Feature Focus:

Social Work in Health Care
Dear Friends:
The fall semester began on a high note with our Oct. 2 Milestones Celebration. Friends, colleagues, students and alumni from throughout the St. Kate’s – St. Thomas School of Social Work’s history turned out to help us celebrate our school’s milestones: 40 years of BSW accreditation, our MSW’s 25th anniversary and the successful launch of our DSW program. We also raised funding toward our new Judith A. Miller Scholarship for undergraduate social work students. I’m pictured, above, with professor emerita Angeline Barretta-Herman during the opening reception. You’ll see more pictures from the event and learn about our new scholarship on pages 14-15.

In September, I attended President and Mrs. Obama’s welcome ceremony for His Holiness Pope Francis at the White House as a board member with Catholic Charities USA. This was a thrilling opportunity for me and also a fitting complement to our School of Social Work’s 2015-16 annual theme of Justice for Victims of Human Trafficking. Pope Francis has called human trafficking “a crime against humanity” and has said that it threatens peace because it is “based on a lack of recognition of the fundamental human dignity of its victims.” Our annual theme ties together our signature events and supports the year’s highlighted principle of Social Work for Social Justice: Human Dignity.

On pages 10-12 of this issue, you will read about our Field Practice Institute’s Annual Summit on Emerging Issues in Social Work “Trafficking in Minnesota” and our 2015 Room at the Table event, “Protecting Minnesota’s Sexually Exploited Youth”. This spring, we had hoped to expand our focus to the national level by hosting the planned 2016 St. Catherine University Bonnie Jean Kelly and Joan Kelly Distinguished Visiting Scholar, Rachel Lloyd, a survivor of trafficking and a leader of New York’s Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act (2008). Unfortunately, Ms. Lloyd has had to re-schedule her visit to 2017. Look for updates about the 2016 lecture and Ms. Lloyd’s visit in 2017.

Finally, I am thrilled to congratulate our first Social Work Health Care Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) grant recipients, who are highlighted along with the other members of the Social Work HEALS Leadership Council on the following pages. While St. Kate’s – St. Thomas has long had a focus on interprofessional education and the important role of social workers in health care settings, this program has introduced us to a national community of policymakers and thought-leaders. In addition to our other school news and events, you’ll see faculty, student and alumni work related to social work in health care highlighted throughout this issue of Perspectives.

Here’s to another great year!

Barbara W. Shank, dean and professor

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
This fall, the School of Social Work launched its Social Work Health Care Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) grant initiative that was awarded in spring 2015. In May, the St. Kate’s – St. Thomas School of Social Work was selected as one of 10 programs nationwide – and the only private school – to receive a Social Work HEALS grant. This grant is a partnership of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) that “aims to develop the next generation of health care social work leaders who will stand ready to lead efforts to address system-level changes, to heighten awareness of prevention and wellness and to address the issues of structural racism that are embedded in social institutions.”

The five-year grant supports two Bachelor of Social Work students and two Master of Social Work students per year. The selected students will be awarded a tuition stipend for their participation in the program. Participation includes relevant coursework and engagement in a variety of leadership opportunities, such as interprofessional workshops, Day at the Capitol events and with the Social Work HEALS Leadership Council. Students also will receive funding to attend the Social Work HEALS policy summit in Washington, D.C. Social work students selected to participate in the program will have the opportunity to experience robust health care education and training, connect with peers, advocate for policy issues and practice as members of interprofessional health care teams.

“There are growing career opportunities for students in social work and health care settings, and this is a great way to enhance students’ learning related to that interest,” said Carey Winkler, director of BSW field education and the Social Work HEALS lead grant author. “It’s a program that does a nice job of taking a holistic, generalist perspective of looking at what needs to happen in direct care, as well as looking at policy and leadership.”

“One of the things the Social Work HEALS grant committee said they liked about our program is our Leadership Council,” said Lisa Richardson, director of MSW field education and Social Work HEALS project coordinator. “It’s an important part of the structure of the way Social Work HEALS is living at our school.” Students, their field instructors, key faculty involved in the project and community partners all form the Leadership Council. The council, led by the students, will organize a service or educational event in 2016.

On the following pages, you will meet the inaugural St. Kate’s – St. Thomas Social Work HEALS Leadership Council and read how the experience is already shaping their understanding and appreciation of social work leadership in health care settings.

1 Social Work HEALS Request for Applications

Social Work HEALS Background
[as stated in the Social Work HEALS Request for Applications]

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 is transforming the delivery of health care services in the United States by emphasizing the triple aim of improved health outcomes, greater access to care and reduced health care costs. At the same time, more people are living longer with chronic health and behavioral health conditions as the size of the population over the age of 65, and especially over the age of 80, continues to expand. The United States is also becoming increasingly racially, ethnically and culturally diverse with many individuals facing health disparities and inequitable access to quality services.

