

HELPERS, HEALERS, AND HEROES



ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL IN 2018, THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CELEBRATES ITS BLACK EXPERIENCE



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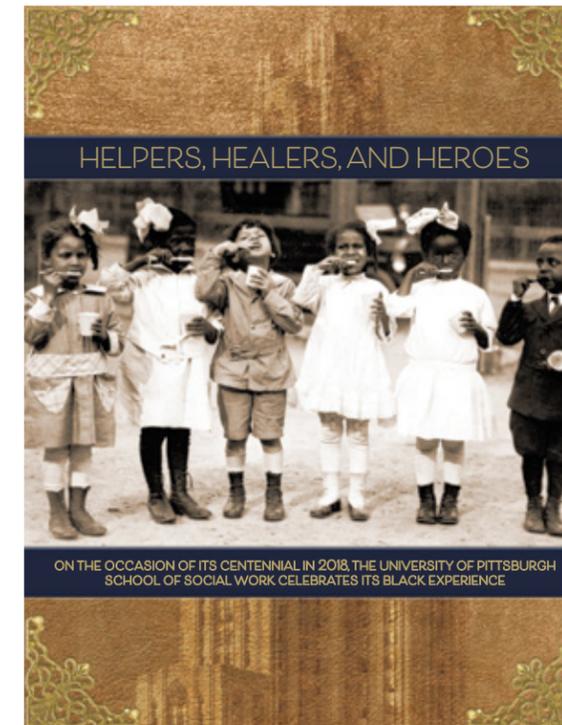
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2018

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INTRODUCTION

THE BLACK PITT SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

School of
Social Work

There is no extant evidence that any African American was associated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work (SSW) when it was established in 1918 as the newest Pitt academic program. Yet, if no Black students, faculty, staff, or administrators enriched the Pitt SSW experience at the outset, they certainly succeeded—indeed overachieved—in delivering many great contributions in the last 75 years.

This publication trumpets the story within a story of the myriad ways in which African Americans helped the SSW become a top-tier institution in furtherance of its calling to prepare social workers, social policy makers, social work researchers and scholars, as well as engage in scholarship and provide service. Beginning modestly in 1918 as a program within the sociology department of the Pitt School of Economics, in 2018 the SSW is a fully accredited elite school of social work—within an American Association of Universities institution—that awards BASW, MSW, and PhD degrees.

Thus, having whispered into existence in the early 20th century, the School roared into the 21st with a ferocity that placed it into the top tier of the nation's schools of social work, ranked 10 on the *U.S. News & World Report* listing of the best schools of social work by 2017.

STUDENTS

Of course, great schools attract, retain, and graduate great students. Because records of students' race were not officially kept in the early years, the presence and achievements of early Black Pitt social work students are not documented for the post-World War I period.

By World War II, however, Nancy Lee, a descendant of President Thomas Jefferson and his slave Sally Hemings, had enrolled, and she graduated in 1943. In the 1950s African American enrollment in the MSW program included psychiatric social workers Ronald Lewis and before him Alameda McClellan.

Black enrollment surged in the 1960s. The MSW class of 1964 was the first in which more males than women enrolled. Yet, at least two of the latter were Black. To date, approximately 1,000 African American students received BASW, MSW, and DSW/PhD degrees at the University of Pittsburgh SSW. And 58 Pitt SSW doctoral degrees were earned by Black scholars.

FACULTY

These gifted students were taught and prepared by talented faculty that included African Americans since the early 1960s, beginning with Mary Ella Robertson in 1961. On the heels of earlier activism by the student Black Action Society, the 1970s saw the arrival of a cadre of Black Pitt SSW faculty amidst a successful broader campus-wide drive by Black students—both graduate and undergraduate—to foster a more integrated faculty. Between 1968 and 2018, the full-time SSW faculty ranks included 30 African Americans.

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THE BLACK PITT SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]

The robust teaching, research, and service agendas of the School's Black faculty have helped to elevate the reputation of the School of Social Work within both the University of Pittsburgh and the national schools of social work communities. Local recognition in the host Western Pennsylvania community is evidenced by the Falk Fund's establishment at the School of the Philip Hallen Chair in Social Justice and Community Health. Pitt appointed John Wallace as the most recent of the two African Americans to hold the distinguished professorship, a chair that alternates between the SSW and Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health.

The work of Dr. Wallace is a fine example of the continuing practice of Pitt SSW professors combining mutually supportive teaching, practice, service, and scholarship that uplift the social work profession, the University, and the surrounding host community. He holds the inaugural Epperson Chair.

ALUMNI

Without question, the reach of the SSW is most profoundly and ongoingly extended through the contributions of alumni. Prepared by the social work programs at all three levels and by—in many cases—joint programs with other academic entities, Pitt SSW alumni have made their marks across a sweep of agencies, organizations, and institutions that touch the local, state, national, and international landscapes. And Black alumni are prominent among these achievers.

In addition, remembering the Alma Mater that was foundational in their success, African American alumni have supported the SSW through both volunteerism and philanthropy.

In particular, Joy Starzl, David Epperson, Nancy Lee, and noted civic leader and social work pioneer Orlene Ricco—who bequeathed her estate to the the School—are among the SSW's most generous individual donors.

Over the decades, Black alumni have followed Orlene Ricco's generosity with philanthropy of their own, among the most generous of whom have been Joy Starzl and David Epperson with their families. These donor-alumni validate the continuous work of the School in support of its mission, encourage onward and upward achievements, and inspire generosity to the School by other alumni and friends.

SSW African American alumna donor Joy Starzl and local Black volunteers Esther Bush, Rod Doss, Glenn Mahone, Wendell Freeland, Eric Springer, and Doris Carson Williams have served on the Board of Visitors over the years.

Fundamentally, the greatest contributions SSW alumni make to humankind is being social workers. Still, many alumni—from a social work-springboard—have achieved distinction in other walks of life as well. Stanley Battle, who earned his Pitt PhD in 1980, was president of North Carolina A&T University. Before becoming dean of the social work school at Atlanta University, Rufus Lynch, who earned a 1970 Pitt MSW, was chief of staff for Pennsylvania Speaker of the House of Representatives K. Leroy Irvis and dean of the Whitney Young, Jr. School of Social Work at Clark Atlanta University. Pitt emeritus professor Grady Roberts, who holds MSW and PhD degrees from Pitt, experienced a distinguished military career, rising to the rank of colonel. To be sure, the analytical, critical thinking, and leadership skills important in the social worker also serve well other professions.

As School alumni proclaim, just the privilege of earning a University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work degree is itself a fine achievement for the Black graduates to claim. The trailblazers who were the firsts deserve special recognition:

First Black MSW, Nancy Lee 1943
First Black DSW/PhD, Inabel Burns Lindsay 1952

LEADERSHIP

For the last nearly 50 years—almost half of the School's life—the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work thrived under Black leadership. When he retired as the first Black SSW dean in 2001, David Epperson had served a 29-year tenure and was Pitt's longest serving dean. His accomplishments ushered in the School's 60th anniversary as the University's 18th separate school and positioned the school for his successor to guide it to its next level of excellence.

Larry Davis, as that successor, established a plethora of initiatives and programs, as he led the school to its current level of eminence. Further extending the Black experience, Larry Davis established the annual Cuba tour, the Center on Race and Social Problems, and appointed the first Black associate dean for academic affairs, first Black chair of the PhD program Valire Carr Copeland.

The reach of the School and its world-class reputation were elevated further through its acclaimed 2010 national conference "Race in America: Restructuring Inequality" and the establishment of the scholarly journal *Race and Social Problems*. ✦

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BOARD OF VISITORS

CURRENT AND FORMER
AFRICAN AMERICAN
MEMBERS

PAULA ALLEN-MEARES

ESTHER BUSH

KING DAVIS

ROD DOSS

WENDELL FREELAND

GLENN MAHONE

ERIC SPRINGER

JOY STARZL

AARON WALTON

DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN EMERITUS

DONALD HENDERSON
PROFESSOR EMERITUS AND
DIRECTOR, CENTER ON RACE
AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

LARRY E. DAVIS

This *Helpers and Healers* publication is presented in recognition of the rich and mutually rewarding contributions of Africa Africans during the course of the 100 years of existence of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work (SSW). This storied tradition was built by the School of Social Work's major Black constituents; its students—undergraduate and graduate—faculty, alumni, staff, and leadership.

When the School was established in 1918 nearly 25 years had passed since the University had graduated its first African American, William Hunter Dammond in 1894 with an honors bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. The first Black to earn a Pitt Social Work degree was Nancy Lee in 1943.

