PERSPECTIVES
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St. Catherine University and
the University of St. Thomas
School of Social Work
2115 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105
(651) 962-5800
socialwork@stthomas.edu
stthomas.edu/socialwork
stkate.edu/socialwork

Executive Editor
Cindy Lorah
Director of Marketing
and Recruitment

Editor
Jordan Osterman

Art Director
Carol Garner

Photography
Mark Brown
Liam Doyle

Contributors
Corrine Carvalho
Cindy Lorah
Jordan Osterman
Amy Carlson Gustafson

Front cover:
A Hoberman sphere is representative
of the structure and intersections that
support a system of health and well-being.

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Our last Perspectives magazine was published in June of 2018, just after St. Catherine University and the University of St. Thomas made the joint announcement that our School of Social Work will no longer be a collaborative partnership after the 2018-19 academic year. What a difference a semester makes!

Since that time, both universities have clarified their future independent program offerings, and both are moving forward collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition for current students continuing past our targeted separation date of Aug. 23, 2019. St. Catherine University will offer both the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) in formats that meet the needs of working adults. St. Thomas will offer the Doctorate in Social Work (DSW), in addition to the BSW and MSW, in both its weekday/evening and hybrid formats.

The last page of this magazine is dedicated to partnership FAQs for alumni, which we hope will answer many of your questions, and connect you with resources to stay engaged with both schools and with our shared social work community, now and into the future.

In the 2019-2020 academic year, social work will become a cornerstone of each university’s health care offerings. The St. Thomas School of Social Work will become a part of St. Thomas’ now-forming College of Health. The social work programs at St. Kate’s will become part of the Henrietta Schmoll School of Health. These are exciting changes relevant to this edition of Perspectives, which is dedicated to social work’s role in building a system of health.

As cited in our cover story article that begins on page 4, “The [2017 Minnesota] state’s health assessment specifically calls out the types of policy changes that would generate good health, including, ‘policies that assure all children thrive, equitable educational and job opportunities, shared power and decision-making, access to health care, affordable housing, multiple transportation options, and unpolluted environments.’ It also highlights the role structural racism and aspects of belonging (inclusion in community and connections with each other) play in health and health equity. Social workers are practicing and advocating across all of these areas.”

It is now commonly understood that only 20-25 percent of “health” is determined by traditional clinical care and genes or biology. Social workers are engaged not only in supporting traditional health care, but also in addressing the other 75 plus percent, which includes myriad social and economic factors; physical environment factors, such as housing and safe communities; health behaviors, including chemical dependency and addiction; and access to mental health resources, among many others. It is also important to recognize the connections and interdependencies between these “determinants of health.”

In this Perspectives, we will highlight social workers’ roles in impacting health. Informed by training in systems thinking and person-in-environment perspective, and grounded in principles of social justice, social workers are uniquely qualified to address factors impacting health across the micro, mezzo and macro levels – and to work interprofessionally to make real change happen. We believe all social workers are in the profession of TOTAL HEALTH and WELLNESS.

Corrine Carvalho, PhD
Interim Dean, St. Kate’s – St. Thomas School of Social Work
Professor of Theology
BUILDING A SYSTEM OF HEALTH

By JORDAN OSTERMAN ’11
This image was at the heart of the School of Social Work’s thinking about total health and building healthy communities when planning the seventh annual Summit on Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice on Aug. 7, “Healthy Communities: Broadening the Lens of Healthcare, Equity and Policy.” (See page 8 for Summit highlights.)

Across Minnesota and the country, there is a renewed focus on the true meaning of human health and its connection to everything around it. Like the Hoberman sphere, health is supported by myriad social, environmental, political and individual factors linked together – the ‘determinants’ of health. With this in mind, we come closer to recognizing health for what it truly is, “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being,” as the World Health Organization describes it, “not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

More and more there is a recognition of the complex correlation between individual and environment.

“Studies show that the circumstances of our lives – in particular where we live – play the largest role in our health. Where we live determines our options and influences our choices no matter how well-intentioned or motivated we may be to ‘make healthy choices,’” reads the 2017 Minnesota Statewide Health Assessment. “Decades of study on the social determinants of health show that the policies and processes that shape the daily circumstances of our lives are what really create health. ... Everything in our lives – our families, homes, neighborhoods, jobs, schools, the land, water, and air – must support our health.”

It takes a certain philosophy and skill set to work across these intersections, from the micro practice of direct care to the mezzo and macro practices of community and large-scale systems. Luckily, the field of social work has been dedicated to training people to do exactly that for nearly two centuries.

“This is what social work is,” said SSW professor Katharine Hill. “This is what defines social work and makes us different than other helping professions. ... This is how we go about our work. It’s about the whole person, the environment. You can’t have one without the other.”

Extension of tradition

Some people raise an eyebrow when they learn that social work is considered a cornerstone of the health programs to be offered at both St. Kate’s and St. Thomas. They intuitively understand that clinical social work is considered a health profession, but may fail to connect in their minds generalist practitioners as true health professionals.