Due to this changing landscape of health care service delivery, social workers should be involved in all aspects of care, because addressing social needs in health care has been shown to have a significant impact on health outcomes. Social workers are well-prepared to address these social determinants of health, and they can play critical roles in reducing non-medical barriers to health care access.

Several new service models that employ a team approach to care have been designed to achieve the goals of the triple aim, including Patient-Centered Medical Homes, Medicaid Health Homes and Accountable Care Organizations. These models require the use of care coordinators, behavioral health providers, patient educators and outreach specialists. Few professions offer the skills and training to fulfill these roles better than social work.

A complete application is available for review at www.CSWE.org under Scholarships and Fellowships.
Meet the Inaugural Social Work HEALS Leadership Council

The St. Kate’s – St. Thomas Social Work Health Care Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) Leadership Council is comprised of student scholars, their field instructors, faculty, staff and a community representative. The group is charged with guiding the new Social Work HEALS initiative, supporting student development and advancing social workers’ skills and roles within today’s rapidly evolving health care environment.

Social Work HEALS Leadership Council faculty and staff members: Lisa Richardson, director of MSW field education and Social Work HEALS project coordinator, Carey Winkler, director of BSW field education and Social Work HEALS lead grant author, Cindy Lorah, George Baboila, Tanya Rand, Robin Whitebird and Katie Johnson, research assistant (not pictured).

Lisa Richardson and Carey Winkler head the Social Work HEALS Leadership Council and have assembled other faculty and community members engaged in health care practice to comprise the council membership. We asked some of these representatives to respond to the following question:

Based on your personal experiences, why is social work health care education and leadership important – and why now?

George Baboila, MSW, LICSW, co-director, Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services

As social workers, we know the mind and body are intricately connected. Physical illness impacts mental health, and mental health often presents in physical symptoms. With the rise in social, economic, and cultural barriers individuals face in seeking effective care, social work health care education and leadership is a crucial topic. Like many other professions, social work faces gaps in leadership between those entering the profession and those preparing to retire. Fostering leadership at this crucial time is imperative. Younger members bring new perspectives and a passion that is necessary to face the many challenges in health care policy and integration.

Tanya Rand, MSW, LICSW, clinical faculty and coordinator of aging services

With people living longer, complicated health conditions (such as dementia) are on the rise. This type of disease requires a multidisciplinary approach. Social workers provide counseling, education and resources to patients and families. They also are invaluable to the treatment team, often acting as the liaison between the entire health care team and the patient and their family. Working at HealthEast, I was able to see the powerful impact social workers had across the health care system. An investment in social work health care education and leadership is critical to maintaining a vibrant and competent workforce to support our aging population.

Robin R. Whitebird, PhD, MSW, LISW, associate professor

Social workers are skilled in group work, systems training and mental health; social workers are trained to work in teams and with families to achieve best outcomes for patients. This is particularly true at a time when health care is increasingly focused on the management of chronic health conditions in addition to acute care needs. Chronic health conditions often run concurrent with mental health concerns such as anxiety and depression. Social workers are trained to assess and address the complex interface between physical and mental health, while also understanding the importance of the family and community in addressing individual health needs. The strength of this perspective places social workers at the forefront of leaders working to improve health care for all.

Chris Beamish, MSW ’06, LICSW, Fairview Counseling Centers, clinic manager, alumni community member

As much as 25-30 percent of all primary care patients have a behavioral health condition, and about 80 percent of psychiatric medications are prescribed by primary care providers. Exceptional patient care experiences and outcomes are driven by team-based care. By embedding LICSWs in primary care, we are meeting patients where they present for their usual primary care services and therefore normalizing behavioral health. Health care providers appreciate the ability to introduce their patients to us via a warm handoff to do a meet and greet, complete a diagnostic assessment, provide brief evidence-based interventions and stepped-care referrals as indicated.
An important and unique aspect of the St. Kate’s – St. Thomas Social Work HEALS Leadership Council is the involvement of student scholar/field instructor pairs. In addition to the council meetings and ongoing development efforts, two of the field instructors also were able to attend the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care (SSWLHC) Conference in Austin, Texas, in October. We’ve asked the field instructors to respond to the following question:

**How has your involvement in the Social Work HEALS program impacted the way you think about social work in health care?**

**Erica Bryan-Wegner,** Mayo Clinic, Rochester

The program has provided an opportunity to consider and enhance my knowledge of the role of social work in health care. It has been enlightening to interact with the Leadership Council members and learn about the roles of social workers in these diverse places. These interactions, as well as discussions with my student intern, have provided space to consider the opportunities that our profession has to promote access to, and greater effectiveness of, health care for underserved patients. It is clear that as social workers we have a voice and perspective that should be present in the conversations influencing the ever-changing health care landscape.

