soon followed, including Eve Kemmerling (degree??),

Michael Beary (MSW '93), Brian Conway (MSW '99), and Niall Sexton (MSW '96), as well as Pauline Faughnan, a doctoral student. Irish alums found good jobs as well as lifemates in the Pittsburgh region and elsewhere. Some stayed in the United States to work, like Sexton, who worked with Allegheny County's Department of Human Services, or to complete further study, like Conway, who earned his PhD at the University of Notre Dame and eventually returned to Ireland to teach and work. Beary parlayed his industrial social work specialization into a professional career in employee assistance, recently moving from Amazon's Seattle, Wash., headquarters to its EU headquarters in Ireland. Kemmerling, O'Kennedy, and McGuane returned to Ireland and their families after graduation and pursued careers in community and youth work back home.

"Jim was a great role model in thinking strategically with a view to building sustainable partnerships and coalitions. We decided to approach Dean David Epperson to seek scholarship funding for students from Ireland to pursue MSW degrees at Pitt while living with the Cunningham family. Dean Epperson readily agreed and later visited Ireland."
—Denys Candy

Ireland's rising economic fortunes have lessened the appeal of the Pitt MSW program. However, the school has made other Irish/EU connections over the years: hosting visiting Irish community organizers, sponsoring three transatlantic symposia on community and social development for Pitt's European Studies Center, leading a study abroad service learning experience in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and consulting and lecturing on university-community partnerships for community and economic development in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Faculty, students, and alumni traveling to Ireland have enjoyed the hospitality and collegiality of our Irish alumni.

As the reflections of these Irish alumni underscore, the encouragement, leadership, and innovative thinking they experienced at the School of Social Work, as well as the hospitality offered by the Cunningham family, facilitated wonderful learning and transformative experiences for organizers, students, and faculty on both sides of the Atlantic. Pitt's School of Social Work is now more internationally engaged thanks to its Irish connection.

Feature story continued on page 16

Irish Alumni Reflections



Denys Candy (MSW '81)

"In addition to being the first Irish alumnus [of the School of Social Work] and building our Irish connection with Jim Cunningham, I worked in Pittsburgh for decades after graduation, including as the second and then last director of the Community Technical Assistance Center in Pittsburgh. For many years, I worked as president of Community Engagement Partnerships, Inc., my consulting firm, and also as an adjunct faculty member working closely with the school on many Ireland exchanges and EU projects. Now, as director of the Jandon Center for Community Engagement at Smith College in Massachusetts, I coteach a course called Overcoming Divided Histories in Dublin and Belfast. I had often worked on cross-border reconciliation between Ireland and Northern Ireland, and I return regularly to visit family and friends in Sligo and throughout Ireland."

Mary Lou O'Kennedy Bolger (MSW '88)

"I attended the MSW program from 1986 to 1988. My friend Pauline Cooper and I had spent the summer of 1984 working in the Community Technical Assistance Center headed by Denys Candy as part of our degree work experience at University College Dublin. We were hosted by Jim Cunningham's family, which led to our return to the school's MSW program and the Cunninghams in 1986 with a third Irish student, Bridget McGuane. The Cunningham house in Shadyside was a hive of academic and social activity.

"My memories are of the wonderful tutors and mentors: the inspiring Moe Coleman, who instilled [in me] a love of policy and critical thinking; the irrepressible Kiernan Stenson; the wise Charlotte Dunmore, a valued mentor; the school research team I worked with—Hidenori Yamatani, Gary Koeske, Bert Maguire, and Pamela Martz—and the always encouraging Tracy Soska, whose community knowledge and practical approach got us out of delicate situations in our internship. Their legacies, and the school's, reach beyond Pittsburgh, certainly to here in Ireland!

"I returned to Ireland, working initially at the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin but returning to community work in 1991, managing a new social innovation program, County Wexford Partnership, for 11 years, then spending another five years managing a private company for independent living through telecare technology. One of my fondest School of Social Work memories was Moe's negotiation class that always stayed with me—so much so that in 2006, I trained in mediation and have been self-employed as a mediator and conflict management trainer since."