Ms. Lee blazed a path through which generations of Black SSW students have successfully travelled over the ensuing years. Having earned Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, Doctor of Social Work, and Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work degrees at the SSW, as well as certifications and preparation for licensure, those students have succeeded in the sweep of academic programs offered by the School.

As alumni, the graduates of the SSW have assumed leadership positions in governmental and non-governmental organizations, human service agencies, a variety of non-profits, hospitals, schools, and universities, among other entities. For example, one distinguished African American alumna, Orlene Ricco, was appointed the first social work director at Pittsburgh's renowned Magee Women's Hospital.

By the end of the 1960s, Black faculty were part of the SSW community. And these professors have also excelled not only as teachers and scholars, but as community servants; therapists; activists; field practitioners; community organizers; social policy experts; and as leaders in other respects in service to humankind, both locally and farther afield. In fact, the two successive appointees as the Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice—a joint appointment with the Graduate School of Public Health—have been Black.

The SSW enjoys the distinction of being the academic home of the University's longest serving dean. When that beloved Black leader retired in 2001 he had been dean of the School for 29 years. As his immediate successor and as an African American man, I have been inspired and grateful to lead the school through its continuous forward momentum.

Of course, the SSW benefits from an enormously successful network of support that includes an engaged Board of Visitors, philanthropic believers, government officials, community partners, program sponsors, and friends. Included in the latter are collaborators within the University's many entities. This network is well represented by enthusiastic African American contributors.

Finally, the SSW established the Center on Race and Social Problems in 2002 as a scholarly forum to interrogate societal issues in an ongoing program characterized by intellectual rigor. Blacks are frequently included as presenters in the annual speakers' series. And topics associated with Blackness are abundantly treated at the Center.

In these pages of *Helpers, Healers, and Heroes*, the story of the Black University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work experience is told in words and images ... with both affection and respect. All the same, this is not an exhaustive effort by any measure. Rather, the accounts contained herein are illustrative of the fine folks that are and/or have been distinguished members of this unique intellectual community. Please indulge your own experience with this publication and feel free to spread its good news. ✧

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THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE



^ PHOTO COURTESY
SENATOR JOHN HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER
1954



FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN
PITT SOCIAL WORK ALUMNA
NANCY LEE
MSW 1943

She descends from U.S. President Thomas Jefferson and his enslaved Black concubine Sally Hemings through their son, Madison Hemings. No benefit from being the progeny of the former accrued to Nancy Lee. But, as a Black woman in 1920s and '30s Pittsburgh, she endured the forms of discrimination that defined the offspring of American slaves.

Having earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education in 1927, she attempted to enroll in the Pitt School of Social Work on several occasions in succeeding years ... without success. In the changed academic and societal environment of World War II-era Pittsburgh, she was finally able to earn her Pitt social work master's degree in 1943 at age 34. Nancy Lee is regarded as the first Black student to earn a University of Pittsburgh master's degree at the SSW.

Although that achievement came years later than she planned, Ms. Lee nonetheless carved out a distinguished career as a visionary social worker and civic leader into the 1990s. Much of her distinction was earned as a social worker in the juvenile system of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in Pittsburgh.

Ms. Lee practiced an uplifting brand of social work to motivate young people who were caught up in the local justice system, rather than regard them as just so many outcasts. Her favorite niece, Mary Lee-Brady Atkins, a 1950 Pitt graduate, remembers Ms. Lee escorting her young charges on out-of-town trips to place them in new homes.

She rose to become the first Black executive in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. As chief of counseling in the complaint and information division, Ms. Lee directed a staff of 25 grappling with family separation and support matters.

During World War II-era Pittsburgh, close friend and Pitt alumna Vivian Davidson Hewitt, the first Black professional librarian at the Pittsburgh Carnegie Library, lived as a roommate in the home of Nancy Lee.

Remembering her alma mater, Ms. Lee was the primary fundraiser that secured the financial support to establish the African Heritage Nationality Room at Pitt's Cathedral of Learning, which was dedicated on December 17, 1989. Through her personal philanthropy, she funded a scholarship in honor of her parents in the Pitt SSW.

A member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Ms. Lee was honored by that organization and many others. Nancy Lee died in 1995, after a long life of social service to the Pittsburgh community, professionally and civically. ✧

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THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]



INABEL BURNS LINDSAY

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK 1952

Renowned 20th century sociologist and social worker E. Franklin Frazier obviously knew what he was doing when he recruited Inabel Burns Lindsay back to their Howard University undergraduate Alma Mater in the mid-1930s. As chair of sociology there, he had begun developing a social work option and hired her as one of two social work faculty to help him do it. Ms. Lindsay obviously knew what she was doing by accepting the open doorway to opportunity. By 1937 she made history as the founding dean of the Howard University School of Social Work. Ms. Lindsay thereby became also the only woman academic dean of a coeducational college in Washington D.C. Well prepared for the undertaking, she had earned her MSW at the University of Chicago, where Dr. Frazier had received his PhD.

At Howard, Dean Lindsay shaped her teaching and administrative philosophy around culturally competent social work practice, research, and policy. Adding to her scholarly heft, Dean Lindsay took a leave of absence and made history again by becoming the first African American to receive a doctoral degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work in 1952.

Dr. Lindsay earned her DSW degree only three years after the Pitt SSW had awarded its first doctoral degrees in 1949. With her credentials enhanced as a Pitt SSW-prepared scholar, her influence in the cultural competence movement for social justice in social work widened. And by the 1950s, it is reported that numerous practicing Black social workers in the Washington D.C. area were educated under her leadership at Howard. She served as dean there for 30 years until her 1967 retirement.



A beautiful banner depicting her portrait hangs in the lobby of the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. And in 1985 the building in which the Howard University School of Social

Work is housed was named Inabel Burns Lindsay Hall in honor of the trailblazing Pitt SSW alumna. ✦

RUFUS SYLVESTER LYNCH

MSW 1970



Rufus Lynch was chief of staff to Pennsylvania Speaker of the House of Representatives K. Leroy Irvis, the most powerful African American in the state during the late 1970s and most of the 1980s. And Dr. Lynch drafted the bill for licensure in the state of social workers credentialed at all levels.

Some years after the elevation of Dean Whitney Young to become the renowned CEO of the National Urban League, Rufus Lynch walked in his shoes as dean of the Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work. Endowed with an intellectual heft worthy of the undertaking, Dr. Lynch possessed a University of Pittsburgh MSW degree from the School of Social Work and a DSW degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

In service to all of America's ambassadors to humanity, Dr. Lynch was the first Black president of the Pennsylvania chapter of NASW and served on the latter's national board of directors.

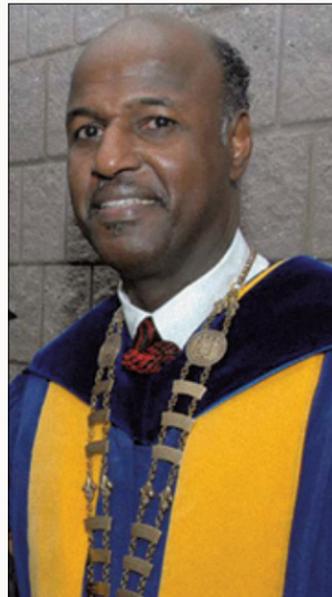
Identifying professionally as a forensic macro practice social worker, he practiced and taught judges, constables, and sheriffs applications of social work in the judicial context. Himself unclaimed as a child and having aged out of foster care, Rufus Lynch taught himself and officials how to improve foster care systemically for future generations.

Dr. Lynch has received the University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Alumnus Award. During 2014-2016, Dr. Lynch was a Stoneleigh Senior Fellow, conducting research and lecturing on father-focused reform of welfare. He is chair of the Philadelphia-based Strong Families Commission, an agency that advocates for recognition of fathers in family life. ✦



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THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]



STANLEY BATTLE

PHD 1980

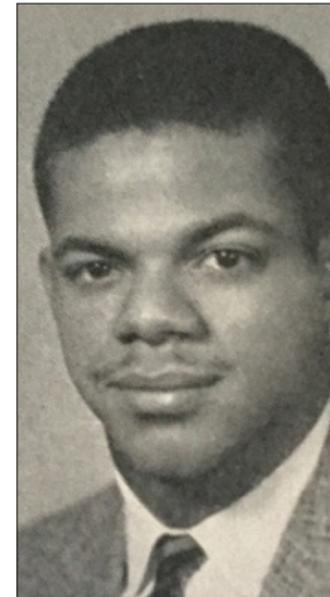
When he returned to the University of Pittsburgh in 2005 Stanley Battle received Pitt's highest alumni recognition. Nominated by the Pitt School of Social Work, Dr. Battle was named that year a Legacy Laureate.