**Lisa Kern,** Koda Living Community, Owatonna

Being a part of the Social Work HEALS program has been an opportunity to remind myself of the powerful and valuable work social workers do each day in the health care world. Having the time to spend with social workers from around the United States during the SSWLHC conference was a unique experience to learn from others who work in different settings with different resources and different systems. While at the same time, it helps me keep in perspective that the ultimate goal is providing productive social work services to some of our most vulnerable citizens.

**Sara Lassig,** VA Medical Center, Minneapolis

Participating in the SSWLHC Conference was an amazing and inspiring learning opportunity. It really opened my eyes to the leadership, advocacy and change-producing roles that social workers can and do play in health care settings. My involvement in this program has also allowed me to put the newly learned skills and tools into everyday practice in the leadership role I play in my health care organization at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

**Peggy Sapp,** Catholic Charities Seton Services, St. Paul

I have worked in various health care settings over the past 14 years. Social workers play a vital role in patient care and planning and are an integral part of an interdisciplinary team. I feel very fortunate to be working alongside Elizabeth, one of the Social Work HEALS scholars. The enthusiasm she displays is infectious and it is exciting for me to see our work together at Catholic Charities Seton Prenatal Clinic from this unique lens.
All student scholars attended the 2015 Social Work HEALS policy summit. The summit, organized by the NASW and CSWE, took place in November in Washington, D.C. Some 40 Social Work HEALS scholars attended, representing the 10 grantee schools around the country. We asked each scholar to respond to the following question.

Could you describe a key take-away from your participation in the Social Work HEALS policy summit?

Kristina Babcock Donahue, MSW HEALS scholar, Mayo Clinic

I have always had a hunger for policy work, but was not raised in an environment where I was challenged to explore my curiosity. After starting my social work education journey, policy work still remained intimidating and seemed out of my league. The Social Work HEALS policy summit verified that my curiosity can be a reality! While attending the summit, we had the opportunity to meet and hear from many professionals who started off in a social work capacity and somehow landed in the world of policy. Inspiring is a true understatement!

Dawn Sorensen, BSW HEALS scholar, Koda Living Community

For me, the biggest take-aways came from the panel discussions on social work policy and advocacy. Our own meetings with legislators seemed daunting to me, but I was enlightened by the empowerment and encouragement the panelists offered to us to go out and make connections with the people who are working at the macro level of practice and policy in the United States. Social workers are vital members of the interdisciplinary medical team. I also appreciated the sense of stewardship and collaboration with CSWE and NASW staff, as well as fellow Social Work HEALS scholars, at the summit.

The 2016 Social Work HEALS grant applications will be made available to eligible BSW and MSW students in May.

Spotlight on health care fellowships:

Mayo Pediatric Oncology Fellowship Update from 2015 Recipient, Kristin Weeker MSW ’15

In the summer of 2015, I completed my clinical field placement at Mayo Clinic and Mayo Eugenio Litta Children’s Hospital. I was able to split my time equally between inpatient and outpatient settings, providing continuity of care for patients and their families as they cycled between appointments at the clinic and hospital stays. This was my first time working in the health care industry, and therefore provided many firsts for me. Through working on a multidisciplinary team with other health care professionals, I learned that professionals with vastly different educational backgrounds and ways of thinking are able to come together and provide a united front to support patients and their families. Through working with individuals and families affected by cancer, I learned that a combination of faith and a sense of community support is the best medicine.

2016 Mayo Pediatric Oncology Fellowship

In the fall 2015, Jessica Marsolek, MSW Class of 2016, was awarded the Mayo Pediatric Oncology Fellowship for 2016. This prestigious fellowship is funded by the American Cancer Society.

Post-graduate Palliative Care Social Work Fellowship Program at University of MN Medical Center (UMMC), Fairview. Update from Current Fellow Florence Wright MSW ’15

It has been an incredible honor to be a part of the UMMC Palliative Care team this year as the Clinical Social Work Fellow. Our social work team provides an extra layer of support for a diverse group of individuals living with a serious illness through counseling/psychotherapy, advance care planning, mind/body interventions for symptom management and life legacy work. I have found multifaceted collaboration to be crucial in serving the whole person within a medical setting. I have learned that while individuals with a serious illness are often experiencing pain, grief and uncertainty, facing mortality can also be an opportunity for immense healing, growth and change.

