Welcome From the Dean

The preamble of the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers tells us that the “primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.” Social workers are most effective when they are strong agents of social change – individual, family, community, systemic.

Interestingly, the School of Social Work at Millersville University is itself in the midst of big change. It has a new name, it is affiliated with a new college, it has moved to a new location on campus, and it has a new dean.

In the Summer of 2015, the Department of Social Work in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences became the School of Social Work in the College of Education and Human Services. The faculty physically relocated their office space from McComsey Hall to offices on the third floor of Stayer Hall. And many social work classes are now held in Stayer Hall as well.

Coinciding with all these changes was my arrival on the Millersville campus as founding dean of the College of Education and Human Services, and School of Social Work. I bring to Millersville over 20 years of experience in higher education – most recently at West Chester University – as both a faculty member and as an administrator.

The creation of the College of Education and Human Services, and the inclusion in that college of the School of Social Work provides suitable recognition to a strong group of faculty and staff that provides preparation from the bachelors to the doctoral levels. It also results in important helping professions being housed in a single college, allows for more opportunities for integration and collaboration across those disciplines, and ensures the continued strong reputation of social work on the Millersville campus and in the region.

Dr. George P. Drake, Jr.
Dean, College of Education and Human Services
Welcome From the Chair

As Chair of the School of Social Work, I welcome you to the inaugural edition of our newsletter, The Change Agent. Our School has a long history of collaborating with the community to respond to challenges within society. Our faculty have provided their expertise, skills, and activism to initiate and promote sustainable positive changes that address these challenges. In addition, we continue to enhance our BA in Social Work and MSW programs to ensure our students have the knowledge and skills to address social injustices in today’s world. The addition of the DSW program will prepare social workers for leadership and teaching to continue this outstanding legacy of activism and social change.

As we continue to enhance our programs and take on new initiatives, we are reminded of the satisfaction that comes with preparing the next generation of social workers. We continuously have over 350 students at the undergraduate level and 125 students at the graduate level. This fall, we accepted our first cohort of 16 into the DSW program. These are exciting times for our School, and we look forward to watching all our students grow personally and professionally and commit to making our world a better and safer place for us all!

Together, we can, Be the Change!

Dr. Karen Rice, Chair and Associate Professor.

More about the DSW Program

Kutztown University and Millersville University are pleased to partner to offer our new DSW program focused on preparing leaders and educators for career advancement in agencies, government, and higher education. This program will provide Social Work practitioners who have an MSW the necessary skills to take on the challenges of this evolving industry, or educate the next generation of social workers.

Applications are being accepted for Fall 2016!

For more information, visit: http://www.millersville.edu/socialwork/dsw/index.php
“In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn’t speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up.”

-Pastor Martin Niemöller, 1945

“Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

–Benjamin Franklin, 1755

Recently in my graduate policy classes we discussed advocacy and I asked the students, “Where is your line in the sand. What would have to happen for you to quit your job in protest or to join a civil disobedience action?” Some great conversations ensued, but it became apparent that most students had never thought deeply about the issue. I can understand this as the life of a graduate student is so busy that just getting through the work day and completing class assignments take just about every ounce of energy that students possess. Many students indicated that they would refrain from protesting if it would put their job at risk, and would be unlikely to quit one job without having another. Seems rational. But what is the end result if we, as social workers, don’t engage in public discourse and don’t speak up when we should?

Most students can easily rattle off the core values of our profession—Service, Dignity and Worth of a Person, Competence, Integrity, Importance of Human Relationships and, and, and…Social Justice. Unfortunately, it is the value that many students have to think about to recall. But without a focus on social justice, what differentiates social work from any other helping profession? To me, social justice is the essence of our profession. And advocacy for social justice is urgently needed today.