The Pitt distinction recognized the honoree for his accomplishments as a social worker and scholar who developed into an academic leader. He was serving as president of Coppin State University.

Dr. Battle earned his master's in public health at Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health and his Phd at Pitt's SSW.

After receiving his Pitt alumni honor, more achievements marked his professional path. He was appointed chancellor of North Carolina A&T University in 2007. Nonetheless, he would return to his social work core.

In 2013 he joined the faculty of Connecticut's University of St. Joseph. He was named professor of social work and equitable community practice, as well as founding director of the institution's MSW program. Enthusiastic about the reimmersion, Stanley Battle has noted a fundamental truth, according to St. Joseph. "Social Work is about the needs of people." ✦



RONALD LEWIS

MSW 1959

Ronald Lewis likely enrolled in Pitt's SSW because of a pivotal event that befell him several years earlier. In his mid-teens in Pittsburgh's Schenley High School of the mid-1950s, Ronald Lewis got real. No, he was not going to be a United States Olympian. A torn-muscle injury sustained as a varsity sprinter ended his visions of Olympic glory as a 100- and 200-yard sprinter.

Accepting the cold reality within a year, "It is then that I decided to focus on my academics," Lewis explained. By the time he retired as a professor at Paine College, the Black Methodist school in Augusta Georgia where his wife Shirley was president, he capped a nearly 50-year career, for which his superb academic credentials prepared him. And he attributes much of what ensued for him—during that half-century journey—to the Pitt School of Social Work.

Nearing graduation from college at Penn State University, he learned that Miss Reynolds from Pitt's School of Social Work was speaking at Happy Valley. At about that time, thoughts of synthesizing his learning into career choices had emerged. Perhaps social work was a viable option. Miss Reynolds advised that the state of Ohio, in need of psychiatric social workers, would pay for his MSW education at Pitt in exchange for his practicing in the state.

Whatever else inspiring that sprung forth from her talk, Miss Reynolds and Pitt SSW had him at "pay for." In 1959 Ronald Lewis

received his Master of Social Work degree from Pitt. Ohio, here he comes.

"I lived in six states," Dr. Lewis observed of his peripatetic life in service to the U.S. Army and to the practice and teaching of psychiatric and community-organizing social work. Along the way he met Shirley Redd on a blind double date and married her. They both earned PhD degrees at Stanford University.

At Paine, Lewis taught social work, sociology, and cultural anthropology. He also advised undergraduates toward graduate school, quintupling the graduate-school going rate among Paine graduates during his time there from 1994 until his retirement in 2007.

Drs. Lewis visited Pittsburgh and Pitt in June of 2018. He observed that "Everything that I did in Social Work was informed by the manuscript of my Pitt SSW professor Eleanor Cockerill and the guidance of Louis Lehrman, my professor who taught that good case work practice evidenced scientific art. Professor Cockerill guided students to comprehend why social workers do what we do, while Professor Lehrman taught me the art of the science of social work."

Lewis is a founder of the National Association of Black Social Workers; founder of the Welfare Rights Organization of Richmond (California); and he was president of the Bay Area Black Social Workers. Adapting the Pitt SSW teachings he learned here some sixty years ago, Lewis infused an Afro-centric cultural consciousness as he focused on both the practice and teaching of social work, much to the benefit of those he touched in his distinguished career. ✦

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THE ALUMNI EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]



FRANCINE MCNAIRY

MSW 1970

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 upon 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." ✧



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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

DOCTORAL DEGREES EARNED BY BLACK SCHOLARS



GRADUATE STUDENT DISSERTATIONS

1952-2018

Lindsay, Inabel Burns
The Participation of Negroes
in the Establishment of Welfare
Services 1865-1900

1952

Robertson, Mary Ella
A Study of Planning and Implementing
Processes in Social Welfare by Two
Voluntary Organizations

1962

Pratt, Mildred Inez
A Study of the Development of Social
Welfare in a Selected Group of African
Countries: Ghana, Sierra Leone, Kenya,
and Tanzania

1969

Feagins, Jack Lawrence
A Descriptive Study of Variance in Sources of
Referral Pathways to Treatment for Black and
Non-Black Alcoholics

1974

Sellers, Frank
Impact of Sickle Cell Anemia on
Attitudes and Relationships Among
Particular Family Members

1974

La Prince, Robert Henry
Perceived Differences in Opportunities for
Educational Mobility and Career Choice:
A Sociological Case Study of the Minority
Student Physician

1976

Battle, Stanley Fred
Differential Perceptions of Sickle Cell
Anemia Patients

1980

Ekpe, Christopher Peter
The Reactions of Foreign Students to
Their Training in the United States

1980

Hairston, Shirley Hughes
Sources of Role Conflict for Black and White
Professional Women

1980

Barnett, Alva Pharlinda
Factors Affecting the Participation of Adolescent
Mothers in Post-Natal Programs

1981

Mann, Aaron Randolph
An Analysis of Federal Narcotic Detoxification Policy:
Its Implications for Practice

1981

McDaniel, Carl Douglas
The Effects of Self-Concept and Tolerance for Deviance
on Official Juvenile Delinquent Behavior

1981

Caldwell, Eva Marie Coles
A Study of Schools and Programs of Social Work and
Minority Student Enrollments from 1973-1980

1982

Milligan, Sharon E.
An Analysis of Access to Contraceptive Care in
Western Pennsylvania

1982

Tshabalala, Mandla Absalom
Labor Relations in South Africa: A Policy Analysis of the
Industrial Conciliation Amendment Act of 1979

1983

Dicks, Barbara A.
Dissertation title unavailable

1984

Taylor, Brennen
UNIA and American Communism in Conflict 1917-1928:
An Historical Analysis in Negro Social Welfare

1984

Williams, Michael Robert
The Effects of Social Security's Title I and Title II Programs
Amendment Changes Upon the Social/Economic
Well-Being of Elderly Black Americans (1935-1972)

1985

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DOCTORAL DEGREES EARNED BY BLACK SCHOLARS [CONTINUED]

Williams, Oliver Joseph

Spouse Abuse: A Comparison Between Batters and Non-Batters

1985

Franklin, Agnes T.

The Influence of Economic, Sociologic, Religion and Cultural Identity on Depression Among Single Black Women

1986

Hewitt, Robert L.

From Resistance to Advocacy: The Growth and Development of Army Family Related Policy: An Historical Analysis of Policy

1986

Lucas, Emma Turner

The Recognition of Elder Abuse Among Health Service Professionals

1986

Turner, Bobbie Green

An Analysis of Title IV of the Social Security Act of 1935—Aid to Dependent Children and Its Relationship to the Social-Economic Well-Being of Black, Needy Children in America, 1935-85

1986

Bollie, John D.

Wife Battery and Criminal Justice: An Exploration of Victim Decision-Making

1987

Nakhaima, Jembe Mabonga

A Study of Self-Esteem Among the Upward Bound High School Participants of the University of Pittsburgh

1987

Carr Copeland, Valire Renaye

The Implementation Process as a Framework for Policy Analysis

1989

King, James E.

The Impact of Federal Housing Policy on the Urban African American Families from 1930 to 1966: Model Cities a Case Study

1991

Rodgers, Antoinette Yvetta

The Assessment of Variables Related to the Parenting Behavior of Mothers with Young Children

1991

Moore, Sharon Elizabeth

A Comparative Analysis of Adolescent Chemical Dependency Treatment Program in Allegheny County, PA with a Special Focus on the Black Male Adolescent Who Uses Heroin and/or Crack/Cocaine

1992

Wheeler, Darrell Payton

Marginalization, Locus of Control and Gender Identification: Mediating Variables in the Risk for Sexual Exposure to HIV Among Young Urban Black Males

1992

Barksdale, Sylvia

Factors Influencing Discharge Planning in Suboptimal Pregnancy Outcomes

1993

Miller, David

A Study of the Factors Influencing the Parental Involvement of African-American Adolescent Fathers

1993

Perry, Gwendolyn Doretha

Family Preservation: An Analysis of Four Shelter Diversion Programs in Allegheny County

1995

Beasley, Beatrice

Content Analysis of Bachelor and Master's Social Work Research Course Syllabi Based on SWE Policy Statements

1996

Bolden, Errol S.