Wright also co-authored an article that was published in the journal Research on Social Work Practice titled: “Attrition in Psychotherapy: A Survival Analysis.”
Faculty Engaged in Health Care-Related Social Work Practice and Research

A Passion for Interprofessional Education and Integrative Health Care

By George Baboila

Working as the director of social work at United Hospital early in my career, I used my social work perspective to have an impact on how health care was delivered in the hospital and the community. Later, while at the University of Minnesota Medical School in the Family Residency program at Methodist Hospital, I provided social work and mental health services to clinic patients while also teaching family medicine residents key concepts in recognizing and treating both psychosocial issues and mental health issues. For the past eight years, as the director of social work services at the Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services (IPC), I have continued to work in health care at Regions Hospital as a crisis social worker in the emergency department. Clearly, I believe health care social work is exciting and important work! Leadership in health care is also important to me and I was recently elected vice-chair of the board of directors for United Family Medicine, a federally qualified health clinic in St. Paul.

One of my goals is to share this passion when I teach the Clinical Social Work Practice in Integrated Health Care course. In this course I teach that integrated care recognizing that combining primary care and mental health services is in the best interest of the people we serve. Individuals are more likely to follow through with mental health services when offered under the same roof they receive primary care. When you’re not feeling well, navigating one more service or establishing a new connection can be a real barrier. Individuals with severe mental illness are more likely to suffer from poor physical health — and are estimated to live 25 years less than the general population. Death for these individuals is often caused by treatable health conditions such as asthma, diabetes and hypertension. Similarly, these individuals access emergency care more and primary care less when compared to their counterparts. Individuals receiving integrated care have fewer visits to the ER and experienced enhanced physical and mental well-being. That, in itself, is a huge impact; however, the social impact is also great — reduced health care costs and increased humanity. My latest effort in this work has been to support the clinic on whose board I sit to create a health care clinic at South Metro Human Services in St. Paul, bringing health care into mental health care!

Learning to work effectively with other professions is one of the most important skills a social worker can have — whether it be in medicine or law. As the director of social work services at the IPC, this is one of my main foci. The IPC provides interdisciplinary services (social work, psychology and legal services) to diverse and underserved members of our community. The exciting part about this work is seeing young professionals learn how to collaborate with their colleagues in other professions in order to offer the best services of each discipline.

Working in an integrated health care setting is not always easy and working with other professions can be frustrating. This is why social work health care education is so critical. Students need experiences that foster interprofessional collaboration and model how to work with other disciplines. I also believe students need opportunities to explore what makes them passionate about the work. When young professionals are given the opportunity to engage in leadership and to be a leader — they realize that they are capable of effecting change. Leadership inspires hope … hope for change. It is that hope that provides the foundation — not only for health care social work — but for our profession as a whole.

Supporting Health for Military-Connected Populations Across the Lifespan

By Kari Fletcher

As coordinator of the Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) Scholars program, my scholarship continues to promote support for military-connected populations across the lifespan. In efforts to highlight unique health care considerations of older veterans, my colleagues and I, as well as our research assistant and MSW student Kimberly Rorie, have written a chapter (in press) and presented nationally (at the American Public Health Association and Gerontological Society Association) on this topic. To promote discussion regarding how some service members experience the effects of military service after they have served, AEMP Scholars and I hosted a Veterans Day event where David Byrd’s “War is Always With Us” exhibit was presented; we also screened the film “The Invisible War” and discussed the epidemic of sexual assault in the military at the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery exhibit at St. Catherine University. To support ongoing care for service members and veterans, I continue to serve in two roles — one as an external consultant for the Brooklyn Park Veterans Center and the other as a clinical social worker/psychotherapist in a small clinical practice. In January 2016 a colleague and I presented on two topics at the annual Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) conference: barriers that challenge provider capacity to support military-connected children who attend civilian schools; and tobacco use by student veterans.

Faculty engagement in health care continued on next page
Training Social Workers and Nurses about Postpartum Depression
By Miriam Itzkowitz

In August I was invited to give a presentation to the social work and nursing staff at St. John’s Hospital on the role of those professionals in providing education, prevention and intervention services for women at risk for, or experiencing, postpartum depression. Postpartum depression does not present until at least two weeks after a birth, at which time families have left the hospital and are no longer in direct contact with social work or other health professionals. Because of this, it becomes essential for all families to receive information and education about postpartum depression before they leave the hospital. Social workers and nurses are the front-line staff who can best provide this education. In addition, mothers who have infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) have a significantly higher likelihood of developing a postpartum mood disorder. The nurses and social workers who work with NICU families particularly need skills to recognize and provide resources and intervention with these families. Research shows significantly better outcomes for both the women who receive such support in the NICU as well as for their infants.

