Honoring Our Shared Foundation,
SHA Ping Our Divergent Paths
Honoring Our Shared Foundation, Shaping Our Divergent Paths

School News

50 Years of History 14-16

Our Shared Communities 17-19

Faculty Professional Notes 20

BSW, MSW Graduates and Awards 22

DSW Graduates 24

From the St. Catherine University Dean 26

From the University of St. Thomas Dean 27

Snapshots 28
THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMS AT ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS have been a collaborative partnership for almost 50 years. With the graduating Class of 2019, our joint programs have educated 4,692 graduates across the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree levels.

Built on a foundation of student-centered learning, community engagement and a deep commitment to social justice, our programs and our leaders have been pioneers in social work education. We – OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY – have so much to be proud of!

The formal collaboration between our universities will end in late August 2019, after which each university will offer its programs independently. More than anything, this change signals the strong commitment to social work programs on both campuses and the desire of each university to focus the next 50 years of their programs in their own unique ways that fit the mission and strategic priorities of each university.

This edition of Perspectives, “Honoring Our Shared Foundation, Shaping Our Divergent Paths,” will be the last issue of its kind from our joint School of Social Work. In it, we celebrate our current accomplishments and honor the foundation we have built through our shared history, which has provided a solid launching pad for our graduates through the years - and provides the base from which our independent programs will grow and thrive.
At the School of Social Work, the call to serve is in no uncertain terms made explicit; that feeling is put through a prism of focus around principles of social justice. Students emerge not only with a stronger sense of the need to answer that call to serve, but armed with skills of how to do it. According to BSW Program Director Dr. Katharine Hill, “This is the way we’ve always taught generalist practice. It doesn’t matter what type of work you ultimately do – whether direct practice or community work - you’ll apply the same skills, rooted in respect and dignity for all.”

“Certainly it was the social work program that readied me for public service work. It’s so philosophically ingrained into social work in general,” said Paul Schnell ’88 BSW, Minnesota Department of Corrections commissioner. “At the time I was being grounded in the principles of social work, exploring the potential of people and communities and the hope we could be better, and as I got older my own life experience combined with my educational experience to set me on a path I’m still on today.”

Schnell’s path toward public service is one he shares with many SSW alumni, including Ikram Koliso ’17 BSW, policy associate for the city of St. Paul, and Angela Conley ’13 BSW, Hennepin County commissioner. Across their stories is the truth of social work’s power to prepare public servants who truly embody the role: servant to the public.

“For me, this isn’t just politics; it’s public service. The people of the Fourth District elected me, trusted me, to serve them. That’s what I’m focused on. I’m best prepared to do that because of my lived experiences and what social work taught me. A lot of those social justice principles were there for me, but my education confirmed it and brought it forward,” Conley said. “A lot of our elected leaders have law backgrounds, public policy backgrounds. There’s something to be said about the public servant with a social work background. It’s ultimately rooted in humanity, sometimes love, and rooted in the need to see people uplifted. That’s what we’re elected to do.”

**STEPPING UP**

Koliso is the first to admit she didn’t expect to be where she is today. Not because she was such a recent graduate when she was tapped by St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter to represent him on the Metropolitan Airports Commission, which oversees Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and six smaller airports in the Twin Cities. She rightfully has plenty of confidence in her ability to represent St. Paul’s residents there, especially the many airport workers who are immigrants, an experience she shares after being born in Ethiopia and immigrating with her family to Minnesota when she was 10.

No, she’s not where she expected to be because she realized during her SSW education she loved direct service with people so much. “That’s what I’m most passionate about and love; direct contact is where I get my energy,” said Koliso, whose passion poured out in 15 minutes straight of talking when first prompted to consider how she got into social work. “When I was doing that through my field work – which is so great you get that experience as a student to see if you love it – direct service was such a powerful thing for me.”

As she now navigates her role as a policy associate and advocating at the policy level, she does so with an understanding of the need for knowledge only gained through direct interaction and service with the community she loves so much.
“Systems and policy change is where the problems are actually rooted, but I don’t think people should focus just on policy; policymakers should experience direct service so they can understand what the realities are. You can’t be in just one world; to do that is a disservice to our community. To do both is the only way we’re going to move forward,” she said. “Having grown up in a community of mostly immigrants, East African and Hmong families, I never experienced policymakers coming to us and asking us what we think. A lot of times policymakers create programs or services for the community ... and bring it, saying, ‘Look what we did for you.’ What if that doesn’t work for me or fit my needs, or is not how I want to be incentivized? That’s a disconnect you’ll always have [unless you combine direct service and lived experience with policy]. It’s always top of mind for me to have community truly be the center of the work we do.”

Ikram draws on a mindset she developed in the SSW to make sure she’s leading by example in how to view people’s strengths and the value they add.

“In public policy people often focus on the deficits. We won’t get anywhere if you see the community as incapable,” she said, citing the development of St. Paul’s childhood college savings account program as an example she has been excited to be part of.

“[We as people of color, especially women, have to make space for ourselves in public service. ... If you just have a few it’s not enough either. We need to build space for ourselves,” she said. “Other people from the white community need to help; they’re the ones who have the power and are in the space. ... Women of color bring a lot more to the table. Right now their perspectives, voices and advocacy, we’re in dire need of it.”

A NEW FACE AT THE TABLE

Perhaps no one understands the need for their own voice at the table more than Conley: When she was elected county commissioner for the Fourth District of Hennepin County in November 2018, she became the first black commissioner in the county’s 166-
year history. She made a statement heard around the country when she was sworn into office with her hand not on a Bible, but on the 2010 Michael Alexander book, *The New Jim Crow: Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*.

“Just my election, being elected, was a powerful signal to the status quo that things are changing,” she said. “You can’t continue the way you’ve been. You have the first black woman elected to this body, ever, and she was on welfare. The day after the election, our team likes to say, ‘The status quo got put on notice.’"

Since then Conley has continued not just putting the status quo on notice, but actively doing everything she can to bring her lived experiences – and those of people she represents – to bear in disrupting a system set up in many ways to their disadvantage.

“I have a chance now to witness this very large institution and how it works against people. I’m very loud about that. I’m loud about the fact this system is designed to work against us. It’s a huge uphill battle,” Conley said. “I’m not going to throw my hands up, but instead wipe the sweat from my brow, take a breath and keep going. I see the conversation moving, and in some respects I have to push it.”

Conley’s representation is so important in large part because of her own experiences, including working in human services in Hennepin County before applying to the SSW, where she completed her degree through night and weekend classes as a single mother.

“I was working with people in poverty, receiving cash and food benefits. I was one of those myself,” she said. “Part of that human dynamic, knowing what it’s like to struggle to survive, and how society functions differently when you’re poor. Doing that work is what led me to think social work would be good to study.”