Pauline Cooper (MSW '88)

"Mary Lou O'Kennedy and I first came to Pittsburgh on an internship at CTAC organized by Denys [Candy]. Father Conor Ward told me about an internship abroad, and I got excited thinking it would be in Europe. I never had any desire to go to America, yet here I am 35 years later. On the other hand, Mary Lou always wanted to go to America, and she is back in Ireland now, so we never really know where life will take us. I told her we would only go if she promised that we would leave Pittsburgh when the internship ended. I lived in Pittsburgh for more than 20 years and was heartbroken when I had to leave.

"We stayed with the Cunninghams, who gave us such a wonderful introduction to the city and the school, which are so intertwined. It was my first visit to America and it left an everlasting impression [on me] of the goodness and generosity of the Cunningham family, who provided us [with] the comforts of home away from home.

"I grew up in Northern Ireland in the 70s during the Troubles and as a Catholic. Upon graduating from UCD, I had few opportunities for employment; both Northern Ireland and the Republic [of Ireland] were in a recession. I loved organizing, but trying to organize in Northern Ireland would have landed me in jail. I was fortunate and forever grateful for the internship that first brought me to Pittsburgh and introduced me to the Cunninghams. I also am very thankful to Grady Roberts; to Dean [David] Epperson, who always asked, "Pauline, how's your family back in Ireland"; to Kiernan Stenson and Moe [Coleman] for all that they did; and to Ed Sites for teaching me how to write a successful grant, which is helpful in my career as a fundraising consultant and grantwriter.

"After graduation, I stayed in Pittsburgh, working first as manager for regional programs with the Mon Valley Initiative and then as executive director of the Aliquippa Alliance for Unity and Development, a community development corporation that



Pauline Cooper and her daughter



"My memories are of the wonderful tutors and mentors: the inspiring Moe Coleman, who instilled [in me] a love of policy and critical thinking; the irrepressible Kiernan Stenson; the wise Charlotte Dunmore, a valued mentor; the school research team I worked with—Hidenori Yamatani, Gary Koeske, Bert Maguire, and Pamela Martz—and the always encouraging Tracy Soska, whose community knowledge and practical approach got us out of delicate situations in our internship. Their legacies, and the school's, reach beyond Pittsburgh, certainly to here in Ireland!"

—Mary Lou O'Kennedy Bolger

Jim Cunningham developed with another community organizing program alumna. Later, I began my career as a fundraising consultant/grantwriter working with nonprofits in Southwestern Pennsylvania and with Catholic and faith-based nonprofits nationally."



Donal Costello (MSW '92, PhD '97)

"I first met Jim Cunningham in the bleak year of 1987, a gloomy time in Ireland, with double-digit unemployment—as high as 80% in the community where I worked—from declines in manufacturing and dockside jobs, leaving inner-city communities particularly affected. The National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and Dublin were developing education and research [initiatives] that engaged with communities, and the government funded some programs in community organization. Jim was part of a team from Pittsburgh linking communities there with projects in Ireland in Maynooth and Dublin.

"I visited Pittsburgh in 1988 on a Marshall Fund program and saw firsthand the extraordinary commitment of the community in response to the huge economic crisis in this industrial region. I also saw the amazing engagement of the University [of Pittsburgh] in this work and the MSW scholarship that was offered to Irish community organizers on an annual basis. When I was offered a scholarship in 1990, I didn't hesitate and later completed my doctoral work at the School of Social Work.

"My years in Pittsburgh were among the most enjoyable and fruitful that I can remember. I loved the city and the incredible people that I met. The energy of the faculty and the optimism of the activists were infectious. Jim, Moe Coleman, Tracy Soska, and others were an inspiration. Behind every memory is the figure of Jim Cunningham, whose honest and unselfish commitment to others represented the best of humanity. The legacy of his Irish program is the great work that is still carried out here by those who benefited from it.

"Community Organizing is even more important in filling the void and representing the communities that no longer have a voice in political discourse. I have felt this very strongly in any work I have done since returning, which has involved managing an information, advice, and advocacy service in southwest Dublin serving more than 100,000 people as well as independent consultancy work with other projects. In all that time, the values and knowledge that I gained in my time in Pittsburgh have been indispensable."

Brian Conway (MSW, '99)

"I first heard of the School of Social Work's Irish connection through University College Dublin's then Department of Social Policy and Social Work. Not knowing much about Pittsburgh, I arrived in August 1997 and still remember meeting Professor Cunningham and his son Steve at the airport. I stayed with them for nearly two years.

"The standout memories of my time at Pitt were my cohort of MSW students, the field placements I undertook, and the challenges of living in the United States, which were all new to me then. After graduation, I worked for a short time in the community organization field, organizing social housing tenants in a Midlands Irish town. Being at Pitt influenced my decision to later pursue doctoral study at the University of Notre Dame, Jim Cunningham's alma mater. While at Notre Dame, I had the privilege of hosting Professor Cunningham and Pat Murphy to talk about their community economic development book. I now serve as an assistant professor at Maynooth University and research comparative historical sociology, especially organized religion." ●



A Man for All Seasons

Most people who know **Tracy Soska** like to joke that he's never met a challenge or a request that he could say no to. Whether it was working late into the night wrapping presents for kids, planting tress in Pittsburgh's Hazelwood neighborhood, or driving to Bradford, Pa., to help start a social work program on the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford's campus, Soska seemed to find time for everything.

Until his retirement at the end of August 2019, Soska was a clinical associate professor and the continuing education director in Pitt's School of Social Work as well as the chair of the Community, Organization, and Social Action concentration in the school's Master of Social Work program.

Soska's commitment to community activism dates back to his time as a teenager, when he marched against hunger and was an anti-war activist. After his work with VISTA (now AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), Soska realized that he could make a career of his passion: helping people and communities to achieve their best. Because of this, he enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work in 1974 and a master's in social work in 1978. After working as a community organizer and human services manager, he returned to the school in 1988 as a lecturer and took over as Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA) program chair in 2006. This was especially meaningful for Soska, who had been greatly influenced by COSA legends like Moe Coleman (MSW '60) and Jim Cunningham.

However, moving into academia did not mean that Soska was disconnecting from the communities he had spent so much time supporting. "Every time there was a big event happening in the community, Tracy was there," says Aliya Durham (MSW '02), a faculty member at the School of Social Work. "He just knew everybody, and he was always looking for ways to strategically connect people, to connect students. And just as much as he was out there in the community, he also brought the community into the classroom, and he helped his students see just how wide open their career possibilities are."

Soska continued to be a nonprofit and human services sector advocate in the Pittsburgh region and was major driver for the professionalization of the sector.

"In my 29 years of learning from and working with Tracy as well as seeing his impact, he will always be known for three major aspects of influence in our sector," says Dave Coplan (BASW '91, MSW '93), friend and executive director of the Human Services Center Corporation. "He taught us all to build a network and connect with others. He has been and continues to be a significant mentor to emerging and established leaders in the field. And there is no doubt that Tracy is the ultimate servant leader."

Soska's commitment to community engagement and servant leadership has not gone unnoticed. In 1999, he was

"He taught us all to build a network and connect with others. He has been and continues to be a significant mentor to emerging and established leaders in the field. And there is no doubt that Tracy is the ultimate servant leader."
—Dave Coplan (BASW '91, MSW '93)

recognized at Pitt for his strong community commitment with a Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award; in 2008, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers named him Social Worker of the Year; in 2017, he accepted the ACOSA Career Achievement Award; and in 2018, he was awarded the Council on Social Work Education Service and Leadership in Social Work Education Award. In one of the most touching moments, he was honored with the 2017 University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics Coleman Award, named for one of his closest mentors, the late Moe Coleman.

Speaking for many of his supporters, former Community Human Services (CHS) chief executive officer Adrienne Walnoha (MSW '99) had this to say about Soska when he was honored with the 2011 CHS Community Ally Award: "We could not think of a person who more genuinely embodies the spirit of civic engagement, community development and relationship building than Tracy. In these challenging times … it is people like him who inspire us to dig deep, stand our ground, and bring the best of ourselves to work each and every day."

One need not look far to find examples of how Soska has inspired others. His former students are now leading organizations in areas such as community development, human services, immigration, and higher education. "Tracy has been a friend and mentor since I first stepped into the Cathedral [of Learning] as a graduate student 18 years ago," says School of Social Work Associate Dean for Student Success Keith Caldwell (MSW '02). "His commitment to and impact on our school, our community, and our profession is something for each of us to aspire to."

"Tracy was instrumental in my orientation to Pittsburgh as a new dean," says Betsy Farmer. "He knows everyone and is so generous in sharing his network and time. We spent a lot of time driving around to give me a good sense of the who's who of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Everywhere I go, I run into people whose lives have intersected with Tracy's. He made everyone feel special and valued, in a way that made them want to play that same role in others' lives. Tracy is the real deal!"

Soska will continue to remain involved with the school and is currently working on advancing library social work and interdisciplinary education between social work and library science at Pitt. He also is working with the Hillman Library archives on developing a community/neighborhood archive that will include some of his papers, including those related to the Pitt Community Outreach Partnership Center and other University-community engagement materials. "There might be [the opportunity to write a] book in there someplace," he says. Knowing Soska, he has many more stories to share.

In 2019, with a small group of Pitt Social Work alumni and friends taking the lead, more than 50 donors raised more than $21,000 to create the Tracy M. Soska Endowed Fund in honor of Soska. Now that the fund is public, others are invited to contribute in growing the fund. Go to giveto.pitt.edu, click on the Give Now button, select Choose Area to Support, check the Other box at the bottom of the pop-up window, and type Soska Fund into the text box to make an online contribution. ●



(From left to right) Alicia Andrews (BASW '01, MSW '03), David Coplan (BASW '91, MSW '93), and Tracy Soska (BASW '74, MSW '78) as seen in the spring 2008 edition of *Bridges*.



Booth, Ivery, Allegra, and Ohmer with the villagers

Ohmer Provides Guidance, Support to NGO in Ghana

Mary Ohmer, School of Social Work associate professor and Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA) chair, has been providing guidance and support to a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Ghana that was created 10 years ago by Sara Allegra, a Georgia State University MSW student of Ohmer's when Ohmer taught there. The Sub-Saharan Education Project (SSEP) is a charity that supports women's and children's educational advancement. SSEP provides scholarships for students to attend school and builds schools in rural areas in Ghana.

Every year, Allegra visits Pittsburgh to sell recycled glass bead jewelry handmade by women in the villages SSEP serves at a party at Ohmer's home. She also shares information about SSEP with social work students, staff, and faculty.

Two years ago, Ohmer traveled to Ghana with Jaime Booth, assistant professor at Pitt, and Jan Ivery (MSW '97), associate professor of social work at Georgia State University, to conduct research on SSEP programs. The team is now putting together manuscripts on their findings to submit for publication.

To learn more about SSEP, visit ssepempower.org. •



Fulbright Scholar Rauktis Studies in Portugal

In fall 2017, School of Social Work Research Assistant Professor **Mary Elizabeth Rauktis** served as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Porto in Portugal. In addition to teaching about human rights and child abuse, residential care, and child welfare policies in the United States, she spent her time in Portugal examining out-of-home care for children and youths there and measuring restrictiveness in group homes.

One main cultural difference Rauktis found in her research is a higher level of reliance on long-term residential group homes. "Portugal does not have an extensive range of options [e.g., foster care, kinship care, subsidized guardianship, intensive parenting interventions] the way that other countries do," she notes, nor is the rate of adoption, particularly of older children, sufficient. She points out that according to a 2016 report by the Portuguese social security agency, only 3% of children in out-of-home care placements were in foster care while 90% were placed in some sort of institution.

Rauktis' study of out-of-home care in Portugal was focused on looking at why the rate of institutional (rather than private home) placement is so high and what could be done to address it. Here, she found very strong cultural differences.

"Culturally, there is a religious history of institutions here, and there is a strong culture of family—by this I mean who you bring into your family home and family life. There is no history of people being paid to make children family members," she says. "I don't know that I can change it, and it would be a mistake on my part to think that I can. Instead, I've tried to better understand the cultural, structural, and economic reasons and try to suggest ways in which data can be used to better understand what is … and what interventions could be adapted to Portuguese culture."

Rauktis worked with colleagues at the University of Porto and the University of Kassel in Germany to translate and adapt a restrictiveness measurement tool she developed for use in Europe. "The term 'restriction' … is very American and very treatment focused, and so we are beginning to think of how to talk about it in Europe. It is more about the structure of how a 'home' functions. Based on interviews with counselors, educators, and psychologists in Portugal and Germany, we have not only translated it but [also] tried to include items that are culture specific."

Now that she is back in the United States and has had time to reflect upon her experience in Portugal, Rauktis says that her thinking of the concept of home and her views on residential care have changed. During her time in Portugal, she says, "I began to think more deeply about human rights, specifically child rights, and not in my formerly restricted way of treatment and outcomes. I was able to think about the right to a home when you have left your family and your family home behind in another country or if your family cannot safely care for you. I realized that the right to have a place that you feel is home is a universal right."

"I have come to think of a residential home as a home—not a facility, not a treatment, but a home. Even the language used [in] Portugal … is different. In Portugal, it is 'welcoming home.' I began to think more about how make a place a welcoming home."

Whereas she previously held a somewhat negative view of residential youth homes, her time in Portugal showed her a different side of this type of out-of-home care.

"I have come to think of a residential home as a home—not a facility, not a treatment, but a home. Even the language used [in] Portugal … is different. In Portugal, it is 'welcoming home.' I began to think more about how make a place a welcoming home." ●



Lisbon, Portugal street perspective view with colorful traditional houses

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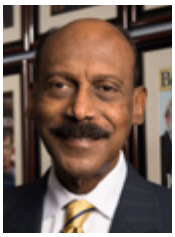


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Lombardi with Bledsoe, S.E., Kainz, K., "Scrutinizing the Cumulative Risk Model for ACE Exposure: Propensity Score Weighting for Multiple Treatment Groups," Oral presentation, Society for Social Work and Research 23rd Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2019.

Lombardi with Zerden, L.D., Richman, E., Milner, B., Lindenberg, E., "Using Electronic Health Records to Better Understand Social Work Practice in Integrated Health Settings," Oral presentation, Society for Social Work and Research 23rd Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2019.

Lombardi with Zerden, L.D., Richman, E.L., "Social Workers on Interprofessional Integrated Healthcare Teams: Education and Practice Implications," Oral presentation, CSWE APM, Orlando, FL, 2018.

Christina E. Newhill with *Ylioja, T., Cochran, G. & H.A. Tindle, "Tobacco Quitline Cessation Outcomes for Sexual and Gender Minorities," Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco. 2019 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.



Pictured from left to right are Danny Rosen and Susan Kalson at the Squirrel Hill Health Center.



Pictured from left to right are Sara Goodkind and Holly Hickling at the University Honors College

Newhill with Cochran, G., Ylioja, T., and H.A. Tindle (doctoral student), "Tobacco Quitline Cessation Outcomes for Sexual and Gender Minorities," Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco. 2019 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Newhill with Fusco, R.A., "High Hopes and Poor Sleep: Effect of Marijuana Use among Former Foster Care Youth," Society for Social Work and Research 2019 Annual Scientific Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Newhill with Fusco, R.A., Yuan, Y and Lee, H., "Trauma, Sleep, and Mental Health Problems in Low-Income Young Adults," Society for Social Work and Research 2019 Annual Scientific Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Newhill with Lee, H., Fusco, R.A., and "Poly-Victimization and Mental Health in Youth: Mediating Roles of Trauma and Sleep," Society for Social Work and Research 2019 Annual Scientific Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Newhill with Yuan, Y. and Scott, L. (doctoral student), "Trauma, Emotion Dysregulation and Borderline Personality Disorder Features in Young Women," Society for Social Work and Research 2019 Annual Scientific Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Rauktis, M.E., et al., "Social Work in Transition in Different Countries: Similarities, Differences and the Future of the Profession: Educating Child Welfare Social Workers in the USA to Promote Leadership, Reduce Trauma and Improve Resilience," Paper presented at the European Association for Social Work, Madrid, June 2019.
Rauktis with Greeno K., "Teaching Research Methods: An Interactive Workshop, Paper presented at the European Association for Social Work, Madrid, 2019.

Orlando, R., Winters, R., Rauktis, M.E., Eicher, A., "Perfecting Case Planning: Utilizing Structured Assessments to Analyze and Improve the Family Service Plans, Presented at the 21st National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Washington D.C, June 2019.

Rauktis, M.E., Lee, H., Bickel, L., & Cahalane, G., "How Do Human and Companion Animal Food Needs Intersect in Low-Income Households? Presentation at the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations Triannual Conference. Green Chimneys New York., April 2019.

Rauktis with Lee, H.. "He Gets Half My Tuna Sandwich: How Human and Companion Animal Food Needs Intersect in Low Income Households," Community Engaged Scholarship Forum, University of Pittsburgh, March 2019.
Rauktis, "Youth Perception of Making a Home Safe in and Out of Home Care in the USA," EUSARF XV International Conference, October 2018, Porto Portugal.

Fengyan Tang with Chi, I., Zhang, W. & Dong, X., "Activity Engagement and Cognition: Findings from a Community-Dwelling U.S. Chinese Aging Population Study., Presented at the Gerontological Society of America annual meeting. Boston, MA, November, 2018.

Tang with Hunsaker, A.E., Lingler, J., Engel, R., & Rosen, D., "What Sociodemographic and Health Factors Relate to Participation in Neuroimaging for Dementia Research? Presented at the Gerontological Society of America annual meeting. Boston, MA, November, 2018.

Thanks to all the faculty members and students who presented at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) conference that was held in Washington, D.C., January 17-20, 2020.

Grants

Brianna M. Lombardi, Principal Investigator, School-Based Trauma Intervention to Build Social and Cognitive Resilience, 2019 Pitt Seed Project, Office of the Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh.

Lombardi, Co-Investigator, Using Electronic Health Records to Determine Who is Addressing Patient SDOH, Program on Health Workforce Research and Policy, Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Cooperative Agreement PI: Erin Fraher, PhD; Contract PI: Lisa de Saxe Zerden, PhD. $45,000 award [University of Pittsburgh Sub-Contract $7,500].

Lombardi, Co-Investigator, Office Based Opioid Treatment—The Workforce to Treat Opioid Use Disorder, Program on Health Workforce Research and Policy, Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Cooperative Agreement PI: Erin Fraher, PhD; Contract PI: Lisa de Saxe Zerden, PhD. $45,000 award [University of Pittsburgh Sub-Contract $7,500].

Christina Newhill, Co-PI (Edward Mulvey, PI). "Families as Partners in Reducing Violence" 07/20/17-06/30/19, This project proposes to develop a novel psychoeducation intervention to reduce violence in individuals with mental illness by employing families and clinicians as partners. R21 MH11180301 A1 NIMH $403,433.

Daniel Rosen, Co-PI with a colleague in the School of Medicine. Project Title: Food Insecurity, Nutritional Literacy, and Heart Disease: A Novel Interdisciplinary University of Pittsburgh Initiative. Funding Opportunity Number: Pitt Seed Project: Chancellor's Seed Funding Awards 2019. ●



The School of Social Work held its December graduation ceremony on December 14, 2019, in the William Pitt Union. The keynote speaker was **Jose A. Diaz**, senior director of community outreach and impact at the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh and an adjunct professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

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CRSP fellows

Pictured on the steps of Pittsburgh Lincoln PreK-5 school from left to right are Lydia Archinal, Kiva Fisher-Green (administration), Ke-Amber Moses, Larrette McCoy, advocate, Sam Lofquist, and Grace Geisler.

Each year, CRSP provides stipends for several Master of Social Work students to enable them to fulfill their internships. These students provide emotional, scholastic, and practical support to students in local elementary schools with high proportions of needy students. CRSP fellows have been found to be a tremendous resource to the schools in which they are placed. In addition, the placements provide the fellows with unique practicum opportunities to serve low-income and underrepresented communities.