Advancing Care and Research for Families Facing Cancer
By Melissa Lundquist

My social work practice for many years has focused on supporting families facing cancer. Prior to this new adventure as an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, I was the co-director of the Facing Cancer Together program at Angel Foundation, a local nonprofit serving adults with cancer and their families. For years, I had the privilege of developing and implementing a variety of programs that served families living with a parental cancer diagnosis while they were raising their children. Living with cancer while trying to parent children and teens is extremely taxing for a family and impacts the whole family’s ability to function physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially. The experience of working with these families inspired me to expand my career to pursue research that examines the full impact of cancer on a family.

My current scholarship is focused primarily on the experience of fathers living with advanced cancer. Gaining a deeper understanding of their unique perspective can inform the development of evidence-based interventions designed to help strengthen a family throughout the cancer experience and beyond. Moreover, this research can help shed light on the many gaps in state and federal policies in our country that shape a parent’s ability to care for his children when living with the burden of this disease.

Direct Medical Practice Experience Informs New Roles
By Tanya Rand

Social workers in health care are both highly needed and highly valued. I was convinced of this by my many years of direct practice experience as a clinical social worker in a medical setting. The work entailed providing services to the aging population and those with neurodegenerative brain illnesses, such as dementia and Parkinson’s disease. In my practice I was able to walk alongside patients and families in their health care journey, providing them with much-needed counseling and support. I also was able to facilitate various support groups, teach many different psychoeducational classes and provide consultative services to the multidisciplinary staff (nurses, doctors, physical therapists, etc.).

As a new clinical faculty member, I have assumed the role of aging services coordinator, including working with the Area of Emphasis in Aging (AEA) Scholars, and am also serving on the Social Work HEALS (Health Care Education and Leadership Scholars) Leadership Council. I look forward to working with students and colleagues from disciplines throughout the medical community to ensure that medical social workers are trained and recognized as skilled service providers. Medical social workers enhance the functioning of interprofessional care teams and have specialized expertise in critical health care areas such as advance care planning, surrogate decision making, vulnerable adult concerns and overall best practices for patients and families.

“Combining primary care and mental health services is in the best interest of the people we serve.”

George Baboila, director of social services,
University of St. Thomas
Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services (IPC)
Research Explores Effects of Welfare Reform on Health Care Use

By Jessica Toft

Health care coverage of the poor has long been a focus of Minnesota policymakers. Unlike many states, Minnesota was a forerunner in creating programs that covered larger groups of poor and nearly poor persons with expansions in Medicaid and MinnesotaCare over many years. However, even with programs that made health care theoretically more accessible, program administrative rules, misunderstanding of program rules, English as a second language, and the historical interface of minority groups and the government may have meant that some poor and nearly poor people have elected not to participate in government-sponsored health programs. Persons in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), including diverse racial-ethnic and immigrant groups, offer a good representation of persons within families who are poor, nearly poor and cyclically poor. The requirement of engaging in paid work (or designated-like activities) as a condition of receiving MFIP may also play a role in accessing health care.

To explore effects of welfare reform on health care use, a random sample of 84 past and present Temporary Assistance to Needy Families recipients in Hennepin County, Minnesota, were interviewed regarding their health care coverage and corresponding work histories over a 42-month period. Diverse groups were interviewed, including Hmong, Latino, Somali, African-American, Native American and white. Racial-ethnic and immigrant groups were oversampled. A life history calendar technique and supplementary interview questions were utilized. Our research team found an inverse relationship between amount of paid work and health care coverage. Overall, the more one worked, the less likely he/she was to access health care coverage for themselves and their families. Different racial-ethnic and immigrant groups had different patterns of health care coverage that were not explained sufficiently by amount of paid work.

Our research team posits that a lack of a publicly known linkage between paid work and Medicaid resulted in uninsurance for low-income workers. We call for further research of insurance patterns among low-income racial-ethnic groups to understand what encourages accessing available health care insurance so that all persons, regardless of income, language, race, culture and immigrant-status, have access to this essential service.

Research to Improve Health and Well-being

By Robin Whitebird

I am a career researcher in health care, conducting research in a diverse array of areas. I started my career focused on chronic disease management, long-term care, and hospice and end-of-life care. These areas often flow together as seniors experience increases in chronic conditions that can undermine their ability to live independently and also prepare for decisions regarding end-of-life. The area of aging and health care is an exciting and expanding area as the population ages and the health care needs of this group continue to grow and take on new dimensions.

Chronic disease often runs concurrent with depression so this led me to expand my research into the area of mental health and how to improve the management of depression in primary care. A large proportion of seniors receive treatment for depression from their primary care physicians, but those physicians often feel ill-equipped to address the needs of these patients. My colleagues and I looked at systems for improving care delivery, including the collaborative care model (a team-driven approach to providing health care) as a way to improve depression care across health care settings.

