

Millersville University

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
BASW • MSW • DSW

Spring 2020 Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



At the start of this semester, no one could have predicted that we would end with all of us quarantined due to a world-wide pandemic jeopardizing the safety, security, and health of every individual, not to mention the effect on the stability of our organizations, businesses, and communities. Social workers have long played a critical role in responding to individual, family, groups, organization, and community needs.

During this public health emergency, social workers are on the frontlines serving patients with COVID-19 at many of our hospitals and other long-term assisted living facilities. However, the health of every individual is shaped by factors beyond medical care and social workers have long been the essential employees connecting individuals with those nonmedical needs (i.e., social determinants of

health) such as access to nutritious food, reliable transportation, consistent and effective therapy and behavioral healthcare, and safe and secure housing.

We have learned that these nonmedical factors play a role equal to that of medical services in health outcomes. We are proud of the service our social work students, alumni, and field instructors continue to provide throughout this pandemic. THANK YOU!

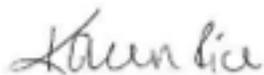
These are unprecedented times and we are all navigating the unknown, together. One thing we can guarantee is that your faculty and staff remain committed to ensuring all our students receive a rigorous education that prepares them to make a difference within their communities and positively affect social change. How we do that may take on a different look, but as a profession, social work has witnessed on a number of occasions how times of crises are opportunities to rebuild better, more stable, inclusive organizations and communities. Therefore, our vision is that our students not only glean the knowledge and skills necessary to address the needs and safety of today but the skills and knowledge essential to translate the fear, anxiety, grief, and loss into social transformation.

In closing, for many of our students, this semester was the semester they and their loved ones have been looking forward to for many years. Some are earning their undergraduate degree while others are completing their master's or doctorate. However, for all our graduates, we are very much aware that the efforts taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in the disruption of our ability to publicly celebrate your achievements. We know that the learning and experiences you had while at Millersville will serve you well, but your faculty and staff stand with you in solidarity and are heartbroken.

Congratulations and best wishes, Class of 2020!!

[Video message from faculty](#)

Take care, be safe, and stay healthy!
Together, We can Be The Change!



Dr. Rice

[School of Social Work Website](#)

Follow us on social media!

Millersville School of Social Work Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube Page:



Learning Institute Facebook Page:



Heather Strohman Joins the School of Social Work as BASW and MSW Field Coordinator



Give a brief description of yourself and your previous experience in the social work field:

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and graduated with my Master of Social Work degree from Millersville University. I have prior experience working with managed care, completing clinical reviews for out-of-state contracts. I also worked at Penn State Milton S Hershey Medical Center (PSHMC) as the Neonatal Intensive Care and Emergency Department Social Worker. Most of my experience is in the areas of medical and psychiatric social work, medical trauma, and managed care. During my time at PSHMC, I was the field coordinator for the Social Work department.

Can you summarize what you do in your role as the Field Coordinator?

I organize and mediate the field process for BASW and MSW students. I foster professional partnerships with students and local agencies so that I can match students to appropriate field experiences based on their interests and goals. I review agencies for practicum and organize orientation seminars for students and field partners.

Why were you interested in this role?

I loved coordinating field for PSHMC and working with students as a field instructor. Field is such an integral part of learning, and it is exciting to see students grow through experience.

What would you like students to know about the field placement process?

The field placement process involves a collaborative effort. I am always open to questions or discussing new, innovative ideas for placements. We will get through it together!

What is the best way for students to contact you?

Email is the best way to get in contact, heather.strohman@millersville.edu

What has been something you enjoyed in this new role?

I enjoy getting to know students and hearing that they have accepted an internship. Knowing they feel excited about their placement is so important to me.

Anything else you'd like to share or add?

We also have a GA for field that provides a lot of support to students and the program. We are here for you, so use us!

Program Coordinator Hired to Manage Opioid Workforce Expansion Program Grant Awarded to School of Social Work

Give a brief description of your previous experience in the social work field

I began my undergraduate social work studies at Millersville University and completed both my BSW and MSW at Temple University in North Philadelphia. I am currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC). I also have a current certification to be a Level I trainer for Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) through PCIT International. I am bilingual in Spanish and English.

Can you summarize what you do in your role as the OWEF program coordinator?



I work in collaboration with the OWEPE leadership team at Millersville University to implement the Opioid Workforce Expansion Program for MSW students including recruiting students to participate, reviewing applications, coordinating training, reviewing internship placements, collecting required documentation and data, communication with students, team members and stakeholders and writing reports on grant progress.

Why were you interested in this role?

I wanted to use my administrative and clinical professional experience to be involved in this amazing opportunity to support MSW students with enhancing their skills to address the Opioid Epidemic in our country at this time. The \$10K stipends are a huge benefit for MSW students, to offset their personal investments of time and money into their MSW education.

What would you like students to know about the OWEPE Program?

The Opioid epidemic touches people from all age groups and socio-economic classes in our country and around the world. People who have struggled with Opioid Use Disorders often talk about how they felt negatively judged and misunderstood by health care workers and ultimately not supported to pursue recovery. While it is not possible to be an expert on all clinical topics, I believe it is very beneficial to be a social worker with knowledge of Substance Use Disorders in general and Opioid Use Disorders in particular. For this reason, my biased opinion is that the Opioid Workforce Expansion Program has something to offer for all Social Work students, even if it is attending just one training.

What is the best way for students to get in contact with you?

Due to COVID-19 and working remotely, my email gburkholder@millersville.edu is the best way to get in contact with me right now. I also like to connect through Zoom.

What has been something you enjoyed in this new role?

I've enjoyed the opportunity to connect with students, trainers, training participants, and Millersville University School of Social Work faculty, preferably in person and now also through email and Zoom.

Anything else you'd like to share or add?

I believe Social Workers pursue this profession related to an altruistic drive to make a difference if possible, because you can't say we do it for the money. To this end I am personally challenged by the question "What Does the World Need from You?" And then there is the follow-up pondering of what can I do with my particular set of skills and abilities to be part of making a difference, without burning myself out. On the lighter side, I like to spend time with my family, travel, go to the beach, and go running, hiking, or biking on trails along the Susquehanna River or other scenic outdoor places.

[OWEPE Website](#)

EXPLORATION

Group of Millersville Students Travel to South Africa to Collaborate with Members of an Agricultural Cooperative



From January 1-January 16, 2020 students participated in the short-term study abroad trip in South Africa, led by Drs. Karen Rice (Social Work) and Jason Petula (Early, Middle, Exceptional Education) and collaborated with Sakhulwazi Woman's Agricultural Cooperative. They learned about the origins of the cooperative, which was started by Mama Rose. The cooperative empowers people by offering them opportunities to earn income through small businesses. Families involved with the cooperative learn agriculture, spekboom planting, sewing, and/or beading.

As most of the families were still in the Eastern Cape visiting family for the holidays, the plants and garden have not been maintained. The group assisted with weeding and taking inventory of the spekboom so when the families returned, they were able to immediately resume their business.

Additionally, the group was able to assist with trouble shooting challenges the cooperative was experiencing with their irrigation system and snail infestation as well as begin conversations on ways to assess outcomes of a new potting system. This is a partnership that began two years ago, and the School of Social Work looks forward to

ongoing collaboration with the cooperative. Students also learned about the history of South Africa from a political, social, and economic perspective and the effect on members within the community. Our efforts over the two weeks were to assist the community in fostering social, economic, and environmental justice.

[South Africa Highlight Video](#)



School of Social Work Offers Theatre of the Oppressed Drama Elective as Part of the Expressive Arts Certificate Program



Transformation is the common goal for both Social Work and Theatre of the Oppressed. This form of applied Theatre leads to active change as it demands the audience to become

part of the action and not just sit on the side lines and be told “how the story goes.” Guided by the philosophies and praxes of both Paulo Freire’s *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* and Augusto Boal’s *Theatre of the Oppressed*, students made pivotal discoveries, not only about the dynamics of power in relationships, but how to use action, in the form of drama, to effect shifts in power.

These discoveries prove to be valuable for Social Work. Why? And How you ask? Theatre frees the individual to break out of the molds of identity, occupation, and status that oppress and provides a laboratory to alter these constructs. We experienced, in our exercises and in our scene work, that even just one brief moment of actively “doing things differently” can inspire the hunger for change, for more, for liberation.

Now equipped with both lived experience and theoretical knowledge of the Theatre of the Oppressed techniques, students from this course will be able to find their own creative ways of applying these powerful tools in both their own lives and in the lives of the communities they serve.

Expressive Arts Certificate

Undergraduates Participate in Interactive Workshop with Director, Erik Ljung

On Tuesday, February 25th Dr. Walsh’s SOWK 403 class, along with Dr. Ogongi’s SOWK 102 class participated in an interactive workshop with the director of the documentary film, “The Blood is At the Doorstep”, Erik Ljung. Participating students also received free tickets to the screening of the film on Wednesday, February 26th and the pre-screening discussion. The opportunity was presented by Barry Kornhauser who is the Assistant Director of Campus & Community Engagement and a wonderful friend and supporter of the School of Social Work.



The Blood is at the Doorstep: “After Dontre Hamilton, a black, unarmed man diagnosed with schizophrenia, was shot 14 times and killed by police in Milwaukee, his family embarks on a quest for answers, justice, and reform as the investigation unfolds. Filmed over the course of three years in the direct aftermath of Dontre's death, this powerful and intimate vérité documentary follows his family as they channel their grief into community organizing in an attempt to reset the narrative.”

The interactive workshop brought course concepts to life for the students who participated. The film and the workshop presented mental health, justice reform and narrative sharing in a new and powerful light.

PROFESSIONALISM

Millersville University Students Participate in Legislative Education and Advocacy Day Virtually

NASW-PA successfully held a remote Legislative Education and Advocacy Day on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Using the "Go to Meeting" platform, 70 Millersville social work students gathered with other 400 other students and practitioners to attend the virtual session. Students heard from the Executive



Director, Johanna Byrd, current NASW-PA President Stuart Horowitz, President-Elect Kristie Jo King and other NASW-PA personnel.

NASW-PA educated attendees on the status and sponsors of the bills, and even took questions via a "chat" function. The bills include:

HB 1307/ SB706 - Loan Forgiveness Program for Graduates Entering Mental Health, Intellectual Disability, and Drug/Alcohol Treatment Professionals
HB 1980 - Student Loan Forgiveness for Child Welfare Workers
HB 2320 - Establishing a Loan Forgiveness Program for Mental Health School Professionals

Attendees were then encouraged to spend the time between 11am to 1pm calling, emailing, or tweeting their legislators. MSW concentration year student **Katie Drudy, MSW**, emailed her state representative about loan forgiveness programs and received an email response within days! Congrats to Katie on her advocacy.

The group then reconvened at 1pm and heard from 3 legislators. Two of the legislators provided pre-taped video statements and one legislator joined the meeting by conference call. NASW-PA did an impressive job implementing LEAD remotely. Students should keep tracking and advocating on these bills. We hope to see you next year in Harrisburg!

Millersville Faculty Holds SBIRT Training Opportunity for Community Members

On December 20-21, 2020, **Dr. Marc Felizzi** led a SBIRT training for almost 40 participants at Millersville. Among the attendees were students enrolled in the Opioid Workforce Expansion Program (OWEP), a HRSA funded grant awarded to the School of Social Work and Department of Nursing.



SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) is a comprehensive, integrated, public health approach to substance use disorders. The primary goal of SBIRT is to identify and effectively intervene with those who are at moderate or high risk for psychosocial or health care problems related to their substance use. Essentially, SBIRT is an evidenced based screening modality that can identify

problem behaviors early, and it is also designed to provide referrals that are targeted to a client's needs.

The School of Social Work will continue to offer this resource to members of our community in efforts to enhance their knowledge and skills and do our part in assisting others in their role of preventing problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and other substance use.

[OWEP Website](#)

School of Social Work is Approved by PA Department of Education to Offer Home School Visitor Certification



On January 2, 2020 Governor Wolf introduced “Reach Out PA: Your Mental Health Matters.” In this announcement he explicitly recognized that “School social workers play a unique role in addressing mental health by providing holistic services and supports in the school setting, such as crisis management, mental health treatment,

and engaging the school, family, and community in enhancing existing student support structures that ensure the success of all students.” Governor Wolf also spoke of increasing support and proactive resources for children and young adults.

The Department of Education was charged with creating pathways to increase the number of highly qualified social workers trained to work in Pennsylvania schools following Governor Wolf’s announcement. One of the pathways outlined was a new

certification for school social workers. To address this initiative, *Dr. Leonora E. Foels*, LCSW, LICSW and *Dr. Jessica W. Weiss-Ford*, LCSW volunteered to serve as co-facilitators for a group of stakeholders to offer feedback about social work services. For approximately 4-6 weeks, the workgroup developed the program guidelines for the new School Social Worker Certification guidelines. As of last week, Pennsylvania Department of Education shared that the State Board will be briefed at its May 2020 meeting with the prospect of publishing guidelines in June, which permits Institutions of Higher Education to apply to offer and implement a program in Fall 2020.

The School of Social Work at Millersville University was recently approved by PA Department of Education to offer the Home School Visitor Certification and will be well positioned to apply to offer and implement the School Social Worker Certification once the guidelines are adopted.

[Post Graduate Certificate Website](#)

First Cohort of Students Complete Interprofessional Education Certificate Program

The Interprofessional Education (IPE) Certificate Program is a collaboration between the School of Social Work and The Office of Interprofessional Collaborative Education and Teamwork (ICE-T) at Penn State College of Medicine. Seven MSW students completed the required workshops on IPE, understanding and learning how to apply the interprofessional values and competencies. Students were able to work in small healthcare teams to assess patient needs; collaborate with other healthcare professional students; and develop a case plan that addresses the patients physical, social, emotional, economic, and spiritual needs. The simulation sessions afforded students an



opportunity to interact with "patients" (live actors) to complete the assessments. Other sessions involved reviewing case notes and developing a case plan. All the work is done in interdisciplinary teams that comprise social work, medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, and physician assistant students, truly preparing the students for interprofessional collaborative practice. Faculty within the School of Social, ***Drs. Laura Brierton-Granruth, DJ Johnson, and Karen Rice*** serve as faculty co-facilitators to challenge students to consider other options and scenarios throughout the sessions and debrief and offer feedback, afterward.

Congratulations to the following MSW Students for completing the Interprofessional Education Certificate Program:

Marianna Adams

Alfreda Bangbeor

Kristen Bennett

Richard Boyer

Lisa Brenneman

Erika Kalb

Crystal Morales

Angela Sult



[IPE Website](#)

PUBLIC MISSION

Sarah Salluzo Receives Social Work Month Award for Work with Lancaster Farm Sanctuary



As we closed out March and National Social Work Month, we honored Sarah who is from Lancaster County. Sarah graduated from Millersville University with a BA in Philosophy and, in 2015, with her Master's in Social Work. Sarah also has a MA in Media Studies from The New School University.

After graduating with her MSW, Sarah worked as an in-patient drug and alcohol rehabilitation therapist specializing in working with individuals with dual diagnosis. In 2017, Sarah and Jonina Turzi founded The Lancaster Farm Sanctuary, a non-profit farm animal sanctuary focused on rescuing farmed animals and providing them sanctuary while inspiring humans to live with compassion and respect. Sarah and Jonina were motivated by their love for animals, humans, and the environment and founded the sanctuary in an effort to provide compassionate connections between humans and the animals often viewed as mere commodities.



Lancaster Farm Sanctuary is currently home to rescued cows, pigs, chickens, goats, ducks, sheep, and turkeys. Sarah is a lifelong devoted friend of all animals and a volunteer district leader for the Humane Society of the United States. We appreciate Sarah's compassion, leadership, and advocacy for animal rights and environmental justice in Lancaster County.

Congratulations, Sarah!

[Lancaster Farm Sanctuary Website](#)

SSW Faculty Receives Grant to Continue Services for Loft Community Partnership

In late 2019, *Dr. Jennifer Frank* with The Loft Community Partnership (formerly the Bridges Community Partnership) received a grant of \$10,000 from the Compass Mark mini grant program. This program is designed to strengthen community coalitions that are doing collaborative and innovative, preventative work in the community.

The Loft Community Partnership is a collaboration of social workers, community members, and clergy who aim to alleviate poverty, specifically in Penn Manor School District. The Partnership began with a small group who observed that individuals and families within the school district are often isolated and lack access to resources such as food and clothing banks, public transportation, and employment opportunities. The Partnership conducted a pair of research



projects to examine the needs in the district. Results in several domains confirmed their observations about transportation and resources as deficits. Further, the research uncovered more physical and social isolation than previously thought, specifically between families and between “providers.” The isolation and lack of access to resources experienced by individuals and families in the Penn Manor area accentuates economic hardship and contributes to a cycle of poverty and lack of social capital. The Partnership’s research identified specific needs around resources, transportation, and community. Through this research, it was demonstrated that very few formal agencies exist within the district and those residents with limited transportation options had difficulty exiting the district to meet their needs.

The goal of the Partnership continues to be to create and facilitate deeper inter-agency connections that will allow individuals and families to access necessary resources with greater ease. Through building greater connectivity among community partners, the Loft Community Partnership will be improving the health outcomes of individuals, families, and the community. Because poverty is inextricably linked to a plethora of social ills, strengthening bonds between and among partners will serve to meet a variety of needs including health and wellness goals such as decreasing illicit drug use and increasing mental and physical health and wellness.

The funds from Compass Mark have served to continue to facilitate this work through funding our quarterly breakfasts with community partners and to hiring a temporary part time Director of Strategic Partnerships whose primary goal is to facilitate this vision and move forward the progress of the group. As a result of these funds, the Partnership was able to hire Ms. Jill Montgomery, as our Director of Strategic Partnerships. Her primary role is to continue to facilitate inter-partner collaboration by working to further develop existing and potential community partners within the district, as well as coordinate the resources and needs. Because within the district, there are few formal agencies, Ms. Montgomery is working toward capacity building for the Loft food and clothing program and the development of a resource guide for poverty partners within the district.

INCLUSION

School of Social Work Hosts Webinar Series Highlighting Practice with Military Veterans



Bradley Schaffer, DSW Candidate, led a two-part webinar series focusing on social work practice with military veterans. All 63 participants who tuned in learned important and specific skills for serving military veteran clients and community. The webinar series provided a closer look into the services offered to veterans, including the judicial system. Building on social work's core value of competence, the webinar series provided an educational opportunity for students and professionals to learn about an underserved population.

As a veteran himself, Bradley was able to offer a unique perspective by incorporating his personal experiences. The webinar series received feedback such as, "I appreciated the clarity of the content and the depth of the presenter's formal and informal knowledge." Please keep your eye out for news about future webinars and educational events hosted by the School of Social Work's Learning Institute.

[Learning Institute Website](#)

INTEGRITY

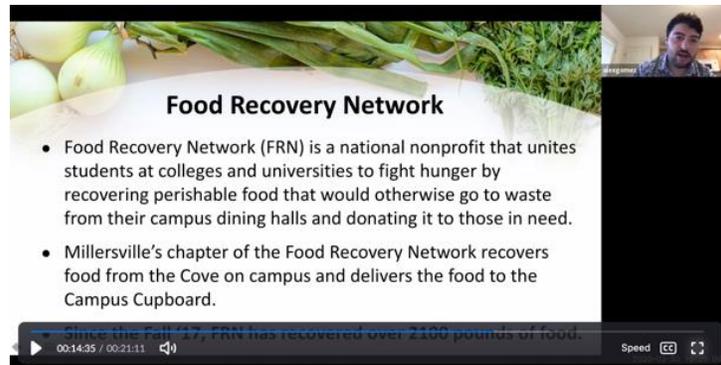
Learning Institute's 7th Annual Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference

This year's conference, Reenvisioning Our World: Seeing What Works, Broadening our View, Seeking Innovative Alternatives, explored the realization of social justice and human rights and its myriad dimensions and manifestations. The 2020 academic year offers the perfect opportunity to "check our vision," assess where we stand as agents of social change, and broaden our view of and responses to social problems and causes of social inequity.

Across disciplines, social change agents are called upon to identify what works and to respond with innovation to problems that have proven particularly resistant to change. How might we think about issues, discuss divergent ideas, and develop strategies that are inclusive and responsive to need? How can we foster social justice for our communities and clients by building on current evidence that tells us what is working?

Utilizing a virtual format for the first time, the Learning Institute held its 7th Annual Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference from April 15-17, 2020. Over 250 participants joined to watch sessions that were recorded by professionals across various disciplines and from across the nation. School

of Social Work students joined the conference as participants and presenters. **Daniel Martin, MSW, Christopher Thomas, MSW** and **Alex Gomez, MSW** presented a session, in collaboration with **Drs. Jennifer Frank and Karen Rice**, titled, "Addressing the Wellbeing Needs of Millersville Students." **Channel Lowery, MSW** also presented her research on "Organizational Approaches to Helping Employees Combat Burnout and Vicarious Trauma: A Qualitative Case Study." **Dr. Wanja Ogongi** served as Channel's faculty advisor.





The conference featured Lecia Brooks of the Southern Poverty Law Center as the Keynote Speaker and Karen Foley and Todd Snovel of Lancaster's LGBTQ+ Coalition as the Plenary Speakers. In addition, attendees participated in a screening of Bryan Stevenson's documentary *True Justice* and afterward, dialogued about challenges and responses to those challenges within the criminal justice system.

Jane Olmstead, a participant, compliments the conference's global focus, and shares, "I love that Millersville University/School of SW sponsors a conference that concentrates on broader global issues. Knowing the issues at hand for the community at large is so necessary in the world we live in today. Social Workers must challenge the many inequities and social injustices found in American Policies. Our policies impact all of us, both in the US and worldwide. Thank you Millersville University's School of Social Work for being a beacon of truth."

Save the Date for next year's conference: April 14-16, 2021. Call for Proposals will be sent out in August, 2020.