Read Niemöller’s quote again. Read Franklin’s quote again. Now think about Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump. Trump has called Mexicans rapists and criminals; he has displayed misogynistic tendencies with his rants against Rosie O’Donnell, fellow Republican Presidential candidate Carly Fiorina and Fox News Anchor Megan Kelly. And now he wants to bar people who profess certain religious beliefs (Muslims) from entering the United States and set up programs and processes to track Muslims who are in the United States—citizens or not—“just until we get a handle on things.”. We should all be afraid. We should all protest these unlawful and hateful propositions and statements. Trump’s proposal does not make us safer. It places all of us at greater risk of losing the freedoms we hold dear. Today, he proposes that Muslims should be “rounded up.” Perhaps we don’t identify with that group and therefore turn a blind eye. But it could be any of us tomorrow based on our beliefs, our race, our ethnicity, our sexual orientation or expression, or another trait that the powerful decide must be contained.

Niemöller’s quote dates back to World War II, when Hitler expressed sentiments about the Jews that are mirrored by Trump’s statements about the Muslims. It was also the time when the United States interned its own citizens of Japanese origins in camps—a practice we came to regret as a stain upon our values and Constitution. So, are Trump’s statements and propositions enough to make you protest? To make you say, “This is wrong and it cannot stand?” Or, as long as you have a job, a home, the internet, are you content to let others worry about America’s future, believing that this is “just politics?” It isn’t. I’ve done politics. These statements are deadly serious. It’s time. It’s time for all of us, but especially social workers to put the DSM down and join the protest. If you do not stand up for others and reject this charismatic demigod and his hate, there will be no one left when Trump comes for you. Franklin’s quote was not about a political campaign, but its meaning works, we do not deserve security if we sacrifice freedom to achieve it.

Dr Laura Brierton-Granruth
Kicking Off the School Year

We Moved!

We moved from McComsey Hall to Stayer Hall to take our place in the College of Education and Human Services.

Welcome Christine!

The School of Social Work welcomes our new secretary, Christine Kolenda. Christine is a native of Lancaster County. She has worked in higher education for more than 7 years. Christine has been married for more than 17 years and has two children (18 and 15), two cats, two dogs, and two birds. Her interests mostly revolve around her kids’ activities like softball and baseball, but she enjoys reading, taking walks, and taking care of her various animal. Christine is looking forward to working here at Millersville and attending some of the sporting events.

Faculty Promotion

Karen Rice, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department Chairperson, and DSW Co-Director, joined the School of Social Work in 2006. An alumnus of Millersville University, where she earned her undergraduate degree in psychology, Dr. Rice later earned her MSW from Temple and PhD from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Dr. Rice has been at MU since the inception of its joint MU-SU MSW program and played an integral role in the recent reaffirmation of accreditation of that program. She was also the lead developer of the joint KU-MU DSW program.
This Semester So Far

**Bridging the Gap**

On Friday, October 23rd, Professor Frank, along with her students from the School of Social Work's first Univ 103 course, *Perspectives on Poverty*, engaged in a unique and fun collaborative event with The Factory Ministries in Paradise, PA. This event began with a tour of Paradise, PA to better understand some features of rural poverty. Next, the students shared a meal with the participants of The Factory programs as well as a time of insightful dialogue regarding opinions, perspectives, and life experiences. The purpose of this event was to decrease the distance between social groups through conversation, food, and fun. It was a huge success. Thanks to our friends, Tia and Chuck, from The Factory for a wonderful evening.

**TABOR Holiday Event**

On Wednesday, December 2nd, several Students from the School of Social Work in collaboration with the Social Work Organization (SWO) donated either items or their time to TABOR's annual holiday event. This holiday event is for mothers and children. Students brought home made gingerbread men for the children to decorate, contributed a large amount of personal care products for the mothers, and took family photos of the mothers and their children. Thanks to all of the students involved and to SWO for making this event happen!

**The Learning Institute this Semester**

September-
American Winter Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion

October-
Dr. John Iceland talks about Poverty in America

November-
Rachel Krizner taught us how to use a Trauma-Informed Response to Poverty
Achievement Highlights

**Faculty Book Publications**

Dr. David Johnson co-authored *Social Welfare: Politics and Public Policy*

Drs. Karen Rice and Marc Felizzi co-edited *Global Youth: Understanding Challenges, Identifying Solutions, Offering Hope* with contributions from Drs. Leonara Foels, Heather Girvin, and Laura Brierton-Granruth.

**Student and Alumni Activities**

BSW student Jen Livingstone presented in a Mental Health Showcase about a program she created called Conquering College at NASPA’s General Assembly for BACCHUS in Reston, VA. The program was designed for freshman to help them identify stressors they will most likely face during their time here at Millersville, such as finances, relationships, and school work. “We provide them with the resources on campus to help them overcome these stressors students face.”

Amber Davis is a concentration year MSW student and a Graduate Assistant with the Office of Student Success Programs as an Outreach Counselor. She presented at the Anne Frank Project’s Social Justice Festival: Identity Inclusion & the World in New York, this year. Her presentation, titled Employing Visual Imagery, Photo Elicitation, and Image Theater to Explore Identity and Social Justice, explained what photo elicitation is, how to effectively use it in practice, and reasons as to why professionals should utilize this expressive art form.

DSW Student Ethan Haymovitz presented a talk on Pre-LGBT Identities: An International Perspective at the Fourth Annual Conference on Social Work in a Global Environment in Kutztown, PA. on November 13, 2015. Ethan defined terms and discussed the impact of a cultural, global view of gender variant youth and the impact of gender variance on a youth’s sexual and gender identity development.

LauraEllen (Gochnauer) Ashcraft graduated with her BA in Social Work from Millersville University in 2012. She completed her MSW at the University of Pittsburgh with concentrations in Community Organizing and Social Administration in 2013. After graduation, she developed an intake program for people experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. During her time at Millersville, Ms. Ashcraft led the Social Work Organization and completed the first Social Work Department honors thesis. LauraEllen used these leadership and research opportunities along with multiple field placements to learn the skills necessary for current and future work. She now works as the Senior Research Coordinator for the Program on Health Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, Department of Critical Care Medicine. Ms. Ashcraft is working on two NIH-funded research studies looking at ICU Telemedicine and Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals. Other projects include pediatric subspeciality care, strategic planning, and CMS payment policy.
February 3rd, 2016. 9am to 12pm
Brittany Parsons, MSW from the Community Action Program of Lancaster’s Atlas Initiative will lead attendees through a realistic poverty simulation that provides insight to the hardships of poverty.

March 21st, 2016. 6pm-8pm
Peter Greer, President and CEO of Hope International
Learn about what poverty looks like on a global level, as well as sustainable solutions to eradication.

April 13th, 2016. 6pm-8pm
Millersville Professor Jennifer Frank, LSW
System-Building and Homeless Services
Learn about homelessness, the history of a systemized response to helping, and an overview of the issues affecting those helping systems.

To register for an event, visit http://muticketsonline.com or call (717) 871-7600

The 3rd Annual Global Conference

GLOBAL POVERTY: HUMAN NEEDS, ECONOMIC JUSTICE, AND SOCIAL CHANGE
June 8–10, 2016 | Ware Center, Lancaster, Pa.

This year’s conference focuses on Poverty and Human Needs. Our Keynote speaker, Dr. Elana Delavega is focused on the overall goal of understanding, addressing, and eliminating poverty and all forms of exclusion. She is currently involved in research testing the Culture of Poverty framework. She is deeply involved with the Memphis community, where her research on poverty is widely utilized. Dr. Delavega is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Memphis, a Fellow and Director of the Hooks Institute for Social Change, and Co-Director of the Mid-South Family and Community Empowerment Institute.

The plenary speaker will be Janiva Cifuentes-Hiss, who has led study abroad, gap year, and volunteer programs throughout Central and South America, East Africa, India, and Spain over the past decade. Through her travels in the global south, she has learned about empowering grassroots solutions to poverty, including food security.

Call for Proposals:

All proposals are due no later than January 30, 2016 by 11:59 pm EST.
Please submit your proposal to learninginstitute@millersville.edu
For more information go to: http://blogs.millersville.edu/learninginstitute/conference-program/

Like the Learning Institute on Facebook!
In 2010, I conducted a secondary analysis on a population of over 500 incarcerated young men ages 12-21. The intention of the study was to research the effects of emotional abuse, family or caregiver instability and poor attachment as possible causal factors for juvenile sex offending. Most of the extant research on juvenile sex offending focuses on the role of prior sex abuse, or sexual abuse victimization of the perpetrator. Little attention focuses on family dysfunction, in the form of emotional abuse, family violence, attachment, observing criminal behaviors, and other disruptive factors.

For the purposes of the current article, which was published in Volume 24, Number 6 of the Journal of Child Sex Abuse, I discussed the role of parental instability and poor parental attachment on juvenile sex offending. The study operationalized family disruption and poor parental attachment as independent variables for the study. The research question for this study was “What effects do parent or caregiver instability and parental attachment have on juvenile sex offending status in the study population?”

The study was a secondary analysis of a needs assessment gathered from 502 males aged 12-21 in six secure placement facilities, which were located in a large Midwestern state. A self-identified juvenile sex offender population of 332 respondents answered the questionnaires, while a comparison group of 170 non-sex offenders participated. The assessment device was a series of questionnaires which included a number of standardized and validated instruments. For this study, the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA) and the Self Report of Sexual Aggression.

The study variable of parent or caregiver instability was operationalized as a caregiving unit characterized by numerous moves or homelessness; parents or caregivers who physically, sexually, or emotionally abuse or neglect juveniles or adolescents under their care. To further focus the study variable, the questions included in the SERSAS requested respondents to describe their family setting by asking “Do these describe your family and/or home?” “Are there frequent changes in who lives in the home,” “have your parents or caregivers been reported to family services....if so for neglect?, child abuse?, physical abuse, sexual abuse?” “Did you witness illegal acts by family members (other than you)” “Did you observe, hitting or other violence between parents or adults at home”, “Were children placed outside of the family (not counting you) in foster homes, secure placements, residential hospitals?” “Did you experience lots of moves and/or homelessness.” The IPPA asked respondents to answer questions that measured trust, anger and alienation between themselves and their caregivers.

The strongest predictive variable of offender status was the parent or caregiver instability attribute of lots of moves or homelessness, followed by sexual abuse in the home, children placed out of the home; neglect by caregivers, observing hitting, punching, or slapping, and physical abuse. Parental attachment was not strongly correlated to juvenile sex offending. Indeed, most of the juvenile who responded to the study reported strong attachment to their parents or caregivers.

Therefore, the research was able to prove a strong correlation, in the study population, between certain factors of parent or caregiver instability and juvenile sex offending. Parental attachment was not strongly correlated, despite the initial thoughts that this variable may be factor worth considering. The study added to a body of literature in need of evidence based research that can help create focused, effective and research based Social Work interventions. Social Workers who work with this population can use the study’s findings to help assess clients and their families to prevent juvenile sex offending, identify at risk youth, and help families suffering from disruption due to homelessness, domestic violence, neglect and sexual abuse.

Dr. Marc Felizzi, LCSW
**Publications:**


**Grants:**

Frank, J. (2015, September). President’s Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion. Wrote and submitted a proposal for funding for the Fall 2015 events of the Learning Institute: Global well-being and social change; Awarded $800 for this semester’s events.

**Presentations:**


**Felizzi, M.** (2015) We love pedophiles. Oral presentation at the 2nd Annual Global Well-Being Conference: Exploitation of Women and Children: Global Perspectives, Millersville University, Ware Center, Lancaster, PA, June 10-12, 2015


Rice, K. Link between Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Animal Cruelty. Panel presentation at MU Chapter of PSI CHI, Department of Psychology, Domestic Violence Awareness Month event, Millersville University, Millersville, PA, October 13, 2015.