I also have explored the use of integrative and complementary therapies for improving health and reducing stress, and I have conducted research on the use of guided-imagery for improving the use of CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) to help improve sleep for people with breathing problems such as sleep apnea. Additionally, I conducted a randomized-controlled trial on the use of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) for caregivers of people with dementia, finding MBSR an effective intervention for improving overall mental health, reducing stress and decreasing depression in family caregivers. I have also studied the use of MBSR in the management of diabetes and found that MBSR improved mental health and diabetes management for people with Type II diabetes.

Improving the health and well-being of older adults and improving the health care they receive is an exciting and rewarding venture. Research in health care can provide needed information about new methods to improve health care delivery and new interventions to improve the health and well-being of all people. This is particularly true as health care systems seek to meet the needs of a changing health care landscape and improve the way they deliver care.
Social Work Summit Tackles Trafficking in Minnesota

By Sharon Rolenc

The Aug. 4 event tackled “Trafficking in Minnesota” and highlighted the perspectives of survivors, practitioners, organizations, policymakers and law enforcement. Group discussions and a resource fair provided opportunities for students, faculty and community members to share best practices and develop strategies for change.

Services for victims were highlighted during a panel discussion. Some of Minnesota’s most innovative programs come straight from the source – the survivors themselves. Organizations such as The Link hire young people who were once trafficked.

“We value their experience, their intelligence and their work ethic. So we provide jobs as part-time staff and advisers to help us develop programming that makes sense for their needs,” said Beth Holger-Ambrose, executive director of The Link. One of The Link’s youth advisers, Lateesha Coleman, shared tips for talking with youth trafficking victims. Coleman emphasized the need for practitioners to be patient and non-judgmental. “You need to wait until she realizes that she is a victim, and that she’s been wronged. Until it sinks in that the man she’s called her pimp for the past year and the man who has been feeding her, and housing her, and beating her, but also protecting her, has done wrong,” she said.

CeMarr Peterson, advocate for The Family Partnership’s PRIDE program, stressed the importance of community collaboration and program referrals in providing services for victims of trafficking.

“We can’t do it alone. We have a comprehensive program, but there’s always something that we can’t provide and we need someone else’s help,” she said.

“Article continued on next page"
Policy advancements
In addition to best practices in working with victims of trafficking, event discussion also focused on the impact of public policy – including Safe Harbor Minnesota. Under the Safe Harbor law, passed in 2010 and with changes implemented in 2014, Minnesota youth involved in prostitution are viewed as victims and survivors rather than criminals – and directed to supportive services to aid in their recovery.

Minnesota youth involved in prostitution are viewed as victims and survivors rather than criminals.

The shift in legal approach provides an important step in building trust and encouraging victims to come forward.

Ramsey County Attorney John Choi played a heartbreaking 911 call captured by Ramsey County of a Des Moines runaway named Barb. The teen was caught in a trafficking ring and fearful for her life – so much so that she scribbled a goodbye letter to her mother. “Before the Safe Harbor law, girls like Barb would have been viewed as delinquents,” Choi said. “As you can tell clearly from the audio, this girl is a scared kid who needed our help.”

Since the Safe Harbor law went into effect, trafficking charges in Minnesota have increased, from 38 in 2010, to 81 in 2012, 72 in 2013 and 48 in 2014. Convictions also increased from 7 in 2011 to 31 in 2012, 63 in 2013 and 24 in 2014 – albeit with some disheartening results (Barb’s traffickers received only one year).

Choi ended his remarks by showing a photo of Target Field. He said the stadium could be filled 17 times with the number of Minnesota victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking – with the vast majority of the violence perpetrated by men. “We need to have a talk in our community about healthy manhood. How we raise our boys matters,” Choi said.

Moving forward, making a difference
Energized by the presentations, attendees rounded out the event by discussing next steps and verbalizing personal commitments to solving Minnesota’s trafficking problem. One attendee raised the issue of acknowledging that victims are recovering from serious trauma and the need to relax restrictions on the number of counseling sessions allowed.

Another participant, Laura Roehl, shared her commitment to spreading news about trafficking issues via social media. “Raising awareness brings an important blow in fighting trafficking,” said Roehl, a law student at American University in Washington, D.C. Once she graduates, Roehl hopes to work with immigrants who are trafficked here from other countries and provide legal support for those who are candidates for asylum.

“This issue is not too big for us. It’s not too big for the churches,” said Terri Hands from Trafficking Justice, a Lakeville-based interfaith organization. “If we each did one little thing, collectively we could make a tangible difference.”

Event organizers were encouraged by the turnout – all tickets for the event were reserved shortly after registration opened.

“Clearly this speaks to our collective investment in making a difference, moving forward together on pathways of change that ensure the safety and dignity of the friends, families and strangers whose lives intersect with ours,” said Lisa Richardson, associate professor and director of field education for the Master of Social Work program.