[Learning Institute Website](#)

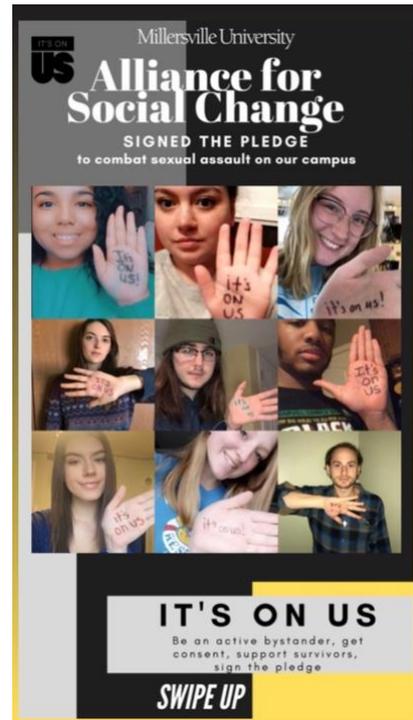


Alliance for Social Change Students Join the It's On Us Movement to Stop Sexual Assault

Started in 2014, It's On Us is a social movement created by Barack Obama and White House Council on Women and Girls to raise awareness and fight against sexual assault on college campuses for both men and women. The aim of the movement is to bring together college and university presidents, administrators, professors, students, and community members to reframe the conversation around sexual violence and pledge to be part of the solution.

Social work students who are a part of the Alliance for Social Change decided to join and pledged to be a part of the solution on Millersville's campus. Students are committed to raising awareness on campus and providing educational opportunities for bystander training. The School of Social Work is proud to have students participating in the strides happening in the fight against sexual assault.

For more information about the It's On Us movement, click below.



[It's On Us Website](#)

COMPASSION

Social Workers Respond to Crises that Arise from COVID-19

Ashley Judge, MSW, is a geriatric medical social worker working at a PACE organization/clinic where she works with families and caregivers to provide health care services to individuals so they can be maintained in the home until end of life. She works with a team of doctors, nurses, therapists, home care and additional medical professionals to maintain these nursing home eligible members in their homes.

With a caseload of 45 members and 14 individuals who are placed in long term care at a York skilled nursing facility, Ashley had to find innovative ways to continue serving her clients. She has adapted her practices tremendously to meet her clients' needs at home. Especially for her clients with dementia who are losing their ability to have a daily routine, Ashley is needed now more than ever.

As a social worker, Ashley continues providing wellness encounters and checks to all members where she is providing additional emotional support and counseling. Some of the members are terrified and levels of anxiety and depression have increased. In response to these challenges, Ashley says, "as a social work department, we have been constantly reminding each other the importance of instilling hope in our clients during this time. As we navigate this time, our focus is to protect our very vulnerable population."



Like Ashley, many social workers continue to work on the front lines to continue services for their clients and also respond directly to crises that are emerging from the effects of COVID-19. For Ashley, this means meeting with some of clients in their homes if they are medically fragile or lack caregivers/support systems. In the social work profession, responding to crisis is an essential part of the code of ethics. Ashley says, "In a time that has brought so much fear, anxiety, and stress, the tools we have learned (as social workers) are needed for my clients into aiding them to be safe and healthy at home."

Along with Ashley, other MU students have been praised for their commitment and work during this time of crisis. Children Program Coordinator for Domestic Violence Services, **Deborah Manning** says, "even though the crisis has been challenging, social work interns have played a valuable role in helping DVS continue to provide services to clients during this time and we greatly appreciate their help!"

Field Coordinator, **Heather Strohman** states, "as Social Workers, we must remain flexible in the face of adversity. I am so impressed with how our students have handled this unprecedented time with professionalism and perseverance." Social workers are essential workers and now more than ever, we are being called to address the immediate needs of those directly affected by the pandemic but also respond to the inequities illuminated as a result.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Emily DiCola, BASW '16



Emily currently works at Lancaster Health Center as the Social Worker at their Water Street location. Her responsibilities include assisting those with whom she works obtain health insurance (Medicaid, Medicare, or Marketplace), assisting with the application and enrollment process. Additionally, Emily connects patients experiencing homelessness to services such as housing assistance. The level of help that Emily provides to the patients depends on their current abilities. Emily empowers her patients to build upon their skills to be successful on their own.

When talking about her experience at Millersville University in the BASW Program, Emily says, “the program taught me how to look at issues and patients on every level and try to assess situations from their perspective. I frequently have to assess how their environment, upbringing and culture have an impact on their decisions and how they are currently living their lives.” Through her years at Millersville, Emily has learned how to work collaboratively and how to effectively communicate with patients and coworkers.

In her work, she also utilizes all 3 levels of social work practice. Micro practices in her job include working directly with our patients. She practices mezzo skills while she works with their care teams and the community resources. Macro skills come into play when she advocates for her patients to local government. Emily is grateful for her well-rounded education at Millersville. She says, “the generalist degree gave me base knowledge of all 3 levels, and I have been able to mesh skills from each level of practice to help our patients as best as possible.”

For more information about the Social Work Bachelor of Arts Program, click below

[BASW Website](#)

Laura Golomb, MSW '17



Laura Golomb is the Director of Training and Outreach at CASA of Lancaster County. CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocate program provides trained volunteers who are appointed by dependency court judge to advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children in Lancaster County. Laura's responsibilities include speaking at information sessions and conducting interviews for potential new volunteers, facilitating pre-service training classes for new volunteers, and planning continuing education for their current

volunteers. Laura is also responsible for weekly and monthly newsletters, social media, and their new website. Additionally, Laura currently supervises a few volunteers by editing their court reports, coaching them on court testimony, and giving them guidance as they work on their cases.

Laura comments on the MSW program at Millersville helping her in her career as she says, "I really enjoy research so learning about program evaluation has helped me to lead internal research efforts at CASA. The MSW Program actually opened my eyes to macro social work and I realized how much I love it, and that it's really the work I've always wanted to do but didn't know it." Even though Laura is a macro social worker, she still interacts with those they serve and other professionals, and she's appreciative of the courses that helped her develop and enhance the skills to have better one-on-one and small group interactions.

When Laura completed the worked-based placement for field work, she was able to create new projects and initiatives that are still being utilized today at CASA. Laura comments on her experience, "Jan Bechtel, my Field Liaison, really encouraged us to think outside the box and be creative with how we applied the CSWE Competencies to our field activities, and I feel like that creativity has served me well when faced with a problem at work."

Laura appreciated all the connections she made with faculty and the way each professor was willing to go above and beyond to help with class work and give advice for field experiences. Laura says, "I felt like all of the faculty were incredibly invested in each student and the work that we were producing."

Most non-profits include in their job description the phrase, "other duties as assigned," which means, be ready for anything and everything. Laura says, "having a generalist MSW

degree has allowed me to remain flexible, learn new skills, and pivot existing skills to fit pretty much anything I have been asked to do for my job.”

For more information about the Master of Social Work Program, click below:

[MSW Website](#)

Allison Gosch, MSW '10, DSW '19



Allison Gosch is currently employed at Alvernia University where she is the Field Director and an Assistant Professor in the MSW program. As the Field Director, her responsibilities are to work with and support the MSW students in their field placements. Allison also supports the community agencies in their role with her students. In addition to employment at Alvernia University, Allison started her own mental health private practice agency (Silver Lining Support Services) in Jonestown, PA. She is the only counselor at her newly established agency, but she has plans to expand. In her role in private practice, Allison works to provide individuals with the skills and tools to meet their individual mental health needs through evidence-based practices.

Allison graduated from Millersville/Shippensburg MSW Program in May 2010 and then her DSW, from Millersville/Kutztown DSW Program in May 2019.

Allison comments on her experience in the DSW Program by saying, “the focus on education and leadership, and the curriculum tailored to those arenas prepared me for my position in the academy and my role as owner and counselor at my mental health agency.” In the DSW program, Allison had the experience of creating and manipulating items, such as a teaching philosophy and an online class syllabus that was beneficial for her current Assistant Professor role. In addition, the leadership curriculum components of the DSW program allowed her to exercise and practice leadership skills within the safety of a learning environment through specific assignments and online discussions with my professors and cohort members.

Additionally, Allison comments, “a doctoral program can make you feel vulnerable and unsure; however, I learned to trust the process and was provided with so many opportunities that challenged me and helped me grow, both personally and professionally. Thanks to the supportive nature of my professors and the cohort model of the DSW program, I formed life-long friendships and connections with social workers from around the region.”

Allison says her cohort is still supporting each other in their different capacities. Throughout her time at MU, Allison felt supported, valued, and treated as a professional. Millersville University has, and always will, feel like home for Allison.

For information about the Social Work Doctorate Program, click below.

[DSW Website](#)

Congratulations to the DSW Students Who Successfully Defended Their Dissertations



Dr. Sylvia Bekele

Professional Identity Development in Graduate Level Social Work Students: An Efficacy Test of the Social Work Identity Workshop

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Karen Rice

Dissertation Committee Members: Dr. Wanja Ogongi and Dr. Barth Yeboah

Dr. Kevin Lally

Relationship Between Disability, Psychological Distress, and Opioid Use

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Alex Redcay

Dissertation Committee Members: Dr. Marc Felizzi and Dr. Sharon Lyter

Dr. Dee Stalnecker

Revisiting the Visiting Teacher: A Historical Analysis of School Social Work Identity

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Leonora Foels

Dissertation Committee members: Dr. Leslie Colabucci, Dr. Jennifer Frank and Dr. Karen Rice

Dr. Brad Schaffer

An Exploration of a Rural Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) Participants Perspectives and Lived Experiences

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Karen Rice

Dissertation Committee Members: Dr. Heather Girvin and Dr. Edward Hanna



Congratulations to our Spring 2020 Scholarship, Award, and Honors Recipients

Anjelica Rooks (BASW) received the Social Work Organization Annual Award

Gloria Gallagher (BASW) received the Willa Dean Johnson Memorial Social Work Scholarship

Rebecca Mohr (BASW) received the Marion G. Foster Award in Social Work

Shanece Bowman (BASW) received the Rodriguez Family Award

Laura Abell (BASW) received the John '02 and Laura '04 Held Family Scholarship

Departmental Honors: **Sarah Hagen (BASW)**

Title of Thesis: Reducing Chronic Absenteeism: A Content Analysis of Truancy

Diversion Programs: Implication for Social Work Practice

Thesis Chair: Dr. Laura Brierton-Granruth

Thesis Committee: Dr. Jennifer Frank, Dr. Ann Gantt, and Tatiana Pashkova-Blakenhol

Phi-Alpha Award Recipients

Marianna Adams (MSW)

Kristina Blom (BASW)

Haley Butler (BASW)

Nicole Cornick (BASW)

Stephanie Fabian (BASW)

Mary Hoffman (BASW)

Erika Kalb (MSW)

Carin Krieder (MSW)

Briana Marques (BASW)

Crystal Morales (MSW)

Brittany Myers (MSW)

Isabelle Shreiner (MSW)

Kiera Smith (BASW)

Aubrey Snyder (BASW)

Kayla Weaver (BASW)



[Scholarship, Awards, and Honors Video](#)

2020 Graduation

[Graduation Celebration Video](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITIES

Scholarship

Presentations

Corso, L., & Rice, K. Tourism as Community Empowerment: Incorporating Sustainability and Social Justice. Presented virtually at 7th Annual *Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference*, Millersville, PA, April 15-17, 2020.

Frank, J., Gomez, A. (MSW Student), Martin, D. (MSW Student), Rice, K., & Thomas, C. (MSW Student). Meeting the Wellbeing Needs of Millersville University Students. Presented virtually at 7th Annual *Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference*, Millersville, PA, April 15-17, 2020.

Frank, J., Granruth, L., Girvin, H., & Leffler, B. (MSW Student). Paper Trails: Using Correspondence to Create Authentic Community Connections and Attend to Social Isolation in a Rural Area. Presented virtually at 7th Annual *Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference*, Millersville, PA, April 15-17, 2020.

Kerubo, E., & Ogongi, W. The Implicit Curriculum and International Students in Graduate Social Work: The Role of Emotional Labor. Presented virtually at 7th Annual *Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference*, Millersville, PA, April 15-17, 2020.

Lowery, C. (MSW Student) & Ogongi, W. Organizational Approaches to Helping Employees Combat Burnout and Vicarious Trauma: A Qualitative Case Study. Presented virtually at 7th Annual *Global Well-Being and Social Change Conference*, Millersville, PA, April 15-17, 2020.

Publications

Felizzi, M. V., & Rice, K. (2020). Correlations among childhood abuse and family violence, prevention, assessment, and treatment from a trauma-focused perspective. In R. Geffner et al. (eds.), *Handbook of Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan*, pp. 1-21, Springer.

Frank, J. (2020). Who are the Worthy Poor? Reconsidering Need Among College Students. *medium.com*.

Frank, J., Granruth, L., & Thomas, C. (MSW Student). (2020). Housing Development Corporation 2019 Resident Survey Analysis. *Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change*.

Appointments and Recognitions

Dr. Laura Granruth was elected to the Executive Committee as Secretary of Influencing Social Policy, a nonprofit organization for social work educators, January 3, 2020.

Dr. Karen Rice is a member of the newly created task force created by Governor Wolf, 21st Century Solutions Think Tank. Goal is to identify challenges and solutions to issues emerging as result of COVID-19.

Grant Awards

Dr. Bertha DeJesus was awarded a \$1000 Mentorship Support Grant for, "Marauder Social *net*Workers: A Mentoring Initiative for Social Work Students," January 2020.

Dr. Jennifer Frank serves on the steering committee for Bridges Community Partnership. Dr. Frank helped Bridges Community Partnership secure a \$10,000 grant from Compass Mark/Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission for Enhancement of Community Resources through Connection and Collaboration.

Alumni, stay connected and let us know what you are doing. We love to hear from our alumni and feature the great work you are doing.

Complete the form here:

<https://www.millersville.edu/socialwork/news-and-highlights2/index.php>