Within the SSW that connection is constant. The social work curriculum not only prepares students to use the person-in-environment perspective, but to thrive within it and fully embrace social workers’ role in health and well-being. The state’s health assessment specifically calls out the types of policy changes that would generate good health, including, “policies that assure all children thrive, equitable educational and job opportunities, shared power and decision-making, access to health care, affordable housing, multiple transportation options, and unpolluted environments.” It also highlights the role structural racism and aspects of belonging (inclusion in community and connections with
each other) play in health and health equity. Social workers are practicing and advocating across all of these areas.

As evidenced at the Aug. 7 summit, policymakers and traditional health systems are looking to this philosophy and practitioners of it more than ever.

“In an egocentric way, as a profession, it’s very validating to hear. Every person who spoke [at the summit] was talking about the systems approach and systemic thinking, which is endemic to social work,” said Lisa Richardson, the School of Social Work’s director of MSW field education and one of the summit’s main organizers. “As social workers, we can’t help individuals and communities without thinking systemically and with that person-in-environment model.”

“It is this new for us? Absolutely not. This goes all the way back to settlement houses and how we think about people. That’s why in the settlement era we went out to people's houses instead of building an office and asking them to come in. This is the full tradition of what we do,” said Eva Solomonson, SSW’s director of BSW field education. “It makes me really pleased, because we feel the best way to help people in the long term ... is recognizing that we’re not just focusing on the identified problem and saying, ‘Let’s go attack it.’ Instead we ask, ‘What are the root causes in the community, within the systems and history, that are perpetuating the problem?’ And how do we find a solution that comes out of that community, versus thinking we have a solution and bringing it to them.”

Social workers’ role in the collective process of improving communities’ overall health is evident in many ways as seen through the 2017 health assessment’s breakdown of determinants of health: 40 percent social and economic factors; 30 percent health behaviors; 10 percent clinical care; 10 percent physical environment; and 10 percent genes and biology. Outside of the genetic and biological factors, there is a major role for social workers and their skill sets across every other determinant of health.

“It does feel like right now there’s a moment of real recognition of community indicators of health and that you can’t help individuals without understanding those indicators, and vice versa,” Hill said. “So we’re working to seize this moment.”

Baked into every level of education at the SSW is the preparation for students to contribute to this moment as they recognize the connection between micro, mezzo and macro practice.

“Social workers providing direct services must ask, ‘What can I do in my community, with local government, community organizing, policy ... to really have the voices of the individual people I serve represented and heard?’” said SSW assistant
professor Carey Winkler, a lead summit organizer. "And how can I ensure that all determinants of health are acknowledged and addressed within the systems and interprofessional teams meant to support them?"

An example at the macro level is Hill’s work focused on voting, looking at populations who are less likely to vote, and why, and also the benefits that come from voting.

“There is an empowerment aspect to voting – encouraging people to vote and telling them that their voice matters – that is huge,” Hill said. “Research shows that higher participation in voting creates stronger, more engaged, healthier communities.”

A call to action
Within the summit and throughout the SSW, there is an urgency in recognizing everyone’s ability to contribute to this process. A rallying cry at the summit was for every person to “pull their lever,” doing whatever they can do in their area of influence. Those efforts can ripple upward and, with intentionality, make a huge impact to both individual and community health.

“That mentality [of pulling your lever] is built into the philosophy of the School of Social Work,” said Corrine Carvalho, interim dean of the SSW. “For example, the social work major is the first ‘changemaker’ major declared at St. Thomas because of the push for social change and systems thinking at every level of practice. It’s very exciting that way.”

Again, the 2017 statewide assessment provides a useful framework for understanding how important the acceptance of that role is for everyone, not just social workers. The state of Minnesota is changing: By 2035, for the first time, there will be more adults over age 65 than children; that same year the population of people of color is expected to rise from its current 14 percent to 25 percent. The growing, myriad diversities of our state – class, race, age, sexual identity – mean the complexities of connection between individual and systems will only grow; it will be a collective effort to bring health equity across the board. As the assessment points out, “We all share a responsibility of creating healthy communities where everyone can thrive, instead of each of us being solely responsible for our health.”

There is a role for all of us as we work toward better understanding the connections and interdependencies represented by the determinants of health. In no small part thanks to the tradition of social work, we have a foundation of understanding for what connects them.

“The intersection between the human and the system is empathy,” Richardson said. “That’s the bridge.”

It is time, then, to walk that bridge together.
More than 200 educators, students, social workers and health care practitioners gathered at St. Catherine University on Aug. 7 for the seventh annual Summit on Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice.

For the first time the summit was a daylong event, featuring a keynote, a panel and group discussions all centering on “Healthy Communities: Broadening the Lens of Healthcare, Equity and Policy.”

“We wanted people to be getting to action, to move them forward in a way that inspires them to act in their own area,” said Lisa Richardson, the School of Social Work’s director of MSW field education and one of the summit’s main organizers.

That emphasis complemented well the summit’s goal of broadening the scope of what creates health to include social determinants of health (housing, food, education, structural racism, etc.), calling for everyone present to be willing to work across systems that can mistakenly be seen as disparate.

“Speakers talked about the need for collaboration and dialogue, to push past barriers and push the lines,” said faculty member Stacy Husebo. “Social workers are in all these settings: Care happens in medical care centers, but it happens in schools, all across communities; all of these things are intersecting around well-being.”

Building out of the state’s comprehensive 2017 Statewide Health Assessment, speakers and conversations throughout the day underscored that point. Jeannette Raymond, community engagement supervisor of the Center for Public Health Practice in the Minnesota Department of Health, provided a keynote address, and spoke with several others in a panel, including: Jennifer DeCubellis, deputy county administrator of Health and Human Services for Hennepin County; Lisa Skjefte, health equity specialist and American Indian community liaison for Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota; Adair Mosley, president and CEO of Pillsbury United Communities; and Bruce Thao, director of Center for Health Equity in the Minnesota Department of Health.

“We have to all come together across the intersections of what we do, regardless of whether you’re in health in terms of health care, or education, or other types of social services. It all impacts health,” Thao said. “Helping people understand that definition and what [health] means, how broad it is … it’s that opportunity to define our own health. We have to understand it for our own health and our communities.”

Summit attendees gathered in the afternoon for discussions within the topics of advocacy,
community-based initiatives, clinical care initiatives, and education-based initiatives. The summit’s expanded offerings this year were thanks in large part to the Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) grant (see p. 13). The SSW is one of 10 schools in the nation supported by the program, which funds $110,000 worth of scholarships over five years, supporting four undergraduate and graduate students each year with tuition and travel stipends. The grant awarded extra funds in 2018 to schools to host an event around health policy.

“The summit really provides that opportunity to listen to what’s going on, and create space for people to talk, ask questions, find others’ experience and make connections with people they haven’t connected with,” said SSW assistant professor Carey Winkler. “It’s such a nice parallel to the specific topic. We could stay in our silos and notice that there are these connections and not come to the table together to do something about it, or we can work together across those lines. The five speakers [in the panel presentation] brought that together in a beautiful way.”
When St. Kate’s senior Cierra Buckner was first told she should consider a major in social work, she wasn’t sure what to think. Fortunately, she decided to give it a chance.

“I took Intro [to Social Work] the next semester, and it was amazing, and I haven’t looked back since,” Buckner said.

Buckner’s field placement this semester is in case management at Catholic Charities’ Higher Ground St. Paul, which offers permanent housing for homeless single adults. Social services are also provided to clients, which is where Buckner comes in. A large part of her position involves working with clients by helping them attain access to various necessities such as food, transportation or medicine, especially when a client is working through mental health issues or chemical dependency. The co-occurring nature of these two issues is something Buckner hopes to address further in the future.

“After spending the last couple of months there … I definitely want my education to be informed by mental health and chemical dependency… which are pervasive,” Buckner said. “It’s not a thing to be ashamed of… This is a problem. People need help.”

And for Buckner, the best part of working at Higher Ground is the people. “I really love that first step, working on building relationships with clients,” she said. “Because I just love learning about people – I love learning about their stories, I love when they feel connected to me. Having connections and helping people along the path to health and well-being is everything to me.”
our alert was landing on receptive and interested eyes because of MSJ’s well-built network.”

Scholars will continue to share information and generate alerts to maintain their advocacy. Based on this success, MSJ is eager to further collaborate with other scholar programs focused on health care, aging, military, rural and underserved/underrepresented populations. For more information, check out MSJ on Facebook @SSWMappingSJ

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Programs Join Forces to Drive Advocacy Outcomes

The Mapping Social Justice (MSJ) project provides targeted advocacy and community engagement for our students, faculty and alumni through email and social media alerts. It was developed in response to a long-standing challenge within the social work profession to bridge individual and systems change efforts. The Area of Emphasis in Practice with Immigrants and Refugees (AEIR) Scholars, a scholarship and service focus for MSW students, prepares students to respond to the clinical needs of this growing, yet underserved, population. Bringing together the organized advocacy and population expertise of these two programs has created a whole truly greater than the sum of its parts.

This fall, in response to the high degree of scrutiny and challenges immigrants and refugees are facing, AEIR Scholars embraced the need for greater and broader action. MSJ could offer the advocacy training and skill building for scholars to grow in their advocacy roles, and the scholars brought their knowledge of the deep challenges immigrants and refugees are facing politically, socially and emotionally. Kathleen Roche, who bridges both MSJ and AEIR, along with faculty liaison Lisa Kiesel, provided a training on Nov. 1 for scholars to build skills for sharing of information and planning action. In this process the group created an actionable alert regarding the “public charge” proposed rule that could impact immigrants.

“Collaborating with MSJ this year has challenged me to constantly think as an advocate,” third-year scholar Brittany Leitch said. “Now, when I hear about policies or news that affect the people I will serve in my practice, I ask myself, ‘How can this be turned into an advocacy opportunity?’ Sending out our first action alert through MSJ was empowering. I felt like we were fighting back and making a difference. Our alert made it easy for people to act on the issue at hand, and I also knew

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Interprofessional Lens on Domestic Violence

Throughout the fall semester, Melissa Lundquist’s Introduction to Social Work class participated in a collaborative community engagement project with Jessica Hodge’s Introduction to Criminal Justice class to examine domestic violence through an interprofessional lens. Students engaged in joint classroom learning, experiential learning at Women’s

Continued on page 13
If you’ve been doing something for 30 years, it’s a pretty good sign you love it. That’s exactly how Carol Ashwood feels about working with older populations.

Unfortunately, there aren’t necessarily enough social workers like Ashwood to meet the booming population of aging adults. That’s a huge part of why she returned to the School of Social Work five years ago to teach in the same Area of Emphasis in Aging (AEA) Scholars program she took part in as a student.

“I want social workers to fall in love with this population, with this as a focus,” she said. “My passion is to get students excited about this group.”

Ashwood has worked in community-based settings her whole career, including now at Augustana Open Circle Adult Day and Support Services, an adult day center where about 55 people come in every day for socialization, health care needs and to give respite to caregivers.

As our understanding increases of the negative impact of social isolation for older adults, the need for social workers to help facilitate social connection fits even more clearly into total health and well-being for older adults. Equally important is the need for social workers to provide support and counseling to address the well-being of caregivers.

“In the last 15 years there has been more awareness, but it’s not as much as there needs to be,” Ashwood said. “It inspires me to get people excited about it.”
Advocates domestic violence shelter (pictured), and domestic violence advocacy projects, including letter-writing campaigns to legislators, and community education through flyers, information tables and more. As two professions often engaged in domestic violence work, this experience provided a valuable opportunity for students to learn from - and value - both perspectives.

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Nights of Grief and Mystery

In November the MSW grief counseling class took its learning off campus and attended a performance at The Cedar Cultural Center, “Nights of Grief and Mystery.” The performance featured Canadian theologian, social worker and grief expert Stephen Jenkinson, and musician Gregory Hoskins. The evening wove together Jenkinson’s story telling with Hoskins’ music to create a new vision of grief. Jenkinson, author of Die Wise: A Manifesto for Sanity and Soul, the award-winning book about grief and dying, shared stories about loss and grief that were filled with empathy, humor and a bit of irreverence. His perspective challenges conventional understandings of death and dying as opportunities to see beauty, even through pain.

As one student described, “It was really moving, and I cried at a couple points. I think his perspective on death and dying is amazing; to accept and live for the here and now, knowing that we are all going to die someday.”

2018-19 Social Work HEALS Scholars

Congratulations to our Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) grant recipients. 2018-19 marks year four of the five-year grant, which is co-sponsored by the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Social Workers, and supports two BSW students and two MSW students each year. Scholars receive health care education and training, opportunities to engage in leadership and interprofessional programs, and a tuition stipend and funding to attend the Social Work HEALS policy summit in Washington, D.C. A unique aspect of the St. Kate’s – St. Thomas program is the involvement of student scholar and field instructor pairs on our Social Work HEALS Leadership Council.

The 2018-19 recipients and their field supervisors are:

- **Amy Jeffrey, BSW**, with Kim Lennox of Our Lady of Peace Hospice
- **Blythe Kramer, BSW**, with Bobbi-Jo Moujod of People’s Center Clinics and Services
- **Gretchan Menze, MSW**, with Sheralee Leondard of Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of MN
- **Lauren Sobotta, MSW**, with Faith Weiss of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center

The grant will once again provide funding for schools to host a health care policy event this academic year. This year’s policy event will take the form of a preconference workshop on Monday, June 10, in advance of the 2019 NASW-MN Annual Conference June 11-12 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. The November Leadership Council was held at the NASW-MN office in St. Paul (pictured) and focused on discussing potential topics, areas of focus, speakers and formats for this policy event. **SAVE THE DATE - more details to come!**
Dawn Brubaker, DSW Class of 2019, has co-authored two chapters in the *Handbook of refugee experience: Trauma, resilience, and recovery*, to be published in fall 2019; Chapter 1, “Refugee resettlement and asylum process overview,” and Chapter 2, “Integrating trauma-informed care in providing servicing for refugees and asylum seekers.”

Angela M. Goins, DSW ’18, presented, “Service Learning with Older Adults with Dementia: A Mixed Method Study” at the Joint World Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD) Conference in Dublin from July 4-7, 2018. The paper was written as part of an independent study with Dr. Laurel Bidwell in spring 2018.

Rebecca Hoffman, DSW ’18, received the Women United Tribute award from the Bemidji United Way, recognizing those with “passion, expertise, and resources needed to make an impact in our community.”

Cheryl Pooler, DSW Class of 2019, co-founded in 2016 a nonprofit called The Cove to provide high school students experiencing homelessness in the Waco Independent School District a place to thrive. Recently, through Cheryl and her colleagues’ efforts, the organization received a substantive donation from the Magnolia Foundation, established by Chip and Joanna Gaines.

Stephanie Grant, DSW ’18, received the National Guard’s Director of Psychological Health of the Year award for her work with the 144th Fighter Wing in Region 4. She was honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in July.

Leah Prussia, DSW Class of 2019, has been awarded a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Minority Fellowship Program grant for 2018-2019 and has been named an at-large member of the CSWE Commission for Diversity and Social and Economic Justice for a three-year term effective July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021.


C. Jean Roberson, DSW Class of 2019, has had her article, “Understanding simulation in social work education: A conceptual framework” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Social Work Education*.
2018 CSWE-APM Presentations

Our school had record attendance by our doctoral students, alumni and SSW faculty at the Council on Social Work Education’s Annual Program Meeting (APM) in Orlando, Nov. 8-11. Twenty-seven DSW students and alumni attended the conference, representing their programs and scholarship in myriad ways. In addition to the presentations listed below, many of these participants serve on committees, associations and program tracks as chairs, members and scholars.

DSW STUDENT AND ALUMNI PRESENTATIONS

Anne Adcock, DSW ‘17, panel: “Let’s be Honest - The Academic Integrity of Online Classrooms is Under Assault”

Ben Bencomo, DSW Class of ‘19, oral presentation: “Foster Youth Transitioning into Higher Education: Applying a Sociocultural and Situative Lens”

Gabriel Carrillo, DSW Class of ‘19, eposter: “Conceptual Model for Culturally Informed Reentry of U.S. Trained International Social Workers”

Quincy Dinnerson, DSW ‘18, eposter: “Factors African-American Men Identify as Hindering the Completion of a Graduate Degree”


Stephanie Grant, DSW ‘18, eposter: “How History Informs Social Work Practice: Interprofessional Collaboration in Military Contexts”


Cheryl Pooler, DSW Class of ‘19, eposter: “Social Work and Homeless Youth in the Progressive Era”

Jean Roberson, DSW Class of ‘19, eposter: “Simulation in field: A strategy for developing social work and IPE competencies”

Katie Terry, DSW Class of ‘19, eposter: “Neurodiversity: The New Cultural Competency in Social Work Education”

Janet Vizina-Roubal, DSW ‘17, oral presentation: “Keeping IPE in Focus: A Unique Collaboration between Social Work and Optometry”

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Kari Fletcher, associate professor, eposter: “Oral Health in Student Service Members and Veterans: Short and Long-term Implications”


Lisa Richardson, director of MSW field education and associate professor, eposter: “Making the case for field education through interprofessional research and collaboration”


Carolyn Tollett, DSW Class of 2021, was voted the Eastern Regional Representative for the NASW-NM chapter.

Will Wong, DSW ‘17, was profiled by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) at UC Berkeley in an article titled, “Social Work Remains William Wong’s Primary Identity Even as He Explores Its Many Dimensions,” which highlights his work in child welfare, his doctoral studies and his current role at Cal State LA.

Additionally, 12 DSW students and alumni, along with School of Social Work faculty, presented at the 2018 CSWE-APM meeting Nov. 8-11 in Orlando, Florida.
GEORGE BABOILA
Co-director, Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services

George Baboila has seen a lot in his 30 years of working in health care. Included in that is a movement over the past 15 years of looking at how the health care field fully integrates behavioral health into a person’s overall care.

“How do you work as a team to address all the aspects that affect a person’s health?” Baboila said.

That question is at the heart of the Clinical Social Work Practice – Healthcare course Baboila teaches at the School of Social Work. In it he helps students broaden their idea of how clinical social workers come together as part of the same care team, not simply as part of each other’s reference network to shuttle a person between. “Now we’re starting to see social workers partnering with medical providers and bringing integrative care right into the exam room … paying attention to mental/behavioral health and the social determinants of health in addition to physical health,” he said.

Baboila also brings the perspective of what this looks like in practice: He sits on the board of United Family Medicine health clinic, a St. Paul-based community health clinic that works intimately with its community members to provide holistic care.

“If a person doesn’t feel safe or can’t access good food… these become key factors in overall health. How can the clinic come into the community and make an impact? There has been a greater effort to figure out with the community, together, what their needs are,” Baboila said.

Since 2007, Baboila has worked in the School of Social Work full time, bringing his knowledge of interprofessional education and practice to the St. Thomas Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services, which provides for underserved in the community.
Thomas’ Hill Awarded Fellow Support to Get Out the Vote

By JORDAN OSTERMAN ’11

In early fall, the Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) selected School of Social Work associate professor Katharine Hill to receive funding to host a CEEP fellow this year to help encourage young people to get out and vote.

The recognition comes out of Hill’s extensive work and research around voter engagement and registration, specifically in the homeless population. Hill worked with Sofia Leyva as a paid student fellow at St. Thomas throughout fall semester, as well as volunteer fellow Kelsey DiBias.

“Hill has been a leader in educating students, faculty, staff and community on the importance of voting,” said Theresa Ricke-Kiely, executive director of St. Thomas’ Center for the Common Good. “She is a volunteer, she teaches about voting in her classes, and has been asked to present about this effort at conferences. She was a natural pick.”

“I’m very excited about receiving this award and the opportunities it will bring,” Hill said upon notification of the award. “I think that college campuses in general, and St. Thomas specifically, are really well positioned to address this issue. We know our students, and we place a high value on building community and connection among them and with the greater world. Working on our campus to develop good voting habits is a direct way to impact the common good. I’m really looking forward to connecting with students and the rest of campus to figure out a way to engage around voting that is reflective of St. Thomas and of our community’s interests and values.”

Hill, Leyva and DiBias worked throughout the semester to get students registered to vote, as well as provide sample ballots and guides on candidates and how to vote in line with your values.

“Turning up to vote, especially as a young person, is critical,” DiBias said. “Young people do not show up to the polls and the political climate could easily be changed if we showed up to vote for what we believe in.”

CEEP is a national nonpartisan project that helps America’s colleges and universities get as many of their 20 million students as possible to register, volunteer in campaigns, educate themselves and vote. Hill and the student fellows are working with CEEP fellows across the country.

“Voter turnout among young people is traditionally very low – only 19 percent of eligible young people (below the age of 29) in the last midterm elections,” Hill said. “This has a number of repercussions, including that many of the issues that young people care about don’t get the attention they deserve, as it effectively removes the opinions and preferences of young people from the voting process.”

In addition to the CEEP grant, Hill is a recipient of St. Thomas’ Distinguished Early Career Grant, which she is using to conduct research in nonpartisan voter engagement.
Laurel Bidwell, assistant professor, received an Academic Professional Development Grant from St. Kate’s for her research on the child welfare system. Bidwell’s research project, Alia Child Welfare Innovation Evaluation, focuses on the first phase of a multiphase evaluation of innovative change within the child welfare system. Using a community-based participatory model of research, she will evaluate both process and outcomes implementing a new service delivery model within child welfare.

Michael Chovanec, professor, was on sabbatical in spring of 2018 when he developed a teaching module for students incorporating improvisation in role-play. In May of 2018 he presented “Transforming Men Who Batter into Men Who Matter: Building Empathy in Domestic Abuse Treatment” at the international conference, Effective Strategies for Working with Involuntary Clients, at Monash University in Prato, Italy. He also was invited to contribute two chapters in Ron Rooney’s, PhD, third edition of Strategies for Work with Involuntary Clients on group work and domestic abuse treatment, which was released in May. Most recently his paper, Domestic Abuse Treatment Perspective that Builds Client Voice and Skills in a Court-ordered Environment, was published in October by Social Work with Groups.

Kari Fletcher, associate professor, published five co-authored, peer-reviewed manuscripts: Tobacco Use in a National Sample of United States Service Member and Veteran Students in the Journal of Military and Veterans’ Health; PTSD vs. Moral Injury scoping review in the Journal of Military, Veterans and Family Health; Military Veteran Residential Location and Risk for Lyme Disease in the Journal of Veterans Studies; Mental Health Outcomes in Military Veterans in Traumatology; and Mental Health Needs of Military and Veteran Women in Traumatology. She also published one chapter as lead author on older veterans in American military life in the 21st century: Social, cultural, economic issues and trends. In addition, she co-authored four

Melissa Lundquist, assistant professor, and Lance Peterson, associate professor, co-presented “Competency as Outcome and Process: Student Engagement through Teaching and Research Strategies” in Bergen, Norway, at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning conference on Oct. 25. Lundquist and Peterson combined their work for this presentation to illustrate the value of critical and constructivist pedagogies in honoring the process in which students engage to develop competencies. Lundquist presented on using PhotoVoice in a BSW class, and Peterson presented on using recorded role-play and audio-recorded feedback in an MSW class.
Mari Ann Graham, associate professor, recently updated her article, Using Literature Groups to Teach Diversity, which was selected for inclusion in *Compilation of Key Papers on Social Work with Groups in Education published between June 2010 and January 2016*, forthcoming publication by Whiting and Birch. In response to a workshop she did last year, the National Association of Christian Social Workers has asked her to offer a webinar, “Binding up Our Nation’s Wounds: An Ethic of Inclusion,” which is scheduled to go live Jan. 28, 2019.

In addition to her three presentations at the CSWE-APM conference (see p. 15) Katharine Hill, associate professor, co-authored, Youth with Disabilities in Foster Care, for the *Handbook of Foster Care*. She presented “Using Specification Grading to Foster Student Engagement and Empowerment in Policy Practice,” at the Policy Conference 2.0: The Next Twenty Years in St. Louis, in June, where she also participated in the roundtable discussion, “Notes from the Field: Social Work’s Important Role in Voter Turnout.”

Tonya Horn, assistant professor, co-authored the article, The Karen Chemical Dependency Collaboration: Lessons Learned in Utilizing a Collaborative Framework to Promote Refugee Integration, which was published in *Advances in Social Work* for their special issue on migration. She also co-presented a workshop titled, “Lessons Learned in Developing and Implementing a Cross Sector Collaboration to Reduce Harmful Alcohol Use in a Karen Community” at the 2018 North American Refugee Health Conference in Portland, Oregon in June. Horn also co-authored an article titled, Defining Effective Care Coordination for Mental Health Referrals of Refugee Populations in the United States with colleagues from the University of Minnesota and Center for Victims of Torture, which was accepted by the journal *Ethnicity and Health*.

Stacy Husebo, clinical faculty, presented at the 10th annual Association for the Contemplative Mind in Higher Education Conference, Imagining Humane Institutions: Connection, Social Action and Scholarship Rooted in Contemplative Practices, Oct. 6, 2018 in Amherst, Massachusetts. The presentation was titled, “Listening as a Revolutionary act of Love.” She also presented for the University of Minnesota Medical Center social workers on “The Potential of Vulnerability in our Work,” October 2018.

Catherine Marrs Fuchsel, associate professor, published the manuscript, Facilitating Groups with Immigrant Latinas Using the Sí, YoPuedo (Yes, I Can) Empowerment Program: A Case Study of the Experiences of Six Mental Health Professionals, in the *Journal of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research*, 13, 34-45. The same paper was presented at the 2018 Latino Social Workers Organization Conference at the University of Illinois, Chicago in October.

Ande Nesmith, associate professor, gave several invited talks related to her Fulbright grant while on sabbatical in the Czech Republic, including, “Foster Care Needs for Youth Transitioning to Adulthood in the United States,” which she presented at the Chaloupka Family Center Annual Workshop for European Foster Care NGOs in Ostrava. She also presented, “Preventing Homelessness Among Youth Leaving Institutional Care,” at the Adults from Day to Day Conference, organized by the Civil Society of Out-of-Home Care in Ostrava.

Lisa Richardson, associate professor and director of MSW field education, presented the workshop, “Ethics and Supervision,” to the Minnesota chapter of the NASW, in addition to her CSWE-APM presentation (see p. 15).
SORRY, I CAN’T, I’M WORKING ON MY DISSERTATION

DSW cohort four, Class of 2020, sported coordinated dissertation T-shirts during their 2018 summer residency in which they tackled their dissertation proposals. **THE DISSERTATION: ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE.**

INAUGURAL ST. THOMAS VETERANS BALL

Past and present members of the MSW Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) Scholars attended the **St. Thomas Veterans Ball on Nov. 2**, hosted by the Veterans Resource Center.

PRENATAL TO THREE POLICY FORUMS

Katharine Hill, PhD, welcomed St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter at the Prenatal to Three Policy Forum (p3minnesota.org) in October, hosted by Elders for Infants, Sen. Jerry Relph and Rep. Dave Pinto, and the St. Kate’s – St. Thomas School of Social Work. These quarterly, nonpartisan conversations focus on advancing policies and exchanging ideas to support early childhood. **All are welcome.**
TEN YEARS OF SUPPORT FOR OPEN BASKETS

Nov. 17 marked the 10th anniversary of the MSW Student Association’s volunteer efforts with Open Baskets (openbaskets.org) to assemble holiday gift baskets for neighbors living with mental illness. The MSWSA also supports the Dash-It for Baskets 5k each May, which is a fundraiser for the organization. Consider joining the race as a volunteer or participant!

AEA SCHOLARS WALK TO END ALZHEIMER’S

The MSW Area of Emphasis in Aging (AEA) Scholars once again joined the Twin Cities’ Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Saturday, Sept. 15, and surpassed their fundraising goal. Plan to join them next September!
Miriam Itzkowitz is on a leave of absence from the School of Social Work this academic year to serve as the director of trauma-informed care at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Itzkowitz will be developing, implementing and providing training on best practices for the intersection of legal services and trauma informed care.

Catrice O’Neal has joined the School of Social Work as a clinical faculty member in the BSW program on a one-year assignment while Miriam Itzkowitz is on leave. O’Neal has an established career in generalist practice and has worked as a program administrator overseeing Twin Cities youth programs. She is passionate about education equity for underrepresented youth. This year she is teaching in the BSW field program for both juniors and seniors, and bringing social work theory to life through practice.

IPC Field Instructor Bids Farewell

At the end of the fall 2018 semester, Professor Emerita Theresa McPartlin bid farewell to the St. Thomas Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services (IPC). For the past eight-and-a-half years McPartlin has served as a field instructor for BSW and MSW students at the IPC, partnering with co-director George Baboila to provide learning opportunities to nearly 200 IPC social work students. Over her career, she served as a field instructor for 30 years, inspiring and mentoring more than 300 students. Her amazing work was highlighted in her 2017 Heart of Social Work Award, which recognized her as the top field instructor in North America. Join us in wishing Theresa all the best in the years to come!

Military Practice Scholars Present at National Conference

In September, Class of 2018 Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) Scholars Andy Qualy and Maggie Graham, along with AEMP coordinator Kari Fletcher, PhD, presented their research at the 2018 Military Social Work Conference in Austin, Texas.

Faculty members David Roseborough, PhD, and George Baboila collaborated with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to host a community and professional development workshop at St. Thomas this fall. Both were led by John (Jack) Jordan, PhD, FT, an internationally renowned researcher and clinician in the field of suicide bereavement, and the professional adviser to AFSP’s national Loss and Bereavement Council. Jordan led a free Workshop for Survivors of Suicide Loss: Finding Hope & Healing. Following that was a full day of continuing education, Suicide Bereavement Clinician Training. Additionally, St. Thomas hosted the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, which is held annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, one day a year people all over the world gather at events to gain insight and to share stories of healing and hope. For additional resources, visit the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention webpage at afsp.org.

SAVE THE DATE! June 10, 2019


For more information on this and other upcoming events, visit: stthomas.edu/socialwork/events.
St. Kate’s – St. Thomas partnership FAQs FOR ALUMNI

We know you have questions about the end of our universities’ collaboration and how it will affect you and your engagement with our social work programs moving forward. Below are responses to some of your immediate inquiries – and we’ll keep the updates coming!

Where can I learn more about the St. Kate’s – St. Thomas partnership status and each school’s future independent program offerings?

The main landing page for each university’s social work programs is linked to a “St. Kate’s – St. Thomas Partnership Updates & FAQs page.” These landing pages also link to each school’s independent program offerings:

- St. Catherine University Social Work: stkate.edu/socialwork
- University of St. Thomas Social Work: stthomas.edu/socialwork

I am a graduate program alumnus. As a graduate from both universities, will I need to choose which university to remain affiliated with?

All MSW and DSW students who graduate under the collaborative structure (through summer 2019) will always be considered alumni of BOTH universities! Each university will manage its alumni records independently, so plan to keep both schools up to date on your preferred contact information and professional updates:

- University of St. Thomas social work alumni updates: stthomas.edu/socialwork/alumni/contact
- St. Catherine University alumnae updates: stkate.edu/alumnae/update-your-information

Note that graduate student records are currently housed at St. Thomas, so graduates of the collaborative program (through summer 2019) should request transcripts from, and send LICSW forms to, St. Thomas, as necessary.

I am an undergraduate BSW alumnus considering an MSW in the future. Can I receive the MSW “alumni grant” from both universities’ MSW programs?

Yes! Both universities have stated that BSW students who graduate under the collaborative structure (through summer 2019) will be considered alumni of both universities for the purpose of graduate alumni grant awards, as structured, for the foreseeable future. For students graduating after the separation, each MSW may choose to extend “alumni grants” or similarly structured awards to students from the non-home institution, so plan to check with each school for details.

How can I continue to engage with the St. Kate’s – St. Thomas Social Work professional network?

Many ways! Here are just a few…

- Join the SCU-UST School of Social Work Student/Alumni group on LinkedIn (Search by group name or request to join: linkedin.com/groups/6558363). This group will continue to function as a student/alumni group for networking even after the SSW is no longer a joint program. All BSW, MSW and DSW students and alumni, and faculty from both universities - now and in the future - are encouraged to join.
- Engage as a field instructor! For the 2019-20 academic year, MSW field placements will be done collaboratively between the two schools, and there will likely be ongoing collaboration in some form into the future. Field instructors benefit from professional development opportunities, including free continuing education workshops. There is no better way to “pay it forward” than to host a student.
- Attend events hosted at each university. After the separation, both schools’ social work programs will once again host an array of community events and professional development opportunities. Be sure you stay in the loop by updating your contact information at each school, periodically checking each school’s main webpage for upcoming events, and “liking” the SSW @StKateStThomasSW on Facebook. We anticipate that toward the end of the 2018-19 academic year, new social media accounts will be announced.
FULL-TIME FACULTY
2018-2019
Corrine Carvalho, interim dean
Katharine Hill, BSW program director
Kari Fletcher, MSW program director
Catherine Marrs Fuchsel, DSW program director
Eva Solomonson, BSW field education director
Lisa Richardson, MSW field education director
Tanya Rand, MSW field weekend cohort coordinator
George Baboila, director, Social Work Services, Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services

Laurel Bidwell
Kingsley Chigbu
Michael Chovanec
Mari Ann Graham
Renee Hepperlen
Colin Hollidge
Tonya Horn
Jane Hurley Johncox
Stacy Husebo
Miriam Itzkowitz
Lisa Kiesel
Melissa Lundquist
Ande Nesmith
Catrice O’Neal
Lance Peterson
David Roseborough
Pa Der Yang
Robin Whitebird
Carey Winkler

ADJUNCTS
2018-2019
Quinnita Abraham
Carol Ashwood
Ally Beckman
Alyssa Benson
Lisa Borneman
Michele Braley
Anne Cartman
Sharyn DeZelar
Molly Driessen
Tim Eiesland
Susie Emmert
Kathleen Fargione
Pat Foley
Carmeann Foster
Teresa George
Ariana Hart
Judy Hoy
Roxanne Humenik
Barbara Jochum
Sarah Johnston
Birgit Kelly
Samantha Kleven
Brianna Loop

David McGraw-Schuchman
Theresa McPartlin
Maureen Maslinski
Krista Nelson
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Mary Paulson
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Cindy St. George
Allison Scheel
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Christa Bobick
Lisa Dalsin
Kelly Fox
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