Perspective of a Social Work Student
By Ivy Villani, MSW Class of ‘16

“They are all victims; it doesn’t matter how they got this way,” said Tasha Scott of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Scott’s statement summed up the dominant theme of the FPI Summit due to the heightened discussion around the changing Safe Harbor law.

Each of the presenters gave great insight into how to best help these victims when they come to you.

“Let them be who they are ... judgment is the quickest way to get a young person to shut down,” Scott said.

“Remember they have value,” Terri Forliti said. “They have been tossed and thrown away, but they have value.”

A young survivor also took the stage and let the audience know what worked for her, which was a particularly significant message.

“It takes a long time,” she said. “You might not see change for three years. Just wait. It’ll happen.”

Overall the summit was an eye-opening experience because it put into perspective the importance of placing ourselves on the front line of advocating for change. It also provided a holistic lens for social workers to understand why client-focused work is so important. This summit created a sense of urgency throughout the audience, but I believe it is important to remember that “life is a journey, it goes up and down; this is just a snapshot” (Beth Holger-Ambrose, The Link).
Ryan said Minnesota has been good about taking a multidisciplinary approach and making sure that everyone is involved in the response. “This is not just a child protection issue; this is not just a community organization issue; this is not just a law enforcement issue. It takes all of us to respond to this problem,” she explained.

Ryan added that the School of Social Work’s participation in the dialogue is important: “As social workers, you have professional obligations and ethics. How do you stay within that, but also conform to the victim-centered, trauma-informed, harm-reduction approach?”

**Front-line services**

Under Safe Harbor, the state set up eight regional navigators and two tribal navigators as front-line contacts. Navigators are organizations responsible for connecting exploited youth with services and for serving as regional experts for their communities. Based in north Minneapolis, The Link serves as the west metro regional navigator site for Safe Harbor and provides 24/7 on-call response.

“For instance, if there’s a sting in a hotel somewhere, the police may call Quisha, our Safe Harbor director, in the middle of the night. She’ll come out, work with the young person in a strength-based, non-judgmental way, help them identify what their safety needs are, and what services they need,” said Beth Holger-Ambrose, executive director for The Link. If youth can’t go home safely, then they are eligible for The Link’s Passageway Shelter and Housing program.

**Shifting the perception of law enforcement**

A human trafficker and exploiter has historically been referred to as a “pimp” and the buyer a “John.” But the victim of human trafficking is called any number of sordid names, from escort or prostitute to whore or hooker or worse. “We challenge officers to pause and think about those names. Think of all those awful terms for the victim. This is what society thinks of her, how society works and where society puts her – at the bottom,” warned officials.

Pinto said the deeper-level training is being developed in partnership with the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault to create a model protocol, a model set of best practices and guidelines for communities around the state to use. Taking an interprofessional approach, 15 discipline-specific work groups are involved in developing the protocol and guidelines, everything from education and medical to juvenile corrections and prosecution.

“Shifting the perceptions away from the attitude of prostitution as a victimless crime is critical in the race to prevent children from being exploited. We need to be coming at this from the perspective of the traffickers and exploiters. Who and where are our vulnerable kids and people? This is an opportunity to reach out to them first,” Pinto added.

For resources related to human trafficking in Minnesota, visit the event webpage: www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/RATT2015
Congratulations to Dean Barbara Shank, a Social Work Pioneer

As stated by the NASW Foundation:

NASW Pioneers are social workers who have explored new territories and built outposts for human services on many frontiers. Some are well known, others are less famous outside their immediate colleagues and the region where they live and work. But each has made an important contribution to the social work profession and to social policies through service, teaching, writing, research, program development, administration or legislation.

All of these social workers are honored in the NASW Pioneer Room in our national office in Washington, D.C. The pioneers have prepared the way for thousands of other social workers to make their contributions to the betterment of the human condition. They are all role models for future generations of social workers.

Dean Shank’s Pioneer Qualifications
(excerpt from NASW Foundation Pioneers website)

Dr. Barbara Wenstrom Shank emerged as an early pioneer in developing the principles of BSW generalist practice, defining the nature of the BSW curriculum, and emphasizing the person in environment construct underpinning social work practice. She is an advocate for accreditation standards on all levels of social work education. As an educational leader, Dr. Shank has constantly explored innovations that will provide access to professional social work education, including outreach programs in underserved rural areas and an innovative online doctoral program focused on teaching which has attracted students from many states.

Read Dean Shank’s full NASW Social Work Pioneer profile at www.naswfoundation.org/pioneers/s/shank_barbara.html
Milestones Celebration
By Lauren Schaffran, Class of 2017

The School of Social Work marked a year of milestones in 2015. Our joint BSW program celebrated 40 years of accreditation, our MSW program celebrated its 25th anniversary and our DSW program celebrated its successful launch. In honor of these milestones, our entire community came together for a Milestones Celebration on Oct. 2.