Organizational Factors Affecting the Level of Success Achieved by Community-Based Child Maltreatment Agencies

1996

Ford, Briggett

Assessing the Influence of Violence and Trauma on Mental Health in an Urban Out-Patient Psychiatric Clinic

1998

Smiley, Rosalie

A Study of the Factors Influencing the Use of Drugs and Alcohol by African American Adolescent Females

1999

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DOCTORAL DEGREES EARNED BY BLACK SCHOLARS [CONTINUED]

Smith, Margaret

A Study of Risk and Protective Factors that Influence School Performance in African American Seniors

1999

Lindsey, Michael

Social Network Influences on African-American Adolescents' Use of Mental Health Services

2002

Daniel, Jerry

Survey of Clinicians' Perception of Inmates' Satisfaction with Mental Health Services

2003

Lowe, Tony

Management Practices as a Factor in Male Social Workers Increased Exposure to Client-Related Violence in Mental Health Service Settings

2003

Modie-Moroka, Tirelo

Community and Individual Life Stressors, Health Status and Social Capital: A Study of Low-Income Areas in Francistown City, Botswana

2003

Little, Stacey

Understanding the Sociological Factors of Poverty and Their Impact on Prenatal Care Utilization Among Low-Income Women

2004

Kaijage, Theresa J.

Factors Influencing Adherence to HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention Among People Living with HIV/AIDS in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

2005

Ford, Angela A.

Exploring Health Behavior in Older Black Women

2006

Baker, Parris J.

Self-Efficacy, Co-Parenting Relationship, and Parent Satisfaction: Variables that Predict Paternal Involvement by Non-Custodial Fathers

2007

Davis-Jones, Latika

Psychological Dysfunction, Drug Treatment Engagement and HIV Risk Behavior Among Methadone Maintained Clients

2007

Conner, Kyaien O.

Mental Health Treatment Seeking Among Older Adults with Depression: The Impact of Stigma and Race

2008

Gilkey, So'Nia L.

Shelter as Sanctuary: A Narrative Inquiry of the Experience of Homelessness

2008

Constance-Huggins, Monique

TANF Entry and Exit in the Post Welfare Reform Era: The Contributions of Human Capital and Social Capital

2013

Phillips, Chereese

Assessing the Impact of Maternal Stressors on the Occurrence of Child Neglect Among At-Risk Mothers

2015

Queen, Courtney

Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation: An Exploratory Study of the Psychological Health Outcomes in Tanzania

2016

Goode, Rachel Woodson

The Feasibility of a Binge Eating Intervention in African-American Women who are Overweight or Obese

2017

Kyere, Eric

Examining the Relationships between Racial-Ethnic Socialization, Racial Identity, and African American Youth's Academic Outcomes: An Analysis with Implications for Social Work Research, Practice and Policy

2017

Joseph, Andrea

Restorative Justice and the Discipline Gap: Exploring the Impact of Restorative Practices on Racially Disproportional School Discipline

2018



HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

MABEL
HAWKINSHOME AND SCHOOL
VISITOR/SCHOOL
SOCIAL WORKER
CERTIFICATE

Since the 1930's, the School of Social Work has offered a Home and School Visitor/School Social Worker certificate. The program is most prominently associated with Mabel Hawkins (pictured), who, at her death in 2003, was a SSW professor emeritus. The HSV/SSW is an interprofessional Educational Specialist certificate, operated jointly with University of Pittsburgh School of Education and by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, intended for students who plan to deliver social work services in elementary or secondary schools. There are three models for certification:

Certification earned while earning the MSW
 Certification earned post-MSW
 Certification earned without an MSW

The HSV/SSW certificate program is designed to enhance professional competency in the development and delivery of high quality social work services to diverse student populations in both public and private elementary and secondary schools. The certificate program is organized around the Direct Practice specialization and offers students the opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and skills via courses taken in the Schools of Social Work and Education and a field placement in an educational setting. ✦



HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

THE FACULTY EXPERIENCE

MARY ELLA
ROBERTSON

DSW 1963

In several respects, Mary Ella Robertson was a social work pioneer. She was the SSW's first African American faculty member, its first Black administrator, and—in 1963—the first Black to receive the Pitt Doctor of Social Work degree since 1952. And she had not yet turned 40 years old.

A native of Louisiana, she graduated from Xavier University, America's only Black Catholic college, in 1947, summa cum laude. She earned her MSW degree at Atlanta University and an advanced social work study certificate at Smith College.

Dr. Robertson arrived at the Pitt SSW in 1960, and her 1961 appointment as assistant professor was heralded in a Pitt news release. In 1963 she was named assistant dean of the school. Dr. Robertson's responsibilities in that role were later described in Howard University's *Hilltop* student newspaper. She evaluated student applications for admissions and allocated financial aid to qualifying students, reported the *Hilltop* article.

Also in 1963, she received her Doctor of Social Work degree after completing her 1962 dissertation, "A Study of Planning and Implementation Processes in Social Welfare by Two Voluntary Organizations." Dr. Robertson remained at Pitt until 1966.

Not only had she followed Inabel Burns Lindsay as the second Black scholar to receive the Pitt DSW degree, in 1967 Mary Ella Robertson became the second dean of the Howard University School Of Social Work, replacing Pitt DSW alumna Dr. Lindsay. Completing the early two-way Howard/Pitt social work traffic, in 1967 Howard MSW alumna Mary Page—following Dr. Robertson—became the second African American Pitt SSW faculty member.

Dr. Robertson served on advisory committees for the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the U.S. Department of Labor.

In 1972 *Jet* magazine, *The New York Times*, and other media reported the news that Professor Robertson—then a senior faculty member at Boston College School of Social Work—was elected to the board of directors of John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. She was the first African American and the first woman to serve on the board of the nation's fifth largest insurance company.

Included among Dr. Robertson's many honors, she received the Woman of the Year recognition for public service from the City of Pittsburgh. In 1982 she was named a distinguished alumna by the University of Pittsburgh School Of Social Work Alumni Association. ✦

HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

THE FACULTY EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]



MARY PAGE

Mary Page fashioned a Pittsburgh life and career at the confluence of profound developments in the world of social work, integration in the YWCA movement, and racial upheaval at the University of Pittsburgh. A daughter of Baltimore, Maryland, where she earned a Bachelor's degree at Morgan State University, she arrived in Pittsburgh in 1950, she recalls, "... to work on racial matters at the segregated YWCA on Centre Ave."

With an MSW degree from Howard University School of Social Work, Mary Page quickly became director of teen programs at the Black YW in the predominantly African American Hill District.

By 1967, she had joined the faculty as an assistant professor.

"My assignment was to assist Jack Rubinstein in the group work division of the school. Within months of my arrival, he died," Mary Page noted. Forthwith, she became acting director of the division and then its director. She completed her PhD in Pitt's School of Education.

Dr. Page directed the MSW-degree program in the early 1970s and led the effort to refine its rigor as the BASW-degree program was brought into the School in 1973 as a first-level professional social work degree. The National Council of Social Work Education established the areas of concentration for accredited MSW programs to include

case work, group work, administration, community organizing, criminal, children/youth/families, and health/mental health, Dr. Page remembers. With her faculty colleagues, she made certain that Pitt's program was brought in line with the accreditation standards.

William Pollard, who arrived as an assistant professor at the school in 1976 and later was dean at two schools of social work and president of two colleges, remembers Mary Page with considerable fondness and respect. "Mary Page clearly was regarded as one of the most respected senior members of the faculty when I taught at Pitt SSW," recalled Dr. Pollard.

Dr. Page became a licensed MSW and established—first with fellow faculty member Richard Wells, then as a sole provider—a private practice to help those in need of therapeutic methods. For years, she practiced in Webster Hall on the Pitt campus.

When Mary Page retired as a Pitt emeritus professor in the 1990s, she could look back on a distinguished high-energy career in social work in its many phases and applications, as practitioner, educator, mentor, teacher, and therapist. In the course of her professional journey she positively impacted countless beneficiaries over some 40 years. She sums it all succinctly with, "I enjoyed my work." ✦



JOHN WALLACE

John M. Wallace, Jr. is professor and the inaugural holder of the David E. Epperson Endowed Chair in the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Concurrently, he is professor of sociology and professor of business.

From 2009 to 2016, Dr. Wallace held the Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice, the SSW's first endowed professorship. He is the principal investigator on the University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems' Comm-University of Pittsburgh Project. The project comprises an integrated program of research, teaching, and service designed to investigate and ameliorate social problems that disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged children, families, and communities. This program includes the Homewood Children's Village.

The Homewood Children's Village (HCV)—whose model is New York City's Harlem Children's Zone—was confounded by Dr. Wallace in 2008. Using evidence-based approaches to improving the lives of Homewood's children and families, the HCV engages corporate, University, governmental, philanthropic, faith-based, and school partners with the aim of reinvigorating Homewood. The goal is to restore the once-bustling community to a Pittsburgh neighborhood where children can thrive and become the best that they or anyone can become.

The work of Dr. Wallace at the HCV engages fellows from Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems, embodying yet another example of the fulfillment of the SSW's teaching, research, and practice mission. Moreover, the work at the HCV exemplifies the SSW's engagement, empowerment, and enlightenment imperatives.

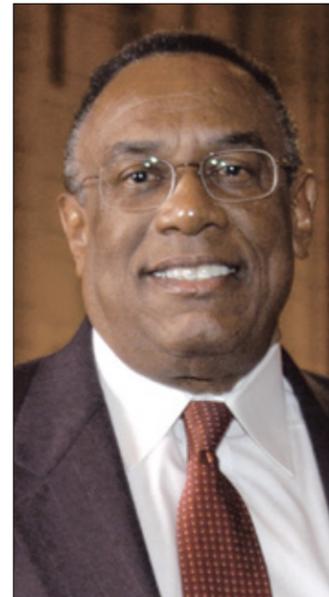
Dr. Wallace is a coinvestigator also on the National Institute on Drug Abuse's ongoing national study of drug use among American young people, Monitoring the Future. His recent research examines comprehensive community revitalization initiatives, racial and ethnic disparities in social and economic well-being; the impact of crime on clergy and congregations; and adolescent problem behaviors, including violence and substance abuse.

Dr. Wallace earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago and his master's and PhD degrees at the University of Michigan. Among his many honors and recognitions, Dr. Wallace in 2017 ranked #5 for "Scholarly Productivity Among African American Faculty at Top 25 Schools of Social Work." In 2015 he received the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

Dr. Wallace is pastor of Homewood's Bible Center Church. ✦

HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

THE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

DAVID E.
EPPERSON

MSW 1970

This article is a revision of the article that appeared in Pitt Chronicle on July 5, 2011

David E. Epperson, as dean and professor, led the the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work to national prominence during his 29-year tenure. "Dave Epperson and I began working together as deans more than a quarter of a century ago," said Pitt Chancellor Emeritus Mark A. Nordenberg. "He already was an accomplished academic leader at that time, so I naturally turned to him for guidance. He remained a special source of advice, encouragement, and support through all the years that followed.

"While he also found time for many other worthy causes, here in Pittsburgh and in more distant locations," Nordenberg continued, "Dave devoted most of his professional life to Pitt, where he was respectfully known as 'the dean of deans.'"

Dr. Epperson served in Pitt's School of Social Work from 1972 until his retirement in 2001. He was the longest-serving dean at Pitt and the longest-serving dean of any American school of social work when he retired, and he left a legacy of academic

and administrative success, as well as participation in education and social welfare missions all over the globe.

Under his leadership, the School of Social Work gained national attention—its enrollment more than tripled and its ranking soared to the top 10 percent of accredited graduate social work programs in the country. The school became noted for its research, teaching, and practice in the areas of children, youth, and families; mental health; and community organization and social administration. Epperson provided key leadership to Pitt's Center for Mental Health Services Research, one of only seven National Institute of Mental Health centers of its type in the United States. And he developed the Child Welfare Education for Leadership Program, which provides educational opportunities for public child welfare personnel. In 2008, Pitt established the David E. Epperson Endowed Chair in the School of Social Work.

"In his 29 years as dean of Pitt's School of Social Work, David Epperson was absolutely dedicated to advancing all the good that a school of social work can do to alleviate human suffering," said James V. Maher, provost emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh, under whom Epperson served as dean. "He was a marvelous and good man who loved people and brought true and healing warmth into each room he entered."

HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

THE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]

DAVID E. EPPERSON [CONTINUED]

Larry E. Davis, who succeeded Epperson as dean of the School of Social Work and who was also named Donald M. Henderson Professor and director of Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems, said, "Because of Dave's efforts, our school has the best reputation in the country as a school that is responsive to the needs of its community."

Currently dean emeritus since 2018, Davis recalled Epperson taking him on a tour of Pittsburgh when the new dean first arrived. "Everywhere we went, people came out of their businesses, churches, and homes to say hello to him—he was a real hero and truly a man who worked for the greater good of all of us. Even after 10 years as dean, I continued to rely on him regularly for counsel, which he was always happy to provide."

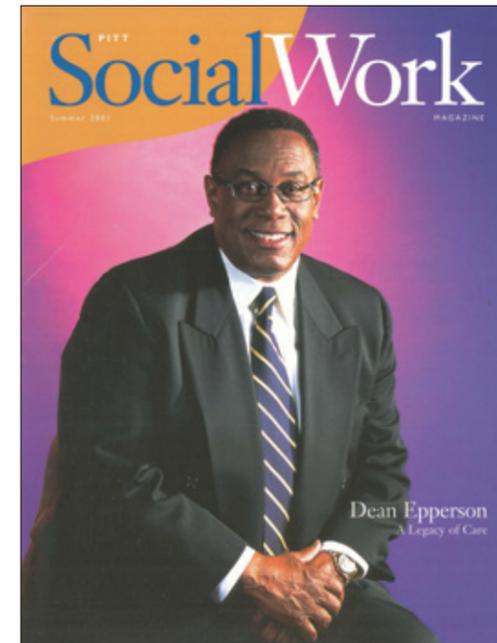


Epperson was firmly rooted in his community for decades, serving in leadership capacities in local, national, and international nonprofit organizations. Most recently, he served as vice chair of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh; on the board of trustees for the YMCA of the USA; on the board of directors of the YMCA of Pittsburgh; and as a member of PNC Bank's Urban Advisory Board. In addition, Epperson served as a member of the Pittsburgh Foundation's Copeland Fund Advisory Committee and its Lemington Home Advisory Board.

Epperson also was a Life Member of the NAACP, an emeritus director of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and an elder at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

Previously, Epperson had served as chair of the boards of NEED (Negro Educational Emergency Drive), and the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh and was the longest-serving board chair of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh. He was a member of the board of directors for both the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Deans and Directors. He also served as a trustee of the National Urban League and the National Center for Social Policy and Practice. In addition, he had been a member of the Pennsylvania State Planning Board and the Commonwealth's Judicial Reform Commission.

A native of Donora, Pa., and the son of a steelworker and a homemaker, Epperson began his deanship when Pitt's School of Social Work was a small program of 200 students with few faculty members. Amid the social and political turmoil of the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement, and the women's movement, Epperson faced a number of challenges, including building a baccalaureate program, enlarging



the school's master's program, and developing a diversity program for students and faculty. When he retired, 22 percent of the School of Social Work's students and 25 percent of its faculty were from underrepresented populations.

While Epperson worked tirelessly to further develop Pitt's social work program, he also maintained a global view that was unusual for the times. When he was a student at Pitt, he volunteered for the YMCA, became president of the Pitt Student YMCA, and went on to become a member and eventually chair of the international committee of the Y-USA. He served as chair of the YMCA's International Office on Africa for 12 years, traveling often to several African nations and overseeing development projects. His chairmanship

was marked by an emphasis on advancing national YMCA diversity and expanding the Y's public policy role in Washington, D.C.

From 1954 to 1958, Epperson served in the Strategic Air Command of the United States Air Force. He also was a member of the Rho Boulé Pittsburgh chapter of the Sigma Pi Phi fraternity.

Epperson earned four degrees from the University of Pittsburgh—a 1961 bachelor's degree in political science; master's degrees in social work (1964) and in political science and international affairs (1970); and a 1975 PhD in political science and public policy.

Epperson was awarded several honors over the course of his career, including the YMCA of Pittsburgh's Lifelong Achievement Award, the Renaissance Publications Trailblazers Torch Lighter Award for Higher Education, and the Urban League of Pittsburgh's Outstanding Members' Award, all in 1998; the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh's Volunteer Award in 1996; and Vectors Pittsburgh Man of the Year in Education award in 1982.

Epperson married Cecelia Trower, now a retired public school teacher who earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Pitt's School of Education in 1957 and 1962, respectively. In 1956 she was named Miss Pitt, a tribute to her academic achievements and school engagement. Dr. Epperson died in 2011. ✦

HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

THE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]



LARRY E. DAVIS

If the law of the harvest is sure, then the school's bounteous yield under Larry Davis' leadership is no surprise.

When he arrived at Pitt in July 2001, the school already had a strong reputation, boasting the first community organizing program on any college campus in the nation and the second-largest child-welfare training program in higher education.

Davis shored up those assets and introduced new initiatives, from founding Bridges magazine to creating a trailblazing study abroad course in Cuba for graduate social work students through the school's Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP). It is CRSP, in fact, that has become Davis' signature achievement. Now in its 16th year, it is a pioneer and a national rarity in its focus on researching the role of race in social issues and promoting serious dialogue about one of the nation's most persistent problems.

In a school already known for its emphasis on community service, Davis recognized a need for more emphasis on research. Compared to when he arrived, faculty members are now winning more grants, conducting more research, and publishing more articles.

As the school celebrates its centennial in 2018, it finds itself in an enviable position, having climbed from 14th place into the top 10 among graduate social work programs as

ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*—and doing so with a significantly smaller faculty than those ranked higher.

In enhancing the program and building an impressive team of faculty and staff, Davis at one point was working seven days a week. He has written dozens of reports and media commentaries, authored scores of articles and papers, delivered numerous lectures and presentations, penned more than a half a dozen books, and traveled to 60 countries.

Helping to recruit Davis to Pitt, supporting him when he arrived, and watching the school of social work reach new heights were highlights of Mark A. Nordenberg's 19 years as chancellor.

Davis "really is a person who has made a difference," says Nordenberg, now chancellor emeritus. "He has been determined in his efforts to elevate our school of social work within the ranks of the top American schools. He was always focused on how to keep the momentum going. He crafted a personal record of excellence, and his determination to do the same thing with the school really was a powerful factor in the enviable record that he forged as dean."

Davis' approach to social work in theory and practice is unapologetically informed by race. He is as much a race scholar as a social work scholar, though he describes himself as "a social psychologist for social work." He suggests that if you delve deeply enough into any intractable social issue, you will find race at its heart.

DAVIS "REALLY IS A PERSON WHO HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE. HE HAS BEEN DETERMINED IN HIS EFFORTS TO ELEVATE OUR SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE TOP AMERICAN SCHOOLS. HE WAS ALWAYS FOCUSED ON HOW TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING. HE CRAFTED A PERSONAL RECORD OF EXCELLENCE, AND HIS DETERMINATION TO DO THE SAME THING WITH THE SCHOOL REALLY WAS A POWERFUL FACTOR IN THE ENVIABLE RECORD THAT HE FORGED AS DEAN."

MARK A. NORDENBERG
CHANCELLOR EMERITUS, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

"Over the years, I've had some White people say to me, 'You made it,' and proceed to question why so many other Blacks have not. My answer is, 'I hit the lottery.' I'm the only one of my friends who graduated from high school. But why is it that Black people have to be exceptional or exceptionally lucky to live a normal life?" By the time Davis graduated from high school, he knew he wanted to study and write about race. As an undergraduate at Delta College in Bay City, Mich., he found the vocabulary that fit his passion: social psychology.

Davis transferred to Michigan State University after two years, receiving a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1968. Then it was on to the University of Michigan to earn master's degrees in social work and in

psychology, as well as a PhD in social work and psychology, the first Black student to earn that joint degree.

After his first year of graduate school, Davis decided to participate in the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program for one year in New York City. Enthralled by the fast-paced, multicultural metropolis, he ended up staying three years.

It was, Davis recalls, one of the most formative experiences of his life. He met and interacted with Black luminaries and civil rights voices such as writer James Baldwin, jazz trumpeter Miles Davis, and singer Mahalia Jackson, returning to his studies "more sophisticated and with a more cosmopolitan worldview."

That worldview did not encompass Pittsburgh when in 2001 Pitt called to invite him for a visit.

"I had been to China," says Davis, "but I had never been to Pittsburgh."

Nordenberg, who met privately with Davis during the visit, says Davis was "an exceptional candidate in terms of the things he had already accomplished. As we talked, I believed the same levels of professional ambition that fueled his record of individual accomplishment and impact could be applied to the school as dean."

Davis was offered the position and accepted, leaving behind 24 years at Washington University and coming to Pittsburgh "kicking and screaming," he says jokingly. "I never planned to be a dean," he says. "I am really an academic posing as [a] dean. But I was impressed with their desire to have me, although I had never been an administrator.

HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

THE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]

LARRY E. DAVIS [CONTINUED]

Davis counts participating in VISTA and climbing Mount Kilimanjaro among his most monumental decisions. But “coming to Pittsburgh,” he says, “was the best decision I ever made in my life.”

One of the first initiatives Davis began working on was his vision that would materialize the following year as the Center on Race and Social Problems. Based in the social work school and funded by the University—and gaining financial support over the years from outside the University—the center routinely presents lectures and teach-ins that attract students, faculty, community leaders, researchers, and race scholars from across the nation and abroad. The center engages across disciplines and intersects with public health, criminal justice, and numerous other fields. CRSP hosted a national academic conference on race in 2010 that was reputed to be the largest such event ever held in America.

The center also maintains an online database of hundreds of publications and videos of lectures by race experts and publishes a national academic journal titled *Race and Social Problems*.

Center projects provided research assistance to many scholars. The center benefited the community through its reports on racial conditions, public lectures at the center by national and local race experts, and the online database. Today, the University and local community are much more focused on racial issues and much more willing to discuss race in a rational manner than before Dean Davis came to Pitt.

Cross-cultural dialogue about race tends to be difficult, particularly in the Pittsburgh region, where racial disparities and tension are relatively high.



Nancy Bolden, a racial justice advocate, routinely attends CRSP events and notes Davis' positive impact on the discussion. The center, she says, “has been a real addition to the conversation about race. I think it's institutionalized at this point.”

Part of the reason for CRSP's success is the tone Davis sets in race dialogue.

“Among the many things that distinguish Larry is his ability to raise difficult issues in ways that invite further conversation, even from people who might be uncomfortable and might turn away if the issues were raised by someone else and in a different fashion,” says Nordenberg. “He has a unique touch in raising difficult issues in ways that has everybody thinking, ‘We ought to be talking about this and we ought to be doing something about it.’”

While building CRSP, Davis acted to reinforce the school's strengths. Faculty members with wide-ranging specialties were recruited, becoming part of an all-star cast of scholars who moved the school from 40th to fourth place nationally in terms of publications—despite being one of the smallest faculties among the top schools. The School of Social Work had long enjoyed a reputation for educating students who would become social work practitioners

and even activists. At the same time, there was a desire to make the doctoral program more rigorous and to forge ahead as a leader in applied research.

Once on campus, Davis began to lead decisively in that direction, and the results have been impressive, former Provost James V. Maher says.

Davis, he continues, “has built a very strong PhD program, and he has recruited faculty that are doing exciting work in applied social science research in the areas that are of interest to social workers,” he notes. “It's a marvelous faculty and a marvelous set of graduate students working there. People are being hired by good universities that want good professors. We're having an impact on the way social work is being done around the country. The Center on Race and Social Problems is, of course, at the very center of that research program. It has attracted to it not just faculty in social work but faculty in other part[s] of [the] University for multidisciplinary discussions about social problems. That enriches student education. It excites faculty about things they can be working on. It's influencing the attitude of faculty in other professions toward social problems. And so I think it's been a marvelous success.”

As the school moved forward, raising the bar for tenure and making research a priority, results began to appear rather quickly. Thanks to opportunity and support at Pitt, Davis says, he was able to think large and long term and do something he enjoyed so much that he never considered it to be work.



“My goal in life was to address injustice of any sort—foremost, racial injustice of any sort,” he says. “I got paid to do that. It wasn't heavy. It's what I wanted to do.”

Davis is a member of the Rho Boule chapter of Sigma Pi Phi fraternity. He has delivered commencement addresses at the University of California, Berkeley, Boston College, and Case Western Reserve University. He continues as director of CRSP until July 2019, helping to identify his successor. He departs with many hopes: that CRSP's success expands along with the school's; that CRSP remains within the school; that the social work faculty grows; that the school climbs even higher in national rankings; and that the University redoubles efforts to continue its legacy as a leader in diversity hiring, particularly of African Americans as faculty members, department chairs, and administrators.