As her studies supplemented what she was seeing every day at work and in life, she “expanded my views. It complemented the work I was doing, but also made me look at the work I was doing differently,” she said. “It broadened my mission to include the need to throw a monkey wrench into the system that should be working for people but isn’t.”

That realization led to her campaign and eventual election, where she now brings to bear every day social justice principles to help make change inside that system.

“I’m bringing lived experiences and attributes that are helping me inform the conversation within these walls,” she said. “I’m pushing a narrative toward more and more people talking about ways in which micro practice and community perspective are lenses that we inform policy with.”
STAYING ROOTED FROM THE TOP
Depending on where someone’s answer to the call of service takes them, there is the inherent challenge of bridging the distance from policy to reality. For Schnell, that challenge comes as he heads the Department of Corrections, which has more than 4,000 employees and a more than $600 million budget overseeing nearly 10,000 incarcerated people.

To accomplish this, Schnell draws a straight line back to his time at the SSW and his internship working at a male halfway house.

“It’s the exact same thing: you’re trying to lift up others. Now it’s just macro across a large organization,” he said. “The core principles are exactly the same. As I’ve been meeting with staff, I’m talking about what I’m asking of every member: that we exist to create successful experiences for others. That’s why we exist. That has to happen at every level of the organization.”

Schnell regularly spends time with individual inmates, helping ground him in the lived experiences and human dignity of everyone involved in even the most difficult elements of the legal system.

“It speaks to the need and desire that every one of us has for hope,” he said. “Many of these inmates talk about the fact they recognize the harm they’ve caused and the need to be accountable, but also to have hope they can be more than the worse thing they’ve ever done. It’s powerful to think about that.

All of us want that. Not one person out there would want to be regarded for the worst thing we’ve ever done.”

As Schnell’s path continues to move forward from its starting point at the SSW, it’s possible for him to look back and see the common goals he’s shared with others who have answered the call to service.

“When we talk about serving and this idea of the common good, it’s grounded in the same thing: How do we bring people along? Not just the easy ones to bring along, but everyone, even the people who may have caused us to feel some type of fear,” Schell said. “We have to bring them along, too.”

“That, he said, “is a call to a higher purpose.”
Congratulations

Lisa Kiesel, MSW, PhD, LICSW, has been awarded tenure by St. Catherine University and promoted to associate professor. Kiesel joined the School of Social Work in fall 2013 after 17 years of clinical practice in a variety of settings, primarily working with children, adolescents and families. Kiesel is the faculty adviser to the Mapping Social Justice Initiative (@SSWMappingsJ) and primarily teaches in the MSW program.

Robin Whitebird, MSW, PhD, LISW, has been awarded tenure by the University of St. Thomas and has been promoted to professor. Whitebird joined the Doctorate in Social Work faculty in 2015. Her research interests focus on mental health, chronic disease, complementary therapies and improving health care for all. Prior to joining the School of Social Work on a full-time basis, Whitebird spent 15 years as a researcher investigator with the HealthPartners Institute.

Allison Scheel, MSW, LGSW, has joined St. Kate’s as the director of BSW Field Education. She comes from Neighborhood House, where she coordinated the internship program, supervised several BSW and MSW interns, and managed programs focused on children’s sexual health, as well as neighborhood collaboration and organizing.

Mary C. Nienow, MSW, PhD, will lead the bachelor’s program in social work at St. Catherine University. Nienow comes from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and brings more than a decade of experience in research, teaching, advocacy, program coordination, policy development and analysis, and community organizing. She practiced social work as a policy consultant for Hennepin County Medical Center, a field director at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, executive director at Child Care WORKS, and lead researcher on health and human services for the Minnesota Senate DFL Caucus. Nienow earned her bachelor’s in social work at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and her master’s and doctorate in social work from the University of Minnesota.

Shelley Theisen, MSW, LICSW, has joined St. Thomas as the director of MSW Field Education after a 26-year career as a school social worker in Bloomington Public Schools. She was a field instructor for the St. Kate’s – St. Thomas program for 22 years and is passionate about the liberating role of education in one’s life. She has worked to remove barriers and enhance educational equity in order that all students may learn to their fullest potential.

Catherine Marrs Fuchsel, associate professor, will join the St. Thomas faculty in the 2019-20 academic year to continue her role as the Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) program director. Marrs Fuchsel joined the School of Social Work in 2009 as an assistant professor with St. Catherine University and became the DSW program director in 2017. Originally from Lima, Peru, Marrs Fuchsel has more than 21 years of clinical social work practice experience working with the Latino population in different cities across the country. Her research focuses on the prevention of interpersonal violence among the Latino population, specifically among immigrant Latina women. She is passionate about social work doctoral education and looks forward to working with current and future doctoral students - and curriculum engagement with faculty - as we continue to examine and strengthen the practice doctorate degree in social work locally and nationally.
Mari Ann Graham, associate professor, will join the St. Kate’s faculty as the MSW program director in the 2019-20 academic year. Graham joined the School of Social Work as an assistant professor with the University of St. Thomas in 1993; she served as the MSW program director for the joint program for six years, and also served as St. Thomas’ chief diversity officer for several years. She has taught BSW, MSW and DSW courses in the joint programs during her 25 years, and has also been a teacher/adviser in the dual-degree program with the Master in Holistic Health Studies (MAHS) at St. Catherine University. She is looking forward to continuing her collaboration with holistic health, and to supporting St. Kate’s faculty in launching their new MSW program focused on critical clinical social work practice.

Pa Der Vang, associate professor, has been named mission chair for the liberal arts at St. Kate’s. In addition to teaching social work, she is the founder of the critical Hmong studies minor and teaches a Global Search for Justice course on dismantling racism. She has published more than a dozen articles on Hmong acculturation, women’s studies, culture change and Hmong lived experiences as immigrants and refugees. Her book, Staring Down the Tiger, a collection of stories about Hmong women’s leadership, immigration and acculturation, is forthcoming from Minnesota Historical Society Press. Vang looks forward to cultivating the liberal arts across St. Catherine by building bridges between colleges and schools in the spirit of collaboration, critical and creative inquiry, and purposeful lifelong learning.

Eva Solomonson, director of BSW Field Education at St. Thomas, has received a grant to become a facilitator in the university’s Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) project. The National SEED Project began more than 30 years ago and has been used in educational institutions across the country to engage people in conversations about equity and diversity by using peer-led facilitators.

Barbara Shank, professor and dean emerita, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Chapter of NASW at the Annual Conference on June 11, 2019.

Teron Buford ’10 BSW, ’18 MSW, Associate Director of Admissions for Dougherty Family College, received St. Thomas’ Embracing Our Differences Award at the Years of Service celebration in April. As stated during the ceremony, this award “honors a staff member who has demonstrated St. Thomas’ commitment to diversity and inclusion as reflected in our seven convictions, as well as our strategic plan.”
Military Scholars

A Packed House for Spring Event on Moral Injury

On April 5, the MSW Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) Scholars hosted their 2019 spring event, “New Developments in Our Understanding of Trauma: The Impact of Moral Injury and Spiritual Distress,” featuring Timothy J. Usset, MDiv, MA, BCC, LMFT.

Usset is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and licensed marriage and family therapist in the state of Minnesota. Throughout his career, he has worked extensively with moral injury, spiritual distress and post-traumatic stress disorder on numerous research projects and clinical areas within Veterans Affairs. His presentation discussed their current definitions in the literature; how they are measured; controversy surrounding their integration into trauma care; current treatments available; and their importance in delivering care to individuals experiencing PTSD.

Thank you to the AEMP scholars for bringing this critical conversation to campus!

View the event photo album on Facebook @StKateStThomasSW
IPC Celebrates 15 Years of Service

On April 26, the St. Thomas Interprofessional Center for Counseling & Legal Services (IPC) celebrated 15 years of service to the community. The IPC is a unique collaboration between the School of Social Work, the School of Law and the Graduate School of Professional Psychology at the University of St. Thomas, and is an important free-of-charge resource to clients in our community.

This pro bono clinic was founded in the 2003-04 academic year with Jim Stolz as its first social work services director. It moved to its present location in Opus Hall on St. Thomas’ Minneapolis campus in 2012. The IPC has a dual mission of meeting the needs of the underserved in the community and meeting the educational needs of our students. It provides an exceptional training ground for social work field students interested in interprofessional practice.

Since its inception, the IPC has trained 223 social work foundation- and clinical-level field students. Its social work services have served more than 1,000 clients through more than 10,000 appointments. Of the social work students trained at the IPC, three have become social work faculty members: Ross Aalgard at Mankato State, Carey Winkler at St. Kate’s, and Kingsley Chigbu at St. Thomas.

Congratulations to the IPC for 15 amazing years!

IPC Supervisors Honored as SSW Field Instructors of the Year

Theresa Kelly McPartlin, professor emerita, and George Baboila, director of social work services at the IPC, were honored at this year’s Field Appreciation Luncheon as our Field Instructors of the Year. Together they have provided learning opportunities to nearly 200 IPC social work students.

BSW Field Instructor of the Year McPartlin has been a social worker for more than 40 years and has been a field instructor for 30, mentoring more than 300 students. In addition to her role as an agency-based field instructor, Theresa served for four years as our school’s director of BSW Field Education. McPartlin served at the IPC for eight and a half years, retiring after the fall 2018 semester. Her amazing work was highlighted in her 2017 Heart of Social Work Award, which recognized her as the top field instructor in North America. As a former student shared, “Theresa has a gift for transforming how students see themselves, the people they serve and their confidence in their ability to do social work.”

MSW Field Instructor of the Year Baboila has practiced social work for more than 30 years in medical, mental health and interdisciplinary settings. For the past 12 years he has co-directed the IPC and, in 2011, was the recipient the North American Network of Field Educators and Directors’ Heart of Social Work Award. As summarized by one student, “George inspires me in his ability to use humor and show up authentically as himself with interns, clients and co-workers. His awareness of self emboldens learners to find their own voice and social work style.”
Social Work HEALS Co-hosts Policy Event

Our 2018-19 Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) program partnered with NASW-MN to co-host the June 10 preconference session, “Cultivating Healthy Communities: Policy, Equity and Innovation.”

What is Social Work HEALS?

In 2015, we were selected as one of just 10 schools in the nation to participate in the Social Work HEALS program awarded by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The five-year grant “aims to develop the next generation of social work leaders who will stand ready to lead efforts to address system-level changes, heighten awareness of prevention and wellness, and address the issues of structural racism that are embedded in social institutions.”

Each year the grant supports two BSW and two MSW students who receive robust healthcare education and training, opportunities to engage in a variety of leadership and interprofessional programs, a tuition stipend and funding to attend the Social Work HEALS policy summit in Washington, D.C. For the past two years, the grant has provided additional funding for participating schools to use toward a healthcare policy event. This year’s event was in the form of the NASW-MN preconference workshop.

The June 10 program focused on the intersections of policy, equity, innovation and healthy communities. Patina Park, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center, delivered the keynote address, “Mitakuye Oyasin: An indigenous perspective on community, systems, and health,” offering perspectives on community and collaboration, and how practitioners can work within and across systems to impact individual and systemic change. Bruce Thao, director of the Center for Health, Equity and Office of Minority & Multicultural Health of the Minnesota Department of Health provided the response, “Centering community voices in health: Minnesota perspectives.” Afternoon breakouts included sessions on “Innovative approaches to mental health and substance abuse treatment,” “Maternal and infant health,” and “Transforming organizations through an equity lens.”

Thank you to our 2018-19 Social Work HEALS Leadership Council and to our partners at NASW-MN for helping bring the goals of the Social Work HEALS program to life through this policy event. The final year of the Social Work HEALS grant will be administered by St. Catherine University in 2019-20.

2019 BSW Honor Society Inductees

Congratulations to the 20 BSW students who were inducted as new members of the Beta Epsilon Chapter of the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society in a ceremony at the Our Lady of Victory Chapel at St. Catherine University on Feb. 17. We were honored to have Carey Winkler, ’18 DSW, assistant professor of social work, join us as the keynote speaker.

Photos from the ceremony can be viewed in the photo album on our Facebook page @StKateStThomasSW

After the 2018-19 academic year, each university will have its own chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society. The St. Catherine University Chapter will be Delta Epsilon Zeta and Laurel Bidwell will be the faculty adviser. The University of St. Thomas Chapter will be Epsilon Zeta Eta and Melissa Lundquist will be the faculty adviser.
Aging Scholars

The MSW Area of Emphasis in Aging (AEA) Scholars and BSW Area of Emphasis in Gero-Social Work (AEGSW) had a banner semester of activities this spring, bringing a record level of gero-education and awareness to the community!

Throughout the month of March, AEA and AEGSW Scholars visited classes to raise awareness about the lack of a workforce prepared to meet the needs of a rapidly growing older adult population.

Scholars presented to a Careers Investigation’s class at Park High School, planting career idea “seeds” and encouraging students to combat ageism. A second group of students presented to Katharine Hill’s policy class to spread the word about key policies and issues affecting older adults. These scholars also highlighted the vast array of micro, macro and mezzo social work career opportunities with older adults. Finally, scholars spoke to a respiratory therapy class at St. Kate’s to lead a conversation about the role of social work on an interdisciplinary health care team, and the general need for health professionals trained to work with older adults.

AEA Scholars At The 2019 Minnesota Gerontological Society (MGS) Conference

The MSW AEA Scholars were actively involved in this year’s MGS conference, presenting, volunteering and receiving accolades. Scholar Emma Schedler and aging services coordinator Tanya Rand presented on the panel, “Careers in Aging: Gerontologists Wanted NOW.” Scholar Rachel Potter presented on the panel, “Challenges and Solutions to Mental Health Services for Older Adults.” Scholar Stephanie Larson received the Elva Walker Spillane Scholarship, one of the MGS’ annual awards for Minnesota students studying in a field related to gerontology or geriatric health.

Careers In Aging 2019

On April 25, the AEA and AEGSW Scholars hosted a phenomenal event highlighting gero-practice awareness, education and career exploration. They transformed the entire second floor of Summit Classroom Building into spaces to explore and learn about aging trends and experiences, and to network with agency representatives who work in fields focused on supporting and enhancing the well-being of older adults and their families. Scholars’ tremendous effort paid off in a highly interactive, engaging event that we hope will continue to grow in size and scope in the coming years.

Congratulations!

Last, but certainly not least, we congratulate AEA scholar Sungwhan Cho, who has been accepted into the PhD in Social Work program at Virginia Commonwealth University to further his research and practice in the area of aging. We could not be more proud.

View photo albums from all events on Facebook @StKateStThomasSW
50 Years of History

Fontbonne Hall in the ’60s

Social work major established in the Sociology Department in Fontbonne Hall at the College of St. Catherine, where the social work office at St. Kate’s remains today.

1969

Combined major in social work established at the colleges of St. Catherine and St. Thomas. Judy Miller was the first department chair of the joint St. Kate’s – St. Thomas Social Work program. As of May, the joint BSW program has graduated more than 2,000 students.

1974

Barbara W. Shank (second from left in back row) became the chair of the Social Work Department, beginning her 35-plus year tenure at the helm of social work. She transitioned to the dean of the newly-formed St. Kate’s – St. Thomas School of Social Work in 1996, the role she held until 2017.

1979

Major in social work established through the Weekend College at St. Kate’s to serve nontraditional women students. The weekend college evolved to become the College for Adults in 2018.

1982

Established the joint MSW graduate program, with a focus on clinical social work practice. At that time, it was the only clinical program in the eight-state region outside of Loyola of Chicago. As of May, the program has more than 2,500 clinically-prepared graduates.

1990

From early in our history, the SSW has provided high-quality, affordable opportunities to earn the contact hours needed to achieve and maintain social work licensure. The Supervision Institute, founded by Angie Barretta-Herman and Tamara Kaiser, was our first professional development institute and the first training of its kind.

1990s

Our various institutes (Supervision, Spirituality, Group Work, Advance Clinical Practice, Field Practice) and professional development events have served the community with practice-relevant continuing education.

2002-03

Received a planning grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation to begin a three-year project to enhance teaching about the aged. Randy Herman managed the grant, which laid the groundwork for the development of the school’s gero-social work programs and initiatives.

MSW Weekend cohort program introduced to provide graduate options for students from greater Minnesota and the surrounding region. Peter Freeman led the program, joined by Diane Bauer as its first field coordinator. This innovative distance-learning model has evolved through the years to the Hybrid MSW program offered today.

1990s

Jan Andrews [Schenk], pictured during the faculty’s Hartford Grant kick off retreat in April 2002, designed to address issues of geriatric work in the MSW and BSW curriculum.

Inaugural MSW leadership team: Serene Thornton, Barbara Shank, and Susan Cochrane

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Established the St. Thomas Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services (IPC), a first-of-its-kind collaboration with the School of Law and Graduate Programs in Professional Psychology. BSW and MSW field students work with law and graduate psychology students to provide pro bono legal, case management and counseling services to underserved communities. See Page 11 for updates.

School of Social Work gets new home and its own building at the University of St. Thomas. The SSW moved from Loras Hall to Summit Classroom Building (SCB), where it remains today. Built as the original home of the William Mitchell College of Law, the building was purchased in 1976 by St. Thomas.

Established the MSW Area of Emphasis in Practice with Immigrants and Refugees (AEIR) that includes courses, course assignments, research and events specific to immigrants, refugees, their families and communities. To date, 24 AEIR scholars have graduated.

Established the Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) for MSW students focused on supporting service members, veterans, their families and their communities. To date, 38 AEMP Scholars have graduated.

The Field Practice Institute hosted the first Summit on Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice. The annual summit has served as a venue to engage students, faculty and community members in conversation to share best practices and develop strategies around emerging and critical issues in social work practice. The final summit held in 2018 was the largest undertaking of the series, a full-day conference in collaboration with the Social Work HEALS Scholars, Healthy Communities: Broadening the Lens of Healthcare, Equity and Policy.

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Launched the Doctorate in Social Work focused on education as practice, the first primarily online DSW program to focus on preparing social work faculty specifically for university-level teaching and leadership in teaching-intensive colleges and universities. The third cohort of DSW students graduated this year, bringing our total graduates to 56. See Page 24 for details about the DSW Class of 2019 and their banded dissertations.

The inaugural cohort of AEIR Scholars, with Faculty Coordinator Eva Solomonson (left)

The first cohort of AEA graduates in 2011

Military Practice coordinator, Kari Fletcher (right), with current AEMP student

DSW Cohort 1 during orientation in 2014

Mary Ann Brenden introduced conference attendees to the Ten Principles

The SSW hosted the national conference, Social Work for Social Justice: Strengthening Social Work Practice Through the Integration of Catholic Social Teaching, to introduce the faculty-developed Ten Principles, which integrate Catholic social teaching and the NASW code of ethics. These Ten Principles have strengthened the way we educate students to integrate macro perspectives and advocacy into their practice to support the whole person and to fulfill our mission of service and justice. The principles have been adopted by numerous schools of social work throughout the country and continue to be used today.

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Established the Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) for MSW students focused on supporting service members, veterans, their families and their communities. To date, 38 AEMP Scholars have graduated.
The SSW was one of only 10 schools in the nation to receive the Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) grant. This five-year grant aims to develop the next generation of social work leaders. It supports two BSW and two MSW student scholars each year, who 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. See Page 12 for an update on this year’s Social Work HEALS initiatives.

Since its inception in 1992, this annual symposium has highlighted the research of more than 2,400 MSW students. Based on a multiyear curriculum review in preparation for the MSW re-accreditation process, GRSW 682: Clinical Research Project became an elective option instead of a required course. As a result, 2018 was the last year for Clinical Research Presentation Day. Both schools are excited to explore new opportunities for bringing our community of social work scholars together in the future!

St. Kate’s – St. Thomas had record-breaking participation at the 21st annual NASW-Minnesota Social Work Day at the Capitol: 220 of our BSW and MSW students and faculty participated in this annual day of education and advocacy, at which our students and faculty have played an integral role throughout its history.

At the end of August 2019, St. Catherine University and the University of St. Thomas will offer their programs independently. St. Kate’s will continue to 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. See pages 26 and 27 for letters from the deans of both universities as each looks forward to the new and expanding opportunities to serve our communities over the next 50 years …

View our slide show honoring our 50 years of history at: stthomas.edu/socialwork/news
THERESA KELLY MCPARTLIN, PROFESSOR EMERITA, CLINICAL SUPERVISOR AT THE IPC 1984–2019

“I met a woman in Amery, Wisconsin, while getting an LP gas refill. In talking she told me she wanted to be a social worker and was going to get a second bachelor’s degree. I said, ‘Don’t do it!’ She was surprised until I explained the cohort program, how accessible it would be from that distance and that she would end up with an MSW. I gave her my business card and left.

Five years later at the Field Luncheon a woman approached me and asked, ‘Are you Theresa McPartlin?’ I told her I was and she identified herself as Shannon Uhl, the woman from Amery. She was graduating with her MSW, had passed the licensure test and was hired at her clinical placement. We cried and hugged, thankful for the moment that had brought us together.”

SUSAN COCHRANE, FACULTY, 1986–2009

“It’s hard to choose just a few memories when there are years of them. I’ll mention a few firsts: Admitting the first MSW class; creating the MSW field program; and launching the MSW program in Owatonna.”

SANDY CARLSON-KORTEBEIN, ’92 MSW

“I am part of the first graduation Class of 1992. We were 13 students strong and called our group SLUGS (Students Learning Under Great Stress). I want to thank the faculty and students of this first group who were the true pioneers in launching this program that has grown significantly over the years. This program has offered professional development opportunities to further expand knowledge in mental health and social justice.”

LISA DAL SIN, STAFF, 2005–PRESENT

“Our biggest accomplishments happen each year as students become graduates and professional social workers within their communities to advance the common good. At the end of the day, this is really what it is all about!”


“The amazing celebrations with and for faculty (ex. retirement parties and job transitions) ... the laughter, love and undeniable goodwill.”

[NOTE: these going-away parties were the most-cited favorite memories of faculty and staff. These elaborate send-offs often included personalized sing-alongs and musical tributes; bountiful potluck buffets; and highly personalized gifts and remarks delivered by colleagues who knew you best.]


“The wonderful collegiality between faculty led to thoughtful work as well as deep support and, often, good times and laughter.”

MELISSA LUNDQUIST, FACULTY, 2015–PRESENT

“I will take with me the opportunity I’ve had to teach and learn from students at both institutions. There is something unique about Katies and about Tommies. Having them in classes together really enriched the learning environment.”

St. Thomas and St. Kate’s BSW students at 2019 Social Work Day at the Capitol


“The amazing celebrations with and for faculty (ex. retirement parties and job transitions) ... the laughter, love and undeniable goodwill.”

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[NOTE: these going-away parties were the most-cited favorite memories of faculty and staff. These elaborate send-offs often included personalized sing-alongs and musical tributes; bountiful potluck buffets; and highly personalized gifts and remarks delivered by colleagues who knew you best.]
It is impossible to select favorite memories from my 40 years in the School of Social Work. It was truly an honor and privilege for me to work with my colleagues in building a school that defied all obstacles and challenges. Most of our time together, we were able to disagree, respectfully challenge each other’s ideas and build a school that was recognized nationally for excellence and innovation.

The School of Social Work marked a year of milestones in 2015 – our joint BSW program celebrated 40 years, our MSW program celebrated its 25th anniversary and our DSW program celebrated its successful launch. In honor of this, our entire community came together to walk down ‘memory lane,’ celebrate with colleagues – and sing along with the ‘Social Justice Café’!

We have a unique combination of skills and strengths, and we did a great job of making the most of both of those. … I just enjoy the people.

“I’m proud of the excellence in teaching among our faculty. Our joint school has a history of faculty scholarship and professional development in advancing faculty members’ research agenda, which has led to national recognition of our School of Social Work.”

“It is impossible to select favorite memories from my 40 years in the School of Social Work. It was truly an honor and privilege for me to work with my colleagues in building a school that defied all obstacles and challenges. Most of our time together, we were able to disagree, respectfully challenge each other’s ideas and build a school that was recognized nationally for excellence and innovation.”

The enthusiasm and commitment of the students.

Photo from Social Work Day at the Capitol

Photo from Social Work Day at the Capitol

Fuchsel (bottom right) with School of Social Work faculty and staff in spring 2017

2013 faculty and staff
TAMARA KAISER, FACULTY, 1992-2011
“I couldn’t be more grateful for my years in the SSW. It was a privilege to be on the ground floor of building the MSW program and be part of its tremendous growth over the years. I always felt extremely lucky and proud to be part of this remarkable group of dedicated teachers and scholars, who were also downright fun and genuinely supportive of each other, and who wanted the school and our students to flourish.”

CAROL F. KUECHLER, FACULTY, 1996-2017
“One of the most rewarding experiences was being part of students’ journeys to confidence in their competence as practitioners. Having taught research and guiding students through the clinical research project process, I witnessed this transformation many times. This privilege extended to the DSW program with the first cohorts of students, pioneers in the program’s growth and development.”

BARBARA BERGER, FACULTY, 1986-2008
“Planning and attending yearly field luncheons recognizing fieldwork instructors from the community.”

HELEN HUNTER, SSW SECRETARY, 1983-1992
“The group that called themselves "the Men of Social Work!""

From 2006 “Men at Work” calendar: Randy Herman, “Social Workers Build on Strengths”

From 2006 “Men at Work” calendar: David Roseborough, “Social Workers Think Outside the Box”

MICHAEL CHOVANEC, FACULTY, 1996 TO PRESENT
“A favorite memory is the first orientation of students for the DSW program in the summer of their first year.”

Mike (far left) with DSW Cohort 1 during orientation

MSW student giving clinical research presentation


Kari Fletcher, associate professor, published five co-authored, peer-reviewed manuscripts related to health behaviors among student veterans (published in *Traumatology; the Journal of American College Health; and the Archives of Sexual Behavior*). In addition, she co-presented two national presentations: one disseminated 2017 Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN) Summit focus group data at the 2019 Society for Social Work and Research Conference in San Francisco; another presented emerging findings of DSW students’ experiences staying connected with one another throughout their program at the 2019 Social Work Distance Education Conference in San Antonio. Finally, Fletcher served as a conference delegate and gave one of the opening remarks at the International Military Social Work (IMilSW) Conference at the Thayer Hotel, West Point, New York.

Renee Hepperlen, assistant professor, and Lance Peterson, associate professor, presented at the Social Work Distance Education (SWDE) Conference on April 12, 2019. The presentation was based on research about faculty’s teaching experiences and students’ learning experiences in the new MSW hybrid program. Their project was titled, “Serving Two Masters: Navigating University Online Teaching Standards and our Commitment to Social Work Education.” Hepperlen and Lisa Kiesel, associate professor, also presented at the SWDE conference. Their presentation focused on an examination of discussion postings for two hybrid courses taught in the MSW program. Through their analysis, they considered best practices with writing and facilitating online discussion postings within a social work context. Hepperlen will also present at the AAIDD conference in June describing the Kusalama+ program to support families.
who have children with disabilities living in two communities in Lusaka, Zambia.

Katharine Hill, associate professor, has two articles coming out focused on her work on voter engagement in social work practice and education. From the Empire State to the North Star State: Implementing and Evaluating Voter Engagement in the Undergraduate Classroom was published in March. A second manuscript, Creating a Culture of Voting in Direct and Generalist Practice is forthcoming in Advances in Social Work. Both of these pieces were co-authored by colleagues from the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work at the University of Connecticut. She has also continued her work with the National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign - view their work at votingissocialwork.org!

Tonya Horn, assistant professor, received an internal Graduate Research Team Grant and will be working with three Area of Emphasis in Practice with Immigrants and Refugees (AEIR) Scholars in the MSW program over the summer. The team will be interviewing Karen interpreters and providers to develop best practices for working with this population in health settings.

Miriam Itzkowitz, clinical faculty, will remain at the Institute to Transform Child Protection (ITCP) during the 2019-20 academic year. ITCP works toward a more effective nationwide child protection system to preserve families, prevent trauma and build resilience through innovative policy, forward-thinking education and ongoing training. View their work at transformchildprotection.org.

Melissa Lundquist, assistant professor, presented a poster at the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network General Assembly, March 18 in Orlando, Florida. The poster described an interprofessional collaboration using a photovoice project involving teens living with parental cancer in their family. She also was invited as an international guest lecturer to the Doctoral School of Sociology at the University of Bucharest in Romania to discuss her research exploring the experience of fathers living with advanced cancer.

Catherine Marrs Fuchsel, associate professor, has been conducting national workshops to promote her recently published “Yes, I Can, (Sí, Yo Puedo) Curriculum/Book and Empowerment Program” for immigrant Latinas in group settings. She conducted a workshop in April in collaboration with Whittier College’s social work department and L.A. CADA in Los Angeles.

Ande Nesmith, associate professor, spent this past academic year on a Fulbright Scholarship in the Czech Republic researching their child welfare system of foster care and orphanages. She traveled to 16 Czech cities and villages, talking to social workers, NGOs, government officials, people who grew up in care, and orphanage directors. She published in the journal Advances in Social Work and presented her research at three Czech public venues.

Lance Peterson, associate professor, published Becoming Competent to Teach Competence: Learning and Teaching Relational Process in Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping Volume 24, Number 3 in October 2018.

Pa Der Vang, associate professor, presented at the annual NASW-MN conference in June on “Self Construal: Satisfaction in Work and School.” She is also working on an edited volume about Hmong women’s writing in leadership. She coordinated the third Hmong Social Worker’s Coalition Conference held at St. Catherine University this spring, thanks to the support of the School of Social Work.

2018-19 Graduates

BSW GRADUATES
Shelby Anderson
Andrea Bailey
Gabrielle Baumann
Cydney Bergin
Cierra Buckner
Jordan Carlson
Courtney Clobes
Autumn Cook
Jan Dahlberg
Kelsey DiBias
Bridget Dobie
Mackenzie Duvall
Magdalena Franco Hernandez
Madelyn Ghesquiere
Rachel Herbert
Elizabeth Iddings
Anna Inthakhot
Amy Jeffrey
Blythe Kramer
Kate Luistro
Vickie Mansheim
Marlen Martinez-Santiago
Ashleigh Nesemeier
Ruth Ochoa-Pineda
Muna Omar
Stefanie Palmer
Clare Podvin
Anthony Preston
Mary Resemius
Alejandra Rodriguez Garcia
Kiki Schroeder
Kadey Jo Seeger
Leah Sonsalla
Michelle Soto
Danielle Stokes
Mai Lia Alena Vang
Haley VerBout
Crystal Wirtz
Brittanie Witmer
Amanda Yang
Mai Na Yang

MSW GRADUATES
Ashjan Abuhussain
Emily Adrian
Lensa Ahmed
Amanda Ament-Lemke
Elin Amundson
Stephanie Anderson
Haylee Baier
Amber Baker
Danielle Bapp
Amy Barber
Jenna Beeson
Bridget Bender
Nicholas Bennett
Catherine Bergler
Jean Bisek
Jade Blaser
Leah Bonine
Alyssa Bouma
Sherronda Bowden
Emily Britz
Alison Brummett
Candace Burk
Sarah Burton
Lauren (Rose) Caldie
Lisa Carton
Maija Castro
Sunghhwan Cho
Kaitlin Christophersen
Krismarie Claflin
Lian Conrad
Taylor Dawson
Kourtney DeVos
Melanie DeJong
Jestine Dennis
Ann Duevel
Bianca Emmons
Emily Erickson
Kara Espinosa
Nichole Ferrell
Kristine Fitch
Elizabeth Fosse
Lauren Foster
Hannah Franc
Cristal Franco
Kaitlyn Gartner
Johnathan Gavin
Paige Geck
Lexie Gutzmann
Emily Hagan
Sarah Hamlin
Lindsay Hanenburg
Kimberly Harrison
Leah Heim
Amy Hofer
Brittany Horner
Meagan Howard
Anthony Howell
Jordyn Hubin
Kelly Isensee
Sarah Jackson
Anastasia Jankord
Kathryn Johncox
Dacey Kassen
Kassara Kneeland
Lia Kosset
Mariah Kresky
Sarita Lauth
Rachel LaVoi
Carrie Leveille
Abby Longnecker
Julia Loupe
Keyona Love
Sarah Mangas
Tracey Marcelino
Kayla Marcoux
Lisa McCain
Marie McNamara
Gretchan Menze
Darcy Metzler
Kasey Meyer
Kathleen (Katie) Meyer
Bethany Miletich
Madison Mixdorf
Brooke Monson-DeBoer
Jazzmin Moore
Katlin Morse
Hyacinth Mosse
Keodara Moua
Vivienne Namujizi
Shea Nearman
Elizabeth Nebeker
Tiffany Newman
Katherine Noyes
Kari Nystul
Emily Odegard
Ivette Orozco-Mayares
Danelle Pageler
Erin Plant
Jacob Porter
Cassandra Possert
Rachel Potter
Nicole Racine
Alyssa Radichel
Chantel Randle
Keli Ray
Abbi Reineccius
Abigail Rice
Chantel Robertson
Kathleen Roche
Brianna Row
Cassandra Roy
Amanda Schaller
Emma Schedler
Ashley Schoonover
Brittany Seidel
Alyssa Sherwood
Abigail Smith
Lauren Sobotta
Hannah Soule
Maren Starzinski
Kelsey Stender
Luke Tervola
Samantha Thompson
Danielle Thue
Maria Trenda
Emily Valentine
Laurel Volz
Elizabeth Walker
Elizabeth Walter
Allison Weber
Lucy Weisenbeck
Sarah Welser
Maiko Xiong
Sarah Zyvoloski
SSW Student Awards 2018-19

BSW AND MSW AWARDS

Bachelor of Social Work Student Leadership Awards:
Jordan Carlson, Amy Jeffrey and Stefanie Palmer

Master of Social Work Student Leadership Award and NASW-MSW Student of the Year Nominee:
Elin Amundson

NASW–BSW Student of the Year Award Winner:
Kelsey DiBias
DiBias pictured doing voter education and registration in fall 2018

Mary Alice Muellerleile Student Leadership Award - BSW:
Rusty Rose-Dixon

Diversity Social Work Advancement Program Award – MSW:
Keyona Love and Maiko Xiong

Jan Andrews Schenk Scholarship – MSW:
Cristal Franco

Noel Ryan
Endowed Scholarship – MSW:
Anna Goldsmith

ST. THOMAS AND ST. KATE’S SOCIAL WORK LATIN HONORS

Cum Laude
Jan Dahlberg
Amy Jeffrey
Clare Podvin
Katelyn Rising
(Psychology, Chemistry Department minor)
Carley Sorensen

Magna Cum Laude
Courtney Clobes
Bridget Dobie
Mackenzie Duvall
Madelyn Ghesquiere
Mary Resemius
Kadey Seeger

Summa Cum Laude
Kelsey DiBias
Blythe Kramer
Vickie Mansheim
Stefanie Palmer

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019!

41 Bachelor of Social Work graduates
134 Master of Social Work graduates
17 Doctorate in Social Work graduates
We’re all together but we’re all across the country. It’s powerful. It’s such a significant part of the students’ experience and journey to get to this point,” said Catherine Marrs Fuchsel, the DSW program director. “Each one has their own story and lived experiences. It’s so great to see them grow throughout these three years. I can see that progression, especially when we get to this point.”

This year’s cohort marked the first fulfilling the new degree requirement to defend their doctoral banded dissertations, a fittingly digital continuation of their studies to this point.

“It was wonderful, surreal, intimidating,” said Jean Roberson ’19 DSW. “We have spent two years developing and living with this work, so, for me, it is a central part of my life. It is surreal when you realize you have come to the place where you are finished and presenting it.”

“I find that the DSW program has a strong commitment to helping us become what it is we are studying, so that we don’t just learn about social work education but become social work educators,” she added.

“I appreciated the additional level of rigor and validation that the dissertation defense process brought to the completion of our doctoral studies,” Ben Bencomo ’19 DSW said. “It helped to validate the importance of the scholarly work that we have been doing in our program and offered an opportunity to showcase our work.”

Beyond the people in the room at St. Thomas, dozens of peers, colleagues and friends watched each Zoom session as each DSW student defended over the course of several days.

For Marrs Fuchsel, seeing the culmination of so many students’ years of hard work in the defense process was like a party in and of itself.

“It’s exciting to see it all come together,” she said. “It’s a labor of love.”
CONGRATULATIONS, DOCTORATE IN SOCIAL WORK
COHORT 3
Class of 2019, listed with banded dissertation titles:

Jeanette Baca, New Mexico
“Trauma-Informed Approaches and Ecological Theory: Intervening with Families Experiencing Domestic Violence”

Benjamin Bencomo, New Mexico
“Defining Success: Reconsidering a Successful Transition into Adulthood for Ethnic Minority Former Foster Youth”

Dawn Brubaker, Pennsylvania
“Strengths Based Theory in Direct Service for Immigrants and Forced Migrants”

Gabriel Carrillo, Missouri
“Globalization of Social Work Education: The Impact and Implications on Practice in a Developing Country”

Jeanne Dulworth, North Carolina

Debbie Gonzalez, California
“Exploring the Flipped Classroom Model in Social Work Education”

Mary Kirk, Minnesota
“Toward a Strengths Orientation in Child Welfare: Theory, Pedagogy and Practice”

Jamie Langlois, Michigan
“Self-Determined Service-Learning Framework: Enhancing Graduate Students’ Perceptions of Competence”

Katrina Matthews, Tennessee
“Advancing Social Work Education for Practice in Healthcare: Transforming Education and Bridging the Classroom to Practice Gap”

Cheryl Pooler, Texas
“A Historical Look at the Role of Social Work in Ending Youth Homelessness: Moving Forward”

Leah Prussia, Minnesota
“Natural Connections: Social Work’s Role in Mending Human and Environmental Relationships”

Rex Rempel, Washington
“Reconsidering the Social Work Education Continuum: Social Work Education at Community Colleges in the United States”

Rachael Richter, Ohio
“Expanding the View: A Look at Online Social Work Education Through a Liberatory Lens”

[Catherine] Jean Roberson, Alabama
“Simulation as Pedagogy: An Experiential Teaching Strategy for Social Work Education”

Katie Terry, Ohio
“Neurodiversity: Grounding for Social Work Education and Praxis”

C.J. Van Wright, Massachusetts
“The Case For Trauma-Informed Corrections”

Angela Volpe, California
“Harnessing Social Media for Good: How Human Service Nonprofit Organizations Use Social Media to Connect to Stakeholders and Clients”

Additional DSW student and alumni news and professional notes can be viewed at: stthomas.edu/socialwork/dsw/current/news
From the St. Catherine University Dean

As we prepare this final issue of Perspectives magazine, we reflect on the history of our joint program and the influence of this partnership on the independent programs our universities will offer going forward.

St. Catherine University has a long history in social work that started with offering sociology courses with an emphasis in social work in the 1930s. We are excited to build on this history as we welcome the bachelor of social work (BSW) and master of social work (MSW) programs into the Henrietta Schmoll School of Health (HSSH). The Social Work department has a mission focused on preparing students for critically reflective practice; to use social work knowledge, values and skills to serve those in need; and to promote social justice and human rights, which perfectly aligns with the School of Health. Here, social work students will engage with others in our shared vision to improve the health of all people, without distinction, and transform the world by leading efforts to address issues of health disparity and injustice.

With more than 30-plus related programs, we are excited for many opportunities to collaborate with and learn from our social work colleagues, including:

- Interprofessional Education (IPE) opportunities for courses, workshops and other activities, where students and faculty from different professions learn about, from, and with each other. St. Kate’s offers an undergraduate double major with public health and dual degrees with holistic health and theology at the graduate level. Work is also underway to develop a dual MSW-MPH degree.
- Community-based practice experiences in which social work students practice collaboratively with students from other disciplines.
- Grant activities supported by generous funding from the GHR Foundation and the National Institutes of Health – National Institute on Aging (NIH-NIA), including:
  - Curriculum development related to cultural fluency, interprofessional collaborative practice and ecological approaches to health in the areas of global health, senior living and primary care.
  - Development of a gerontology minor, and research and mentoring opportunities for diverse students in collaboration with Mayo Clinic’s Kogod Center on Aging and HealthPartners Neuroscience Center.
  - Extensive student research opportunities related to grant initiatives, including graduate research traineeships, undergraduate summer scholars program and student travel awards for conference presentation.

We look forward to exploring the expansion of programs such as the Mapping Social Justice project for both social work students and others within HSSH to bridge individual and system change efforts. The department also will continue to offer the Clinical Social Work Expansion Project (CSWEP) to MSW students, and Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) to undergraduate and graduate social work students.

With field education as the signature pedagogy in social work, we will continue to partner with our many outstanding field instructors and sites in the preparation and professional development of BSW and MSW students.

All in all, the legacy and future of social work at St. Catherine University looks very bright!

Lisa Dutton, PhD
Dean of Health Sciences, Henrietta Schmoll School of Health
We end this last edition of Perspectives with a message of hope and excitement. As we stand in the doorway looking back at what has been, it is with fondness and, yes, some sadness. We also look forward to what is next. The work is not done; it simply awaits us to continue in a new room, a new context.

Dr. Barbara Shank broke the ground, set the cornerstone and built a solid foundation for a dazzling structure. Faculty, staff, students and community partners joined her in constructing connecting rooms of practice, policy advocacy and transformative education. We continue that legacy into the future, adapting our programs to meet the same needs in an ever-changing environment.

As I look to the future, I see endless possibilities! At St. Thomas, the School of Social Work will be joining the Graduate School of Professional Psychology in a new College of Health. This will provide us with greater opportunities to collaborate on research and grants, field placements and graduate student support services. We will continue to bring innovation to the classroom by providing interactive seminars for students specializing in health-related social work. The partnerships will also help us address the growing mental health and addiction challenges facing our communities.

Partnerships and creative thinking are at the heart of our future plans. At the BSW level, we are already creating co-majors with departments such as public health, criminal justice and psychology. We have made connections with the students in the Dougherty Family College who will continue into St. Thomas. We are developing opportunities to educate undergraduate students about the social work profession.

At the graduate level, we want to build stronger partnerships with some of our agencies, thinking creatively about the programs needed within their work settings. This might consist of using our MSW hybrid to educate employees from a given agency in a cohort model, or developing post-MSW certificates to support social work professionals gaining new skills. Our faculty in the DSW have begun thinking about adding another track to the program to educate students in other areas of advanced social work practice.

The door is wide open, and the faculty at the St. Thomas School of Social Work are eager to cross into their next space! Next door will reside the social work program at St. Catherine University. We plan to continue to be not just good neighbors, but neighbors joined in a shared mission: serving the communities of the Twin Cities and the Upper Midwest. We invite you to visit us often: Our doors remain open.

Corrine Carvalho, PhD
Interim Dean, St. Kate’s – St. Thomas School of Social Work
Professor of Theology
Assistant Professor Renee Hepperlen visited the Kanyama community in Lusaka, Zambia, in January with Paula Rabaey of occupational therapy at St. Kate’s and graduate research assistant Amanda Ament-Lemke. Hepperlen and Rabaey are completing a photovoice research project to understand the experiences of caregivers of children with disabilities using this participatory action research method. (Ament-Lemke and Hepperlen are pictured with community caregivers in Zambia.)

Almost 180 St. Kate’s – St. Thomas BSW and MSW students joined the more than 900 social workers at the 23rd Annual NASW-MN Day at the Capitol April 8! Representative Kaohly Her (District 64A) included this photo in her Legislative Update email of our BSWs in Katharine Hill’s policy class visiting her during this day of advocacy.

The Field Practice Institute held its annual workshop on May 3, Resiliency and Resistance in Painful Times. The interactive discussion was led by Tonja Honsey of the MN Prison Doula Project, American Indian Prison Project Working Group and Minnesota Freedom Fund; Juliana Keen of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota; and Sarah Sharp and Maryrose Doleza of RECLAIM. The panel provided a framework for social workers to stay resilient, engaged and responsive, while staying present with the impacts of violence and oppression toward community members/clients who are part of targeted populations.

Assistant Professor Renee Hepperlen visited the Kanyama community in Lusaka, Zambia, in January with Paula Rabaey of occupational therapy at St. Kate’s and graduate research assistant Amanda Ament-Lemke. Hepperlen and Rabaey are completing a photovoice research project to understand the experiences of caregivers of children with disabilities using this participatory action research method. (Ament-Lemke and Hepperlen are pictured with community caregivers in Zambia.)

Once again, our BSW seniors took time during one of their last class sessions to share, “Why Social Work?” Thank you Class of 2019 – you inspire us all!
TO THE SSW FACULTY:

“The knowledge you hold and the passion you express are truly inspiring, uplifting and downright empowering. You have been able to create a safe, supportive and family-like environment for our learning. I will be forever grateful for the ways in which you have shaped me as a student, a social worker and a human. I attribute most if not all of my growth over the past five (undergrad and graduate) years to the School of Social Work and all those who are within it. Your ability to support, encourage and empower your students while also facilitating a sense of community is something I will never forget.”

SHEA NEARMAN ’18 BSW, ’19 MSW

STAY CONNECTED

ST. KATE’S
Webpages:
stkate.edu/socialwork
Alumni updates:
stkate.edu/alumnae/update-your-information

ST. THOMAS
Webpages:
stthomas.edu/socialwork
Alumni updates:
stthomas.edu/socialwork/alumni/contact
FULL-TIME FACULTY
2018-19
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 Vang
Robin Whitebird
Carey Winkler

ADJUNCTS
2018-19
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
Lynn Overvoorde
Rachel Parkin
Mary Paulson
Jennifer Powers
Kirsten Romness
Cindy St. George
Allison Scheel
Paul Schnell
Stephanie Spandl
James Stolz
Ashley Sturz-Griffith
Maija Swanson-Seavey
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