Randy Herman, emcee and professor emeritus, and Dean Barbara Shank honored all who have contributed to the unique history of the joint St. Kate’s – St. Thomas program, including past leaders, faculty, staff, field instructors, community supporters, current students and more than 1,700 bachelor’s and 2,000 master’s level graduates of the school.

University of St. Thomas President Dr. Julie Sullivan praised the “robust partnership” between St. Thomas and St. Kate’s, shown in the four-decades-old joint social work program. “This is pretty extraordinary for a partnership to last so long and to be so fruitful,” Sullivan said. She attributed the success to the fact that the mission of the School of Social Work lines up so well with the missions of both universities. “I think that’s the glue that holds us together,” she said.

St. Catherine University Provost Colleen Hegranes echoed Dr. Sullivan’s sentiments on the mission of the School of Social Work and applauded the program as a “dynamic example of this mission, rooted in the values of human dignity and the common good.”

BSW senior Lisette Cando moved the audience with the account of her journey as an undergraduate social work student. “This field has allowed me to truly see and understand the value and dignity of each individual, while working to advance social justice through service and advocacy,” Cando said. The new Judith A. Miller Scholarship will support undergraduate social work students such as Cando.

Throughout the evening, guests reminisced while strolling down “Memory Lane,” which featured a collection of hundreds of photos, T-shirts and other artifacts from the 40-plus-year history of the school. The evening concluded with musical entertainment provided by the Social Justice Café, which featured the talents of School of Social Work students, alumni, faculty and community.

It was truly a night to remember … thank you to all who participated!
Milestones Dinner Launches Judith A. Miller Scholarship

The Milestones Celebration “Fund-a-Scholarship” dinner kicked off the fundraising effort toward the new Judith A. Miller Scholarship for undergraduate social work students. Judy Miller was the first department chair of the joint St. Catherine – St. Thomas Social Work program. Her commitment to student-centered collaboration and community engagement helped lay the foundation upon which the School of Social Work continues to build.

Thank you to all of the donors who are helping us honor Judy’s legacy of student support and professional advancement by contributing to the Judith A. Miller Scholarship!

We have raised over $20,000 in gifts and pledges. If $50,000 is raised by Oct. 31, 2020, the Judith A. Miller Scholarship fund will exist in perpetuity, and endowment income will fund the scholarships. If this goal is not reached, donations will be awarded directly to students as annual scholarships.

Help us meet our endowment goal!
Visit www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/supportus to donate to the Judith A. Miller Scholarship or one of our other giving opportunities.

More photos can be viewed at:

St. Kate’s – St. Thomas School of Social Work

A special thank you to our sponsors and major gift donors:

Angeline Barretta-Herman and Randy Herman
Joy Bartscher
Philip and Kelly Bruneau
Peter Freeman and Laura Sewell
Bruce Goodman
Llewellyn Linde
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Arlen Solodkin and Luis Katz
Mary Louise and Daniel A. Klas
Carol Kuechler and Thomas Tesch
Susan Schmidt and Virgil Wiebe
Barbara and Dick Shank
Father Larry J. Snyder
Julie H. Sullivan
Every year the number of older adults in Minnesota being diagnosed with dementia increases. This trend is only expected to rise in the coming decades. Dementia affects not only our older adults and their families, but also our neighborhoods and communities as a whole. Everyone can be affected somehow, in some way, by dementia and for this reason increased awareness and education is a priority for everyone.

In partnering with a local initiative this year, the School of Social Work’s Area of Emphasis in Aging Scholars have made it a top priority to help raise awareness and provide education about dementia. They are doing this through a program called Dementia Friends which is an initiative that falls under the wider ACT on Alzheimer’s initiative.

ACT is a collaborative effort of volunteers who are working toward the creation of supportive environments for all those touched by Alzheimer’s and dementia.

Dementia Friends is a movement that aims to educate individuals about this disease and then turn that education into action by committing to create dementia-friendly communities. This project is working toward change at the micro, mezzo and macro level. Everyone can be a part of this initiative. All AEA Scholars have completed Dementia Champion’s training, which now allows them to hold Dementia Friends awareness and education events.

Spring semester, the AEA Scholars will be holding Dementia Friends training sessions both on campus and in the wider community. AEA invites interested groups and individuals to become involved by joining us for a free one-hour Dementia Friends training session. In these sessions you will learn about the warning signs of dementia, how to get diagnosed and how to create a dementia-friendly environment for those in our community. Check our online event calendar this spring for dates and times.

You're Never Too Young to Become a Dementia Friend

By Rachelle Henkel, MSW Class of 2018, AEA Scholar, Girl Scout troