

Bridges

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MAGAZINE SPRING 2015



RACE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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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Cover photo by JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images

Protesters display placards during a demonstration against racism in New York on January 19, 2015. Critics of police treatment of minority residents in the U.S. took part in various demonstrations across the country coinciding with the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



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Greetings Alumni and Friends,

For many of us in the Midwest and on the East Coast, this past winter was one of the toughest ones we have experienced in a long time. So for us, the word “spring” has taken on a particularly wonderful meaning this year. Hence, it gives me greater than usual pleasure to welcome you to this year’s spring issue of *Bridges*.

This edition of *Bridges* focuses on issues of race and criminal justice—issues that have gripped our nation for decades but, due to events in Ferguson, Mo., and New York, N.Y., have become the subject of sustained public outcry and organized protests over the past year. I watched with great pride as demonstrations and protests happening nationwide and throughout the world have not been solely those of Blacks protesting injustice, but of a multiracial coalition of individuals who have been moved to action by what they perceive as injustice. It seems that they have taken to heart the words of Martin Luther King Jr.’s Letter from a Birmingham Jail, that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” I wholeheartedly applaud the multiracial solidarity of these nonviolent marchers and demonstrators.

The numerous shootings of unarmed Black males by law enforcement officials has brought to the surface tensions that have lingered since the days of Jim Crow. These incidents have served as a reminder to many in the Black community that they are not yet full and equal members of American society.

Clearly, the recent incidents have cast a light on the glaring disparities that are faced by Black people from some facets of the criminal justice arena.

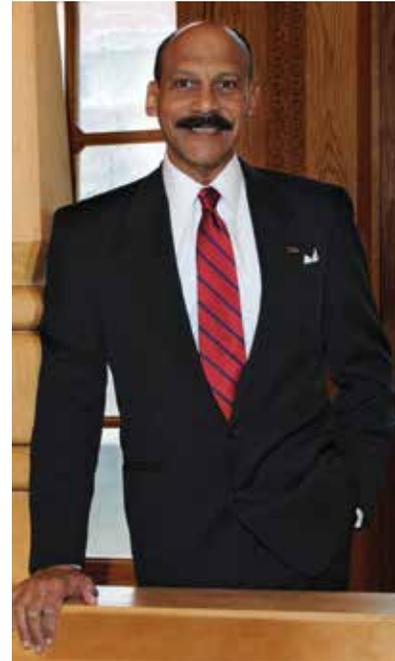
The recently released 2015 demographics report by the

School of Social Work Center on Race and Social Problems has the data to prove that these disparities are persistent and a real problem for our communities. We were pleased that Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, and Pittsburgh Chief of Police Cameron McLay, along with many other local leaders, have taken notice and are using the data to help shape better social policy.

Sadly, the Center on Race and Social Problems said goodbye to a strong advocate this year when our long-time Associate Director Ralph Bangs took a position with Pitt’s Study Abroad Office. He was not only a great partner in creating a dynamic center, but a close friend who has a deep commitment to racial equality.

Still, other faculty members continue to lead the way in addressing many social justice issues, including Associate Professor Jeffrey Shook, whose research focuses on youth and the criminal justice system. In addition, Professor John M. Wallace Jr. just received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award for his commitment to social justice and equality for not only his work, but the way he lives his life and gives back to his community.

As we have noted in past issues of *Bridges*, the School of Social Work has taken on a grand health initiative. To ensure that our students are at the forefront of today’s social work trends, we have expanded our fellowship offering for students with an interest in integrated health. Both the Ida Maud Cannon and the Juanita C. Evans fellowship programs will help prepare students for work in contemporary health care systems, where social workers play an essential and increasingly valued role.



At this time, the school is very proud to announce that it has just awarded the inaugural David E. Epperson Professorships to Associate Professors Daniel Rosen and Shaun Eack. These professorships are given in honor of the late Dean Emeritus David E. Epperson, who led our school to prominence over nearly three decades.

Finally, we wish each of you a warm and productive spring as well as a fun-filled summer. As always, we hope you will join us whenever possible for the School of Social Work and Center on Race and Social Problems speaker series. You can also always visit us online at socialwork.pitt.edu.

Larry E. Davis
Dean
Donald M. Henderson Professor

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MSW Program

The Master of Social Work (MSW) program welcomed 225 incoming students in late August 2014. Of these 225 students, 80 percent of the students are attending full time, 77 percent are Pennsylvania residents, 82 percent are female, and 22 percent are students of color. In December 2014, 58 advanced-standing students who had attended class part time graduated with their MSW degrees at a beautiful recognition ceremony organized by the Student Executive Council (SEC).

MSW program administrators, along with SEC, continue to work to refine the incoming student orientation program to prepare students for the rigors of graduate education. The goal

also is to assist them in finding like-minded colleagues while in the program and to help them to build their professional networks.

A new advanced practice course, Social Work Practice and Traumatic Stress, was successfully piloted and the faculty subsequently voted the course into our permanent inventory. The program also is piloting two new courses during the spring 2015 term: an advanced practice course, Integrated Healthcare in Pharmacology, and a general elective, Poverty, Inequality and Social Problems.

Yet another new course is currently in development to be piloted next year. Three courses have been retired due

to low enrollment and changing needs in preparing students for professional practice. Community stakeholders are involved in the curriculum planning process to assist with practice relevance.

After a year of meetings between the School of Social Work and the Pitt School of Education, the final stages are under way for a proposal for an integrated MSW degree and a secondary teaching certificate. The dual training program will prepare teachers for urban environments with a rich understanding of how to work with vulnerable adolescents and their families. These specially qualified graduates will provide creative solutions and leadership in underperforming schools. ■

BASW Program

The spring term is always an exciting time at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. The seniors continue to establish their professional identities through fieldwork and course work and to make plans for life after graduation. Meanwhile, juniors initiate the process of securing their senior year field placement. Each year, Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) students demonstrate the knowledge, values, and skills of the profession in outstanding ways. This academic year was no different, with these students' providing leadership both on and off campus through service and scholarship.

BASW Program Celebrates Social Work Licensure in Pennsylvania

When PA Senate Bill 807 passed in October 2014, Pennsylvania joined 36 other states that have a credential for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree in social work. Social work licensure at the bachelor's level in Pennsylvania provides an additional level of credentialing that supports social work professionals at all levels. It also has the ability to strengthen the quality of service provided by social workers.

NEW BASW CLUB LEADERS ELECTED



The BASW Club strives to promote and enhance the development of the academic and social aims and interests of BASW students. Members actively work to promote student and community interest in and interaction with the School of Social Work through monthly meetings and service projects. These efforts serve a critical role in the strength of the BASW program.

Club leaders:

President
MICHELLE ROJAS

Vice President
ASHLEY PUCHALSKI

Internal Secretary
JULIA HACKENBERRY

Business Manager
RAQUEL WARSING

External Secretary
LEAH FEIN

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

DAVID E. EPPERSON PROFESSORSHIPS AWARDED



DANIEL ROSEN

The School of Social Work is proud to announce that the inaugural awardees of the David E. Epperson Professorships are Associate Professor **Daniel Rosen** and Associate Professor **Shaun Eack**. The David E. Epperson Professorships are three-year awards that support faculty scholarship.



SHAUN EACK

The professorships are named for the late David E. Epperson, Pitt School of Social Work dean emeritus and professor emeritus. Epperson led the school to national prominence during his 29-year tenure as dean. ■

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOLADES

JAMES HUGULEY, research associate, spoke at a Pittsburgh forum on income inequality in November 2014. The forum was attended by academicians, economic activists, and low-wage workers and was covered by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Read the article at <http://bit.ly/1yQqJyB>.

JOHN WALLACE JR., Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice, and recent doctoral program graduate Samantha Teixeira (MSW '09, PhD '14) were honored with the 2014 Marie O. Weil Outstanding Scholarship Award for authoring the best/most impactful article in the *Journal of Community Practice*. The award-winning article, "Data-driven Organizing: A Community-University Partnership to Address Vacant and Abandoned Property," appeared in Volume 21, Issue 3, in 2013.

JEFFREY SHOOK, associate professor, served as advisor for playwright Bonnie Cohen's play *Day Room Window*, which was performed at the New Hazlett Theater in fall 2014. The play is about nine adolescent girls incarcerated as adults in a women's prison. Cohen wrote the play based on her own experiences working in the juvenile justice system. In October, Shook and Cohen discussed the production on the WESA radio program *Essential Pittsburgh*.

SPRING SPEAKER SERIES

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

CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

"'Try On the Outfit and Just See How It Works': The Psychocultural Responses of Disconnected Black Youth to Work"

ORLANDO PATTERSON, John Cowles Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

"The Collision of Race and Criminal Justice: Lessons from the Aftermath of Ferguson"

DAVID HARRIS, Distinguished Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law, University of Pittsburgh

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015

"The Crisis of College Access for Students of Color"

GARY ORFIELD, Distinguished Research Professor of Education, Law, Political Science, and Urban Planning; and Codirector, Civil Rights Project, University of California, Los Angeles

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

"The End of Black Metropolis?"

MARY PATTILLO, Harold Washington Professor and Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Northwestern University

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture

"Outcomes of Child Welfare Services: How Much Are We Really Helping?"

RICHARD P. BARTH, Dean, School of Social Work, University of Maryland

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY | Sidney A. Teller Lecture

"Sustainable Development and Social Justice Pillars: A Platform for Setting the Global Agenda That Links the Economy, Society, and Environment"

DeBRENNA LaFa AGBENYIGA, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Inclusion and Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, College of Social Science, and Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Michigan State University

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PhD Program

The current PhD students are upholding the program's tradition of stellar early career scholarship, with many peer-reviewed publications; national conference presentations; and recognition locally, nationally, and internationally.

Fourth-year doctoral student **Courtney Queen** was awarded a one-year (2014–15) Boren Fellowship to support her dissertation research in Tanzania. Boren Fellowships support study and research in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests, including Africa, Asia, central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Queen's dissertation research involves the collection of primary qualitative interview data to study the psychological health outcomes of female genital mutilation/cutting, a practice common in Africa and the Middle East and, increasingly, among U.S. immigrants and refugees from these areas of the world.

Third-year student **Andrea Joseph** has completed a one-year Fulbright postgraduate fellowship at the University College London Institute of

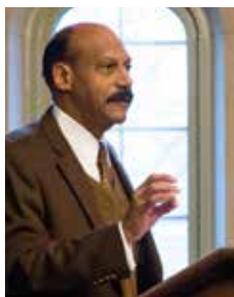
Education in London, England. Joseph earned a Master of Arts degree through the institute's social justice and education program. She conducted research examining racism through a social justice lens—while comparing the United States and the United Kingdom—to develop best practices for teachers and school social workers.

In 2013, fourth-year student **Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick** received a Dennis Weatherstone Predoctoral Fellowship, which supports the growth of junior scholars who are devoting their research careers to studying autism. Bishop-Fitzpatrick now is completing a mentored project examining how stress, as measured by cortisol level and heart rate activity, affects the ability of adults with autism to adapt to change in their everyday lives.

First-year student **Jessica Wojtalik** was the 2014–15 recipient of the Joseph W. and Helen F. Eaton Emerging Scholars Award for her paper, “Structural and Functional Neurobiological Correlates of Functional Outcome in Schizophrenia: A Systematic Review.” The Eaton

Award is given each year to a first- or second-year doctoral student who presents his or her best individually authored scholarly work for competitive review by the doctoral program committee. The School of Social Work also chooses three doctoral students annually for endowed fund awards. This year's awardees were **Ngoc Nguyen** (Kevin Corcoran Endowed Dissertation Fund), **Heath Johnson** (Wynne Korr Doctoral Student Research Fund), and **Courtney Queen** (Barbara K. Shore Dissertation Fund). Wojtalik, Nguyen, Johnson, and Queen all were recognized during the 2015 University of Pittsburgh Honors Convocation, an annual event that celebrates the accomplishments of the University's faculty and students.

After saying good-bye and best wishes to our most recent graduates, **Samantha Teixeira** (MSW '09, '14) and **Crystal Lim** (PhD '14), we welcomed a new class of first-year doctoral students to the program. Our first-year cohort includes **Allison Little, Marcus Poindexter, Kai Wei, Jessica Wojtalik, Thomas Ylioja, and Qiyi Zhang.** ■



Dean Larry E. Davis speaks at Washington University in St. Louis.

DEAN LARRY E. DAVIS GIVES INAUGURAL SPEECH AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

In November 2014, Dean **Larry E. Davis** spoke to students and faculty at Washington University in St. Louis about racial inequality in the criminal justice system. He urged them to play a major role in addressing racial disparities in Ferguson, Mo., and throughout St. Louis.

“Our universities have tremendous capacity to do good in the communities

around us,” he said. Failing to do so, he added, would be “our greatest missed opportunity of the 21st century.”

Davis' address was the inaugural speech in the new lecture series Ferguson & Beyond, sponsored by Washington University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work. ■



Center on Race & Social Problems

2015 Demographics Report

CRSP 2015 DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT REVEALS STARTLING STATISTICS

REPORT GARNERS EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE

In January 2015, the University of Pittsburgh Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) released *Pittsburgh's Racial Demographics 2015: Differences and Disparities*, a report that provides indicators of quality of life by race and ethnicity for the Pittsburgh region and the United States in seven areas—families, youth, and the elderly; education disparities; economic disparities; interracial group relations; health; mental health; and criminal justice.

The report was funded by the Heinz Endowments and the Pittsburgh Foundation, with additional support from Pitt's School of Social Work, and shows stark disparities across racial groups both locally and nationally.

- Thirty-three percent of Blacks, 25 percent of Hispanics, 20 percent of Asians, and 15 percent of Whites live in poverty in the city of Pittsburgh.
- All of the 2012 juvenile murder victims in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County were Black.
- While Blacks and Whites have comparable drug use rates in Pittsburgh, Blacks have a higher arrest rate.
- Black and Hispanic unemployment rates are much higher than those of White and Asian residents, both in Pittsburgh and across the nation.

In addition, the report highlights the fact that there has been little progress on these inequities since the center's 2007 *Pittsburgh's Racial Demographics: Differences and Disparities*, the first report the center produced and at the time the most comprehensive study ever done on the quality of life among racial groups in this region.

"The report comes at a time when disparities have taken center stage in our nation's domestic policy conversations," said Larry E. Davis, dean of Pitt's School of Social Work and director of the CRSP. "It lays bare the idea that equality has been achieved, and it proves that some very real and very stark disparities exist among different racial groups in America, and more telling, these disparities affect every aspect of our lives, from the schools our children attend to the treatment we receive when we are ill to the treatment we can expect from law enforcement."

Attending the January news conference announcing the report's release were Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, foundation representatives, and community leaders.

Peduto said that the report could become "the baseline for all discussion. It shows there's a problem."

Peduto added that the report has data that can be used as "a starting point" for the housing policy committee the city will soon create to address issues such as affordable housing. ■

To view the report, please visit
crsp.pitt.edu.



RACE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

THE NEED FOR SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVES INTENSIFIES
BY LAMONT JONES JR.

It's August 2014— a sunny Saturday afternoon in the small St. Louis, Mo., suburb of Ferguson. Michael Brown is shot multiple times by a police officer who says the unarmed teen fit the description of someone involved in a convenience store theft.

Three months later, someone phones Cleveland, Ohio, police about a boy at a recreation center pointing a gun at people—a gun that, reportedly, the caller twice says is “probably fake.” Police

arrive and an officer shoots the youth, 12-year-old Tamir Rice, two seconds after spotting him. The next day, Rice dies. The day after that, the St. Louis County prosecutor announces that a grand jury has decided not to indict the cop who allegedly killed the 18-year-old Brown in Ferguson.

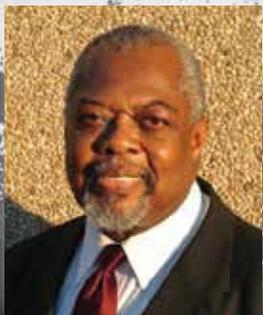
Nine days later, on December 3, 2014, a grand jury decides not to indict a New York, N.Y., police officer in the choke hold death of Eric Garner, a 43-year-old father of six who police accused of illegally selling cigarettes. The grand jury both sees and hears audio-video evidence of the deadly July 17 confrontation, during which Garner is repeatedly heard telling police who were restraining him that he couldn't breathe.

Many people are still unsettled about the 2012 death of unarmed Black Florida teen Trayvon Martin and a jury's exoneration of his killer a year later. Now, those smoldering embers have rekindled flames of discontent, provoking public outrage and demonstrations across the nation and once again pushing the issue of race and criminal justice to the forefront.

Such incidents were not new, having occurred over decades. What was new was the widespread and sustained public outcry and organized activism. Rallies and marches became daily events as tens of thousands of protesters demanded changes in the criminal justice system and an end to chronic police violence against Blacks. Athletes from high school

to the pros entered arenas with hands raised surrender style, some wearing shirts emblazoned with Garner's dying words: "I can't breathe." Dozens of U.S. congressional staffers and members of Congress staged a demonstration on the steps of the Capitol with arms raised and faces somber. "Black lives matter" became a common phrase on protest signs; Pittsburgh's White police chief drew national attention by posing with a protest sign that read "End White silence"; and a new term, "die-in," is likely to find a place in future dictionaries.

"One thing that lit the spark of protests across the nation was the feeling of being locked up and locked out by so many Black men and their families and their communities," says Sala Udin, a former Pittsburgh City Council member and longtime social justice and civil rights leader. "There's a sense of outrage. Part of that is frustration with the criminal justice system. I think Black people believe the word 'justice' ought to be left out of it. Large segments of Black



“Large segments of Black communities feel trapped and terrorized by the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system, and there is frustration and absolute lack of confidence in the integrity of the system.”

—Sala Udin,
former Pittsburgh City Council member and
longtime social justice and civil rights leader

communities feel trapped and terrorized by the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system, and there is frustration and absolute lack of confidence in the integrity of the system.”

That environment presents many opportunities for social workers, because many issues that impact criminal justice—mental health, economics, and education—are issues that social workers encounter regularly. In an average year, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work educates approximately 600 social work students in undergraduate and graduate programs, and more of them are demonstrating an interest in the criminal justice aspect of social work, observes Associate Professor Jeffrey Shook.

DISPARITIES AND DISADVANTAGES

Maria Guido, who expects to complete her Master of Social Work degree in spring 2015, is an example. The Pittsburgh native has worked for eight years in a range of social milieus and plans to pursue her social work career in a court setting after being licensed later this year. She's currently working at a degree-required field placement in the juvenile division of the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender, where she feels her life experiences and formal education have equipped her to make a difference.



Maria Guido is one of the growing number of students at Pitt with an interest in the criminal justice aspect of social work. She plans to pursue a social work career in a court setting.

"I had a short involvement in the system as a teen," recalls Guido, "and I can remember feeling very misunderstood and labeled as a 'delinquent.' It's very distressing as a 15-year-old to hear from professionals that you are going to end up in jail and that you will never make something out of yourself. That doesn't help anyone. You should empower people to make changes."

The juvenile justice system is a significant segment of the U.S. criminal justice system. Black male youths most often tend to find themselves caught up in a playground-to-prison pipeline, reflecting persistent racial disparities in arrests, convictions, and sentencing for youth and adult populations alike.

"What is disturbing is that it happens at many, many decision-making points," says Shook. "For example, the decision to admit juveniles to secure detention [centers] and treat them as adults. Research has found that Black youths are more likely to be detained. Black youths in poor neighborhoods in inner cities are most likely to be detained. White youths from suburbs are least likely to be detained.

Continued on page 10

That's important because these processes set up the next steps. Police and prosecutors and probation and parole boards are involved, not just a judge handing down a decision. And it adds up."

The disparities and related disadvantages are well documented. In January 2015, the School of Social Work's Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) issued a report that documented stark racial differences and disparities across multiple categories in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County,

the Pittsburgh metropolitan region, and the United States. The findings illustrate how race and criminal justice are intertwined. For example, Blacks represent the largest number of total youth arrests in Pittsburgh and in Allegheny County, although Blacks represent only 25.8 percent of the city's population and 13.1 percent of the county's population. Blacks and Whites have approximately the same number of total adult arrests in the city. And Blacks and Whites in general have comparable drug use rates, but Blacks have much higher arrest rates.

Udin, who advocated for the inclusion of criminal justice as an area of focus when the center was established in 2002, says that part of the problem is that

race "is embedded in the cultural DNA of America. So whether you talk about it or not, it's there. Whether you see it or not, it's there. Whether you feel it or not, it's there. And although when we look back over our shoulders, we see some progress, when we look back up the mountain, we see how far we have to go."

A WAR ON CRIME OR ON BLACKS?

Some observers say that the deaths of Martin, Brown, Rice, and Garner indicate an uptick in Black deaths at the hands of police. But Larry E. Davis, dean of the School of Social Work and director of CRSP, suggests that awareness of such incidents rather than the number of them is what has increased. "It was always problematic, but now, especially because of social media, more people know about these aggressions against Black males," Davis says.

Racial profiling and police accountability, two other issues that have become seemingly inseparable, help to tell the story. Stop-and-frisk and similar police tactics contribute to racial disparities in the criminal justice system, says David A. Harris, Distinguished Faculty Scholar and professor in the Pitt School of Law.

"Putting aside issues of equity, social costs, and moral values, is it even true that profiling was effective?" Harris asks. "My research said no. You alienate potential allies in fighting crime. When an entire group of people feels the system is against them, it undermines the basic legitimacy of police departments and the law itself. So you have problems."

RACIAL DISPARITIES

Blacks represent the largest number of total youth arrests in Pittsburgh and in Allegheny County, although Blacks represent only 25.8 percent of the city's population and 13.1 percent of the county's population.

**—Center on Race and Social Problems
2015 racial disparities report**

While Blacks represent only about 12.2 percent of the U.S. population, they account for more than one-third of drug arrests.

—The Sentencing Project

Some of those problems can be traced back to the end of the 1960s, when incarceration of U.S. citizens, especially Blacks, began to increase dramatically. After its enactment in 1970, the federal Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act quickly led to “an enormously destructive cycle of racially biased incarcerations and ruined lives that have become America’s shame,” says Hidenori Yamatani, a CRSP faculty member and director of strategic planning and quality assurance at the School of Social Work.

Anticrime laws and incarceration rates dramatically increased as the federal government enacted unprecedented antidrug initiatives, ranging from Richard Nixon’s declaration of a war on drugs in 1971 to Ronald Reagan’s reiteration of it in the early 1980s to Bill Clinton’s Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The results were immediate and debilitating for Blacks, especially Black youths, who found themselves channeled

into the criminal justice system far out of proportion to their numbers.

“Democrats and Republicans basically came together to get tough on crime,” says Shook. “We needed to do something, but a lot of evidence shows that maybe it wasn’t the best thing we did. The focus of a lot of reform was on punishment as opposed to addressing root causes. A lot of it was politically motivated. Racially coded images back then struck a lot of chords and created the idea of these young people as predators and monsters, which played into the discourse.”

Frederick W. Thieman, former U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, says that the war on drugs “has been utilized as a way to reduce supply instead of reducing demand,” resulting in “prosecution schemes that are implicitly if not explicitly racially unfair.”

Some believe that reality led to the so-called war on drugs’ being

characterized in some quarters as a war on Black people.

“The degree to which drug [offenders] are such a large part of the prison population is horrendous,” says Alfred Blumstein, a leading criminologist and the J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research at Carnegie Mellon University. “Locking up drug dealers does not avert drug transactions, because those jailed will be replaced with younger ones who are [less likely to show restraint and more likely to use guns]. That’s what so dramatically increased the murder rate for ages 20 and under, most heavily in Black communities. The perpetrators and victims were young Black men. So there were no visible benefits in reducing drug trafficking by locking these older guys away, and there was real harm caused by their replacements.”

Continued on page 12



“When an entire group of people feels the system is against them, it undermines the basic legitimacy of police departments and the law itself. So you have problems.”

**—David A. Harris,
Distinguished Faculty Scholar and
professor in the Pitt School of Law**

HIGH COSTS ALL AROUND

In 2010, the average annual cost of incarceration was about \$31,000 per inmate, according to the nonpartisan Vera Institute of Justice. And it's spent largely to warehouse Blacks convicted of drug crimes. While Blacks represent only about 12.2 percent of the U.S. population, they account for more than one-third of drug arrests, more than half of drug convictions, and three-fourths of people sent to prison for drug possession. The racial disparities have existed for decades and caused serious long-term socioeconomic repercussions for many families and communities.

[Social workers'] perspectives are needed because they are positioned to see how criminal justice, education, economics, and health care are interrelated.

"Under statutes that did not apply to convicted rapists or murderers, drug offenders lost student loans and other educational benefits, their drivers' licenses, access to public housing, food stamps, and other benefits providing necessities of life," explains Yamatani. "These collateral consequences are so numerous and burdensome that they interfered with former prisoners' ability to reenter society and support themselves without reoffending."

A significant percentage of inmates are jailed for low-level nonviolent offenses, and national polls indicate that Americans favor alternatives to jail for such offenders, points out Thieman, who now is president of the Buhl Foundation. "But, unfortunately, we've passed a lot of laws that make that more difficult, such as mandatory sentencing. Research performed by [Teresa and H. John Heinz III University Professor of Public Policy and Statistics] Daniel Nagin of Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College has shown that long sentences don't deter crime, but the risk of getting caught does. There is evidence that people naturally age out of criminal activity, but long sentences cause medical and tax drains on taxpayers.

"Long ago, good policing prevented crime," Thieman says, adding that now policing seems to be more about "investigating" crime and "putting people in jail."

"We've been pretty good at putting young people in jail but not nearly as good at giving young people alternatives. Now we've backed ourselves into a corner of paying the high costs of incarceration rather than the lower costs of prevention. Prevention saves money, helps people, and reduces victimization."

The divide between police and Black communities may be narrowing due to increased public awareness and a modest shift in police attitudes brought on by a younger and more culturally aware generation of law enforcement leaders, says Harris, also a leading expert on racial profiling and police accountability. "There's much more of a willingness to look at better ways of creating public safety. Jurisdictions that use



“We’ve been pretty good at putting young people in jail but not nearly as good at giving young people alternatives. ... Prevention saves money, helps people, and reduces victimization.”

**—Frederick W. Thieman,
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preventive approaches such as programs for kids outside school are more likely to be received.”

Thieman sees promise in the increasing recognition that the United States can't incarcerate its way out of social problems and in growing awareness that tax dollars are better spent helping first-time offenders to reintegrate into society rather than warehousing them. "Those two items," he says, "are the bright lights in what has been a pretty dreary and regressionary policy over the last 30 years."

A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE

Blumstein cites several issues that must be addressed to eliminate disparities: implicit discrimination in police response to reports of crime, the negative effects of high incarceration rates, job discrimination against convicted criminals, and systemic bias in favor of police who should be punished for malfeasance in dealing with segments of the public.

Yamatani sees hope in initiatives such as the federal Second Chance Act, which provides rehabilitative services aimed at cutting recidivism rates, and local efforts such as the Allegheny County Jail Collaborative. He also led a large-scale study evaluating the collaborative, and the results, published in 2007, showed no statistically significant differences in recidivism rates between Black and White study participants. The study also showed a 50 percent lower recidivism rate 12 months after jail release among collaborative participants compared to nonparticipants.

Although recent reforms might have caused the Black/White disparity in incarceration rates to narrow, says Blumstein, more action by lawmakers is needed. Crime generally has declined since peaking in the early 1990s, he says, but “our nation is locked into statutes that got passed, such as mandatory minimum sentencing [laws]. Everybody agrees something should be done, but nobody wants to reduce sanctions because lawmakers are still afraid that they will be seen as ‘soft on crime’ in the next election.”

Davis sees four ways of reducing disparities and improving relations between police and Blacks: more equality in the criminal justice system, penalties for police who misbehave, racially diverse police patrol pairings in Black communities, and more job opportunities for Black youths.

“If there were greater economic opportunities in communities, we would have fewer youths drawn to the illegal activities that are a means of employment for a lot of people,” says Davis.

The juvenile justice system needs to return to its original purpose of rehabilitation rather than punishment, especially given that education costs less than incarceration, says Guido. “It is important to realize that while the kids I work with have engaged in troubling and concerning behaviors, at the end of the day, they are still kids, and they can learn from their mistakes. My hope is that social workers can help the juvenile justice system refocus on what it was originally created to do, which is rehabilitation.”

Shook says that Guido is part of a noticeable increase at Pitt in the number of social work students interested in the field’s interface with the criminal justice system. The involvement of social workers in shaping public discourse waned after the 1990s, perhaps because more public interest in law enforcement and policing pulled attention away from them, says Shook. But their perspectives

are needed because they are positioned to see how criminal justice, education, economics, and health care are interrelated, he says.

“I see that a lot more social work students are interested in these issues and how they are addressed. You’re seeing more involvement in research and policy and practice reform, but there’s a long way to go and a lot of work to do.”

Social workers must lead efforts to ensure that rehabilitation and reentry to society are part of the discussion, says Udin. “Nothing is better situated to provide leadership in that area than the professional field of social work and the schools that educate social workers.” ■

SOCIAL WORKERS LEAD REFORM



“I see that a lot more social work students are interested in these issues and how they are addressed. You’re seeing more involvement in research and policy and practice reform ...”

—Jeffrey Shook,
associate professor at the University
of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

“Social workers do difficult work that many people avoid ... Characteristics such as toughness and tenacity are often not attributed to them, when the reality is that most social workers possess these very traits—they rely on those characteristics to do their jobs.”

-JEFFREY SHOOK



FACULTY MEMBER JEFFREY SHOOK

PROMOTING A MORE JUST SOCIETY BY SHAPING POLICY AND PRACTICE

BY LAMONT JONES JR.

For Jeffrey Shook, associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, social work research and practice have involved an ever-deepening look at youth and criminal justice issues for nearly 20 years. His exploration of topics such as juvenile justice administration, legal socialization, drug dealing among youths, and young people aging out of the child welfare system has been more than an academic exercise; it has informed broader discussions that impact public policy and promote a more just society.

“I came into social work research and teaching in order to help shape policy and practice,” he says. “Social work students are engaged in important work, and the ability to engage with them on a regular basis both sharpens my perspective and, hopefully, allows me to contribute to the way they approach their work.”

Shook’s interest in education and social work was influenced by his childhood in Round Lake, Ill., a village an hour northwest of Chicago. His parents were trained in special education and taught in grade school and high school settings. After raising Shook and his two sisters, they took in their two grandsons and raised them to adulthood.

Shook, meanwhile, earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at Grinnell College, a Juris Doctor degree at American University, and a Master of Social Work and a PhD in social work and sociology at the University of Michigan. He came to Pitt in 2005 as an assistant professor in social work, teaching courses in areas such as social welfare and child and family policy. Now an associate professor in the School of Social Work, he also holds affiliate appointments in the University’s Department of Sociology and School of Law. At the law school, he codirects the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project.

“Being a faculty member is a privilege,” says Shook. “I have the opportunity not only to shape discourses through research and teaching but also to engage in system reform and movements involved in social transformation. I work with so many amazing people and learn a great deal on a daily basis.”

Social workers often are stereotyped as dour file toters who interfere in people’s lives. That stereotype ignores the two most important things Shook wants the public to understand about the field of social work.

“One, social workers do difficult work that many people avoid,”

he points out. “Characteristics such as toughness and tenacity are often not attributed to them, when the reality is that most social workers possess these very traits—they rely on those characteristics to do their jobs. Two, social workers do not just practice at the individual level; many are involved, to different degrees, in broader social change. The tool kit of social work is varied and extensive.”

Shook’s work has not gone unnoticed. His research and analyses have been published in numerous scholarly journals, and in 2013, he received the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award.

Meanwhile, his empirical research continues. He’s working on a pilot study with teams of social workers and public defenders and another study that focuses on juveniles who receive probation or jail sentences in criminal court. “I’m also directly involved in a number of projects focused on action,” he adds, “including the Human Rights City Alliance and efforts focused on reforming policies and practices that treat juveniles as adults in the criminal justice system.”

Outside the world of academia, Shook is a husband and father who loves Pearl Jam, the Chicago Cubs, and home beer brewing. While research and teaching occupy much of his time, another source of pride and enjoyment for Shook is the smoked oatmeal stout brewed with friends that he says is getting positive reviews. ■

A Message from the Office of Development



As an alumnus and supporter of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, you deserve our heartfelt appreciation. Simply put, thank you.

Without you, we would be hard-pressed to do what we do. You fund our students with resources and scholarships. You contribute to our research reports and scholarly endeavors. You support our lectures, seminars, and presentations. No matter your personal reason for giving, we will do all that we can to ensure that your tax-deductible contribution is advancing the school to the next level of success and achievement.

Please help us to continue to serve you, our alumni and supporters. We want you to be engaged with your alma mater, let you hear from our students, and help us to empower the next generation of social work leaders. We invite you to consider your personal, professional, and philanthropic relationship with the school and to let us know what we can do to help you achieve your goals here at Pitt. Maybe it's a modest increase to your annual gift. Maybe you want to host a field placement or learn more about a research initiative. Or maybe you've given some thought to a named gift or bequest intention to the school. Regardless, we want you to be involved.

Please visit socialwork.pitt.edu/alumni/ways-give to learn more about the School of Social Work's fundraising initiatives. And please don't hesitate to reach out to us to learn how you can make an impact. The school is forever grateful for its alumni and supporters. After all, we wouldn't be where we are without you.

With admiration and appreciation,

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



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The 2014 Distinguished Alumni Recognition Luncheon and Continuing Education Forum was held on October 24, 2014, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. The following awards were presented at the luncheon: Outstanding Field Instructor, **Kyoko Henson** (MSW '01); Distinguished Alumni Award in Social Work Practice, **James A. Martin** (PhD '83); Rising Star Alumni Award, **Teanna Medina** (MSW '12); Outstanding Alumni Award, **Eileen M. Carlins** (BASW '00, MSW '01); and Distinguished Alumni Award in Social Work Education, **Helen Land** (BASW '74, PhD '83). ■

Introducing the New President of the School of Social Work Alumni Society



It is a distinct privilege to serve as president of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Alumni Society. As a nontraditional student, I was intimidated by the prospect of attending the School of Social Work, and I was delighted to find it to be a nurturing and stimulating experience. Not only were the professors supportive, all

of the staff members also helped to make my experience there memorable. I was challenged intellectually through the rigors of an excellent social work curriculum, and I grew as a person to understand and accept the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics, which underpinned my school experience and broadened my understanding of the world. I am always appreciative of the excellent education I received, and I am proud to serve as president of the alumni society. I hope to meet more alumni and join with them to support the school, current students, and alumni.

EILEEN M. CARLINS (BASW '00, MSW '01)

STAY CONNECTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK!



Pitt Career Network

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

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

For more information and to sign up, visit alumni.pitt.edu/alumni/resources/career-resources.

We Are Looking for You!



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

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

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



Keep Us Updated!

PITT

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

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

Check out the Pitt Alumni Association online community at alumni.pitt.edu/alumni/resources/alumni-resources.

Did You Know?

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

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

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



Your gift has an infinite impact.

The School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh is forever grateful for the generosity of our alumni and friends whose contributions enable us to achieve lasting results. By offering a rich, diverse, and rigorous approach to addressing old problems and facing new challenges that confront today's society and the world, we are not only preparing the next generation of social practitioners with skill and experience, we also are actively engaged in redefining and reimagining social change today.

Visit socialwork.pitt.edu/alumni/ways-give to learn how you can help us empower and inspire the future of the school.

THE IDA MAUD CANNON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE TRAINING

The School of Social Work has received a workforce training grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration to train and prepare graduate social work students to work in integrated health care systems. This three-year funded project will support Master of Social Work students in the school's Direct Practice Concentration during their second year of field training. The concentration field placements are located in integrated health care settings serving the needs of youths ages 16–26. Each year for three years, this program will provide 31 students with a \$10,000 stipend. The program was funded in fall 2014, and the first class of Cannon fellows will begin their concentration field placements in the summer and fall of 2015.

In honor of one of the first hospital social workers, the program has been named the Ida Maud Cannon Fellowship. Integrated health care for youths is badly needed. Many youths experience mental health issues or substance abuse disorders and often do not seek appropriate treatment or drop out after an initial engagement with a specialty behavioral health care system.

Youths who do not engage with the mental health system may reach out to their primary care doctors. Physicians have an opportunity to reach these youths. Until recently, the systems that provided for primary care and behavioral health care were sharply divided, making it difficult for primary care providers to effectively manage behavioral health issues.

In integrated health care systems, behavioral health care specialists and physicians work to establish high levels of collaboration, communication, and coordination. Integrated approaches to health care have the potential to identify, engage, and treat youths with behavioral health care needs who might never present to a behavioral health care provider. Earlier and more sustained intervention could greatly affect youths' long-term health and outcomes.

There is great demand for behavioral health care specialists who can work effectively in new integrated care settings. Social work students are ideally suited to make this contribution. The holistic approach of social work, along with specialized training in mental health and youth issues, positions the School of Social Work to contribute in an important way to training behavioral health care workers who will function effectively in integrated care treatment systems.

Recent policy changes, including the passage of the Affordable Care Act, are creating new pathways to establish the systems needed to support integrated care. Leaders in the provider, payer, and policy community in the Pittsburgh region are moving quickly to develop integrated care models and have partnered with the school by joining its advisory board to make its training model for social workers a reality, and to implement that model quickly in the field.

This grant has enabled the school to extend its partnerships with regional leaders in health care, behavioral health care, insurance, and policymakers in order to rapidly develop field placement settings, training models for

integrated health care, and evaluation techniques to track the progress of the program. This is providing the School of Social Work with an important opportunity to develop and evaluate training for integrated care and contribute to the development of these important care models in our region.

Cannon worked closely with Richard Cabot, a physician. These two pioneers recognized the need for social workers and physicians to work together for patients to truly benefit from medical treatment and become well. Their important written works include Cabot's book *Social Service and the Art of Healing* and *Social Work in Hospitals*. More than 100 years later, social workers are still striving to create systems that live up to Cannon and Cabot's example of providing the most successful avenues to health by treating the whole patient. ■



VALIRE CARR COPELAND,
project director and
associate dean for
academic affairs



JOHN DALESSANDRO,
director of field
education



Spring 2015 CRSP Update

The Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP) has had an exciting and transformative year in 2014. Perhaps one of the most significant changes was that **Ralph Bangs**, longtime associate director of the center, transferred to Pitt's Study Abroad Office, part of the University Center for International Studies, at the close of 2014. Ralph served in his position from 2005 to 2014 and helped to develop programs such as the Summer Institutes.

The center also hosted two events in 2014, including the second Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty summit. At this summit, representatives from centers and institutes across the nation who are studying race, ethnicity, and poverty gathered to discuss issues of collaboration and development. In October 2014, CRSP and the Heinz Endowments cosponsored a one-day summit for educators titled *Are Academics Enough?* The keynote speaker was Howard Fuller, Distinguished Professor

of Education and founder/director of the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University. A panel discussion was also featured with guests from the research community, Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Linda Lane, and other community leaders. Presenters discussed the challenges faced by Black youths in the educational system and the types of nonacademic skills that are necessary for them to learn so they can succeed in the classroom and in society at large.

RESEARCH

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

The center's research advisory panels (RAPs), based on the center's seven areas of focus, continue to bring together Pitt faculty members with similar

interests to share their research and publications as well as to work individually or in groups to publish and develop new research initiatives.

The center's publication of the journal *Race and Social Problems*, now in its sixth year, featured articles about topics such as Black college applicants, housing affordability problems, and school bullying. These articles and many more are available for free online via the Race Research Online Directory.

SERVICE

The CRSP speaker series continues to be a huge draw, regularly attracting more than 100 attendees to each lecture. See page 5 for the spring 2015 speakers.

EDUCATION

As an integral part of the School of Social Work's educational

Photo (right):
Samantha M. Horton

Cuba trip photo (far right):
Front row (left to right): Emily Bell, Mariel McMarlin, and Marcus Poindexter; middle row (left to right): Lauren Shifrin, Brittany Cheeks, Tessa Medwid, and Lauren Pugh; back row (left to right): Dean Larry E. Davis, Sara Berg, Andrea Joseph, Associate Dean Valire Carr Copeland, and Maria Jarosh



programs, CRSP provides an environment in which emerging scholars are mentored and cultivated.

Samantha M. Horton, an undergraduate student pursuing a double major in Africana studies and religious studies, received the 2013–14 Undergraduate Student Paper Award for her paper, “Exploring the Pathological Label of Blacks: An African-centered Exploration.” Her sponsor was Michael Tillotson from the Department of Africana Studies. Horton’s paper may be viewed via the Race Research Online Directory.

The CRSP fellowship is an annual award given to five or six students who are working in a CRSP-related field placement. The fellowship provides each student with \$4,000 over one academic year. Currently, the fellows are working in a field placement with the schools associated with the Homewood Children’s Village. **John Wallace Jr.**, Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice, is the faculty mentor, and the community field advisor is **K. Camara Watkins**, a staff member at the Homewood Children’s Village.

RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL (RAP) CHAIRS:

Criminal Justice
DAVID HARRIS
School of Law

Economic Disparities
WAVERLY DUCK*
Department of Sociology

Educational Disparities
JAMES HUGULEY*
CRSP

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

Health
DANIEL ROSEN
School of Social Work

Interracial Group Relations
MICHAEL TILLOTSON
Department of Africana Studies

Mental Health
SHAUN EACK
School of Social Work

*Indicates new RAP chair

2014–15 CRSP FELLOWS:

JESSICA BURDICK
JESSICA CALHOON
RACHEL COSTIN
DAVID CROME
TYLER HENDRICKS
BENJAMIN MILLER

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

In March 2015, **Dean Larry E. Davis** and [School of Social Work] Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Valire Carr Copeland** took seven MSW and two PhD students to Cuba as part of the Cuban Social Policy Issues graduate course. Their itinerary included visits to a health clinic, a medical school, a mental health center, an orphanage, and a senior center. They also participated in a community service project. ■

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Carol Anderson, 75, emeritus professor of psychiatry and social work at the University of Pittsburgh, died on November 20, 2014, of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. She will be remembered as a psychiatrist and social worker who helped to develop cutting-edge therapies for children.

Betty Baer (PhD '79) died on September 10, 2014. She was a professor in the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay's social work program, of which she also served as chair. She helped to found that program and also advance it until she retired in 1997. Prior to that, she played a significant role in growing the undergraduate social work education programs at West Virginia State University and the Westchester Social Work Consortium.

Alva Barnett (MSW '71, PhD '81), 67, a Jacksonville, Fla., native who earned six degrees, coauthored four books, and taught for 22 years at the University of Nebraska, died on September 17, 2014.

June S. Garraux (MSW '71), who had retired from Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, died on September 13, 2014.

Joseph Kane (MSW '52) died in October 2013 in the Los Angeles, Calif., area, where he and his wife had lived since 1955. Kane served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946, an experience that loved ones say helped to instill him with confidence and an ambition that led him to pursue a career in social work. The result was decades of Kane's improving "countless lives." Kane

administered social services at the Veterans Administration (now the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs); Family Service; and California's Departments of Public Health, Social Services, and Developmental Services. He was a senior human factors specialist at Systems Development Corp.; conducted a private practice as a licensed clinical social worker and a marriage and family child counselor; led social work conferences; and, at age 65, became a state parole officer. He authored reports on topics ranging from personal and family counseling services for adults who are deaf to disaster control training procedures for atomic-biological-chemical battle damage and radiation.

Anna Mae Lindberg (BASW '76), an Olympic swimmer who considered earning her social work degree at the Pitt School of Social Work at the age of 60 a bigger accomplishment than swimming in the Olympics, died on September 15, 2014. Lindberg was a former staff member at the school.

Sara "Sally" Stenson (MSW '68), 86, a passionate advocate for quality, affordable child care long before the topic received much attention in Western Pennsylvania and beyond, died September 21, 2014, in Peterborough, N.H.

Melina Waldo (MSW '88), 76, an advocate for gay rights, died on October 6, 2014.

NEWS & NOTES

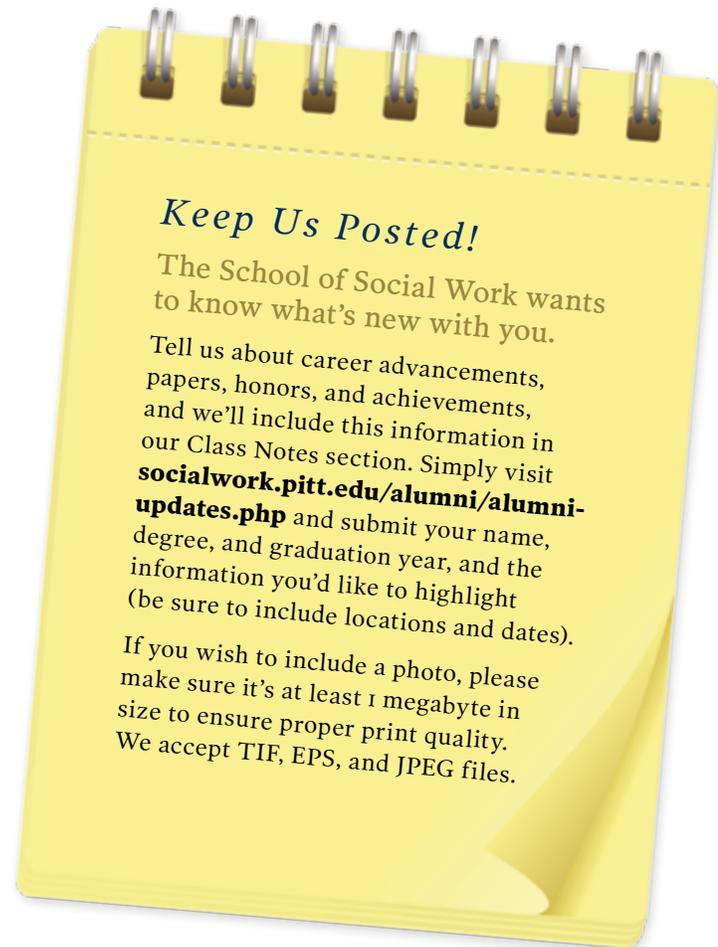
- **Sharise M. Hemby** (MSW '06), a first-time author, was among the winners of the first Pittsburgh Author Awards, sponsored by the Authors' Zone. The announcement was made by Expected End Entertainment, LLC, and EX3 Books. Hemby's book, *Vitamin C: Healing for the Mind, Body and Soul*, was selected as a winner in the Self-help/Medicine category. "It was truly an honor to participate in the Authors' Zone first annual Pittsburgh authors ceremony," Hemby said. "Having the opportunity to network with some of Pittsburgh's finest authors and being selected as one of the winners was surreal."
- **Debra King** (BS '83) was named a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate in 2014. The Legacy Laureates program honors alumni who demonstrate the pinnacle of achievement in professional and civic leadership.
- **Christopher Robinson** (MSW '07) has been chosen to lead a new scholarship program for students pursuing training in social work and drug and alcohol programs at the Community College of Allegheny County.
- **Tara Sherry-Torres** (MSW '10) was named a 2014 40 Under 40 honoree by *Pittsburgh Magazine*. The annual award program honors 40 people under the age of 40 who are committed to shaping our region and making it a better place for everyone to live, work, and play.

ALUMNI SOCIETY

Your Help Is Needed!

School of Social Work Alumni Society

If you are interested in serving on any of the committees or learning more about upcoming alumni activities please contact **Bobby Simmons**, director of career services and alumni affairs, by phone at **412-624-6354** or by e-mail at **bobby@pitt.edu**.



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School of Social Work

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*Empower People
Lead Organizations
Grow Communities*

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

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

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Raymond R. Webb Jr. Lecture

“Outcomes of Child Welfare Services: How Much Are We Really Helping?”

RICHARD P. BARTH, Dean, School of Social Work, University of Maryland



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY – Sidney A. Teller Lecture

“Sustainable Development and Social Justice Pillars: A Platform for Setting the Global Agenda That Links the Economy, Society, and Environment”

DeBRENNa LaFa AGBENYIGA, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Inclusion and Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, College of Social Science, and Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Michigan State University



CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS | REED SMITH SPRING 2015 SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

“‘Try On the Outfit and Just See How It Works’: The Psychocultural Responses of Disconnected Black Youth to Work”

ORLANDO PATTERSON, John Cowles Professor of Sociology, Harvard University



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

“The Collision of Race and Criminal Justice: Lessons from the Aftermath of Ferguson”

DAVID HARRIS, Distinguished Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law, University of Pittsburgh



TUESDAY, MARCH 17

“The Crisis of College Access for Students of Color”

GARY ORFIELD, Distinguished Research Professor of Education, Law, Political Science, and Urban Planning; and Codirector, Civil Rights Project, University of California, Los Angeles



THURSDAY, APRIL 23

“The End of Black Metropolis?”

MARY PATTILLO, Harold Washington Professor and Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Northwestern University