“I'm a little nostalgic,” Davis acknowledges. “I've loved being the dean. It's been a wonderful run.” ✦

HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

THE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE [CONTINUED]



VALIRE CARR COPELAND

MSW 1978, PHD 1989

Salisbury, North Carolina native Valire Carr Copeland is a strong Black woman reared by a strong Black mother in the American South during a period of profound social change. Currently associate dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Dr. Carr Copeland credits a quartet of strong Black men as pivotal in her educational and career trajectories.

Those paths have taken Dr. Carr Copeland from the small town of her birth, her formative years—spent in racially integrated schools only after 7th grade—and her undergraduate years at AME Zion church's Livingstone College to success at Pitt.

As associate dean since 2014, she is the highest ranking African American woman at the Pitt SSW. From 2007 to 2014, she was the Pitt SSW's first Black person to serve as director of the doctoral program. In the latter capacity she oversaw admissions, curriculum, policy matters, and the overall standards that inform the quality of the school's highest academic degree. She is also associate director of the Public Health Social Work Training Program. "The opportunities for me to develop as an administrator were made available because of Dean Larry Davis," Dr. Carr Copeland has noted.

In addition to becoming a SSW administrator, she rose through the academic ranks and became a full professor in 2017 as teacher and

scholar. The professor built her reputation combining her research in health, social work, and policy focused on women and children in the context of their mental/physical well being. In more recent years the public health social worker began investigating the African American dimension of these questions.

Although Professor Carr Copeland regards herself as a "policy person," her teaching portfolio has included not only that area but practice and welfare as well. Her superb preparation includes MSW and PhD degrees from Pitt SSW, a master's in public health from Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health, and collaboration with health and policy social work scholars and mentors during her post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan.

That she arrived at Pitt at all moved her light years from her high school ambitions in Salisbury: to be an accomplished, nicely-dressed secretary with an associate's degree. Unremarkable at the enabling local Rowan Technical Institute, a perspicacious Institute counselor opened her eyes. He advised the smart but poor youngster to obtain a Federal BEOG grant (renamed Pell) to attend Livingstone. There she encountered Bill Pollard and his wife; he taught the transfer student, and she babysat for the young couple. Dr. Pollard, who later joined the Pitt SSW faculty, advised young Valire Carr to enroll in Pitt's MSW program.

Ultimately, Dean David Epperson appointed Valire Carr Copeland to the Pitt SSW faculty where she has made an academic life, made accelerated progress, and made history. ✦

GRADY H. ROBERTS, JR.



ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Grady H. Roberts Jr., PhD, spent 35 years as a faculty member in the School of Social Work. Roberts served as associate dean for admissions and student affairs. He also was a professor in the health/mental health concentration. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Central State University in Ohio. Roberts also completed the Stanford University Management Development

Program and the Leadership Pittsburgh program. A retired colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, Roberts also is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He retired as one of the highest-ranking social work officers in the Army's history. Dr. Roberts earned his MSW and PhD degrees at the University of Pittsburgh. ✦

PHILIP MACK



DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Director of Admissions and Student Affairs Philip Mack received his MSW from the Columbia University School of Social Work and his BA in sociology from Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. He formerly was admissions director for the social work schools at Barry University and Boston University. Mack

also has many years of experience in social work administration, having worked in children and youth services, juvenile justice, and with the homeless. ✦

CHENITS PETTIGREW



DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

After an absence from Pittsburgh where he grew up and earned a University of Pittsburgh master's degree, Chenits Pettigrew arrived at the Pitt SSW in 2003. As director of admissions and student affairs, he was charged with recruiting BASW and MSW students, primarily

the latter. He also worked with and encouraged SSW students in support of their cocurricular programs and activities.

In addition to the satisfaction of observing those he recruited earn degrees and achieve, Dr. Pettigrew and Larry Davis—who as dean hired him—take satisfaction in the admissions director's administrative tour de force. As the University's computer services infrastructure became more intricate and sophisticated, Dr. Pettigrew effectively adapted the SSW's information systems to Pitt's electronic momentum. "He brought the School of Social Work's electronic-based systems into the twenty-first century," Dr. Davis noted.

In 2006 Dr. Pettigrew transferred to the University's School of Medicine where he is assistant dean for student affairs and director of diversity programs. ✦

SPECIAL EVENTS



SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

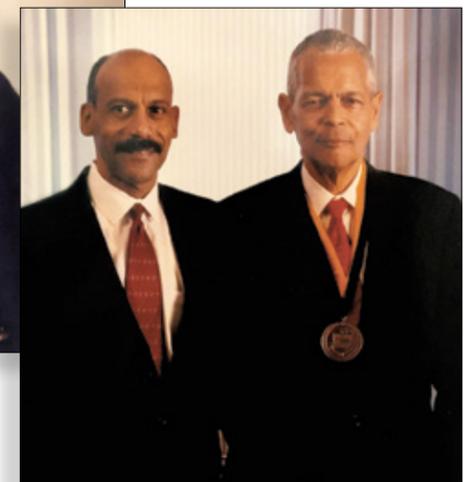
Among the countless programs, events, and special occasions that mark the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work African American experience, three are revisited here. SSW friend Julian Bond participated in the 2002 launch of the Center on Race and Social Problems, the Center's 10th anniversary celebration, as well as the Center's conference "Race in America: Restructuring Inequality." In 2012 Pitt friend Benjamin Jealous joined in the 10th anniversary observance. ✦



CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

GRAND OPENING 2003

On March 26, 2003, longtime civil rights activist Julian Bond delivered the inaugural lecture for the Center on Race and Social Problems. His topic was "Civil Rights: Then and Now." On December 12, 2002, CRSP had been established by the Pitt School of Social Work to conduct race-related research, mentor emerging scholars, and disseminate race related findings and scholarship. ✦



HELPERS,
HEALERS,
AND
HEROES

SPECIAL EVENTS [CONTINUED]



CRSP TENTH ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 2012

NAACP President Benjamin Jealous Addressed the Pitt Center on Race and Social Problems' 10th Anniversary Celebration

In 2012 The Pitt School of Social Work's Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) had devoted a decade to bringing to the forefront countless social issues ranging from discrimination in hiring to racial profiling—through research, major national conferences, summer institutes for social work professionals, and two popular lecture series featuring speakers from across the United States.

CRSP celebrated its 10th anniversary June 7, 2012, in Pitt's Alumni Hall. The free public event featured a keynote address by Benjamin Jealous, the 17th president and CEO of the NAACP. Mr. Jealous presented, "Trayvon Martin: Racial Profiling and the Urgent Need to Heal America."

CRSP was founded in 2002 by Pitt School of Social Work Dean and Donald M. Henderson Professor Larry E. Davis to conduct and then disseminate race-related research and to mentor emerging scholars. It focuses on race-related social problems in seven key areas—economic disparities; educational disparities; health; interracial group relations; mental health; criminal justice; and youth, families, and the elderly.

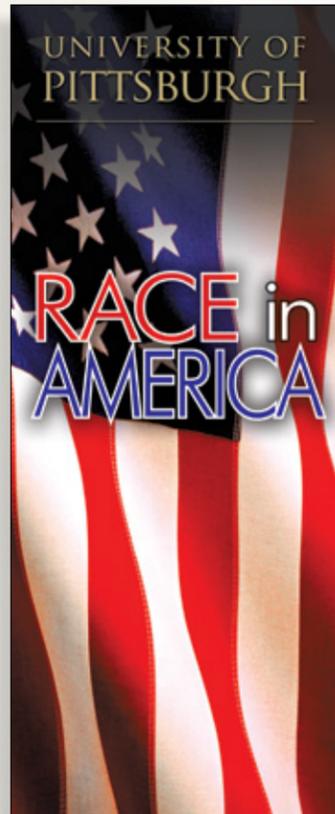
In its first 10 years, CRSP's many achievements included:

- hosting the 2010 national "Race in America" conference, where solutions were proposed for some of society's most pressing race-related problems;
- launching in 2009 the groundbreaking academic journal *Race and Social Problems*, a multidisciplinary periodical with articles that address race and its relationship to today's psychological, cultural, and socioeconomic problems;
- hosting a major national conference in 2004, "Fifty Years After Brown: New Solutions for Segregation and Academic Underachievement," with the goal of mapping out a blueprint for tackling academic underachievement in the nation's inner-city schools;
- evaluating the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative and determining that providing services to Allegheny County Jail inmates while they are incarcerated and after their release dramatically reduces recidivism;
- creating graduate courses that took students to Cuba, Paris, and London, to study firsthand those region's race issues;
- offering summer institutes at Pitt to social workers, foundation leaders, and other professionals on topics ranging from gun violence to involving Black parents in public education; and
- inviting experts from across the United States to participate in free public lecture series in the spring and fall. ✦



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AND
HEROES

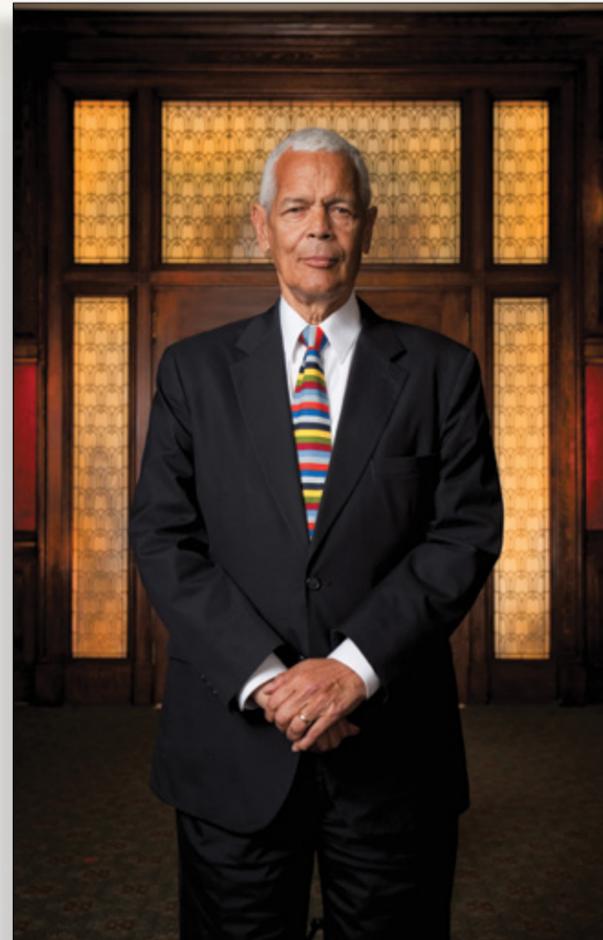
SPECIAL EVENTS [CONTINUED]



RACE IN AMERICA

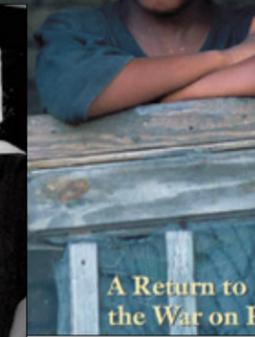
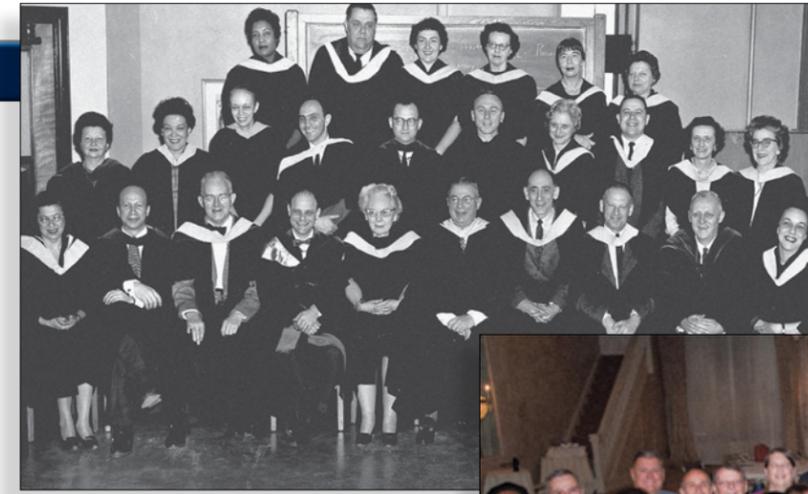
JUNE 2010

The Pitt School of Social Work and Center on Race and Social Problems hosted the conference "Race in America: Restructuring Inequality"—designed to be the most solution-focused conference on race ever held—on Pitt's campus June 2010. Guest speakers included Julian Bond, civil rights activist and former NAACP board chair; Julianne Malveaux, economist and president of Bennett College for Women; Alex Castellanos, partner at National Media Inc.; and Benjamin Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP. ✧



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SOCIAL WORK IMAGERY THROUGH THE YEARS



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TIMELINE



1918
Division of Social Work—today's School of Social Work—is established



1943
Nancy H. Lee receives the MSW degree



1952
Inabel Burns Lindsay receives the DSW degree



1961
Mary Ella Robertson is appointed assistant professor; she is named assistant dean in 1963



1968
Mary Page is appointed director of the Group Work Program



1970
Francine G. McNairy receives the MSW degree, later becomes president of Millersville University of Pennsylvania; in 2013 is named Pitt Legacy Laureate



1972
David Epperson is appointed professor and dean of the School of Social Work; Dean Epperson retires as dean in 2001



1972
Leon Haley is named director of admissions



1976
William Pollard is appointed to the School Social Work faculty; later served as dean at Grambling and Syracuse, and President at District of Columbia and Medgar Evers



1980
Stanley Battle receives the PhD in social welfare policy, later becomes president of Coppin State and North Carolina A&T; in 2005 is named Pitt Legacy Laureate



2001
Larry Davis is appointed professor and dean of the School of Social Work; Dean Davis is named Donald Henderson Professor in 2003 and retires in 2018



2002
Dean Davis establishes the Center on Race and Social Problems; CRSP celebrates tenth anniversary in 2012



2002
Bridges magazine is established, becoming the first thematic magazine in social work



2007
Valire Carr Copeland is appointed director of the School of Social Work Phd program and in 2014 associate dean



2010
Custodian Mary Lee Jones retires, having provided services for 31 years to daily refresh the SSW in support of its high purpose



2010
School of Social Work establishes Social Issues in Cuba course in partnership with the University of Havana



2010
Center on Race and Social Problems hosts national conference "Race in America: Restructuring Inequality"

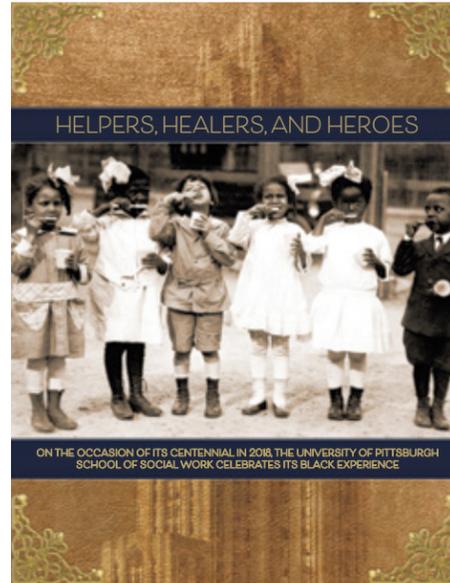


2014
Thelma Lovette YMCA opens in the Pittsburgh Hill District, namesake of 1972 MSW School of Social Work alumna



2018
John Wallace is named inaugural holder of David E. Epperson Chair

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ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL IN 2018, THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CELEBRATES ITS BLACK EXPERIENCE

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FROM THE EDITOR



In the 11 satisfying years our careers overlapped at the University of Pittsburgh—he as dean of social work, I as public affairs vice chancellor—Larry Davis and I fashioned a professional partnership in the cause of many of his groundbreaking projects. “My friend and colleague ...,” his collaboration would often begin. And then together we would fashion the event, publication, opinion article, or some other of his brainstorms.

Thus, it was with undisguised pleasure that I received his request that we reunite early in my retirement years to produce *Helpers, Healers, and Heroes*. As he planned his own transition to emeritus status in 2018, Dr. Davis envisioned yet another opportunity to fulfill a vision with my support.

In these pages a telescope focuses on the last seventy-five years of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work as the 100th anniversary of the School is celebrated in 2018. The ascendancy of the School during this period is so heavily marked by the contributions of African Americans that a publication recognizing and encouraging such diversity advances equal opportunity in a memorable way. In our own passion to fulfill the Davis vision of this publication we contributors know that the contents are not exhaustive but exemplary. All the same, the people, projects, and programs presented herein are testimonials to the countless transformative contributions made by Black members of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work community.

At a university that passed its 230th anniversary in 2017, the 100-year-old Pitt School of Social Work has achieved more than its fair share to advance integration of Blacks as full partners in an intellectual community committed to the relief of human misery. It is our hope that this publication encourages other groups to chronicle their experiences.

ROBERT HILL



University of
Pittsburgh

School of Social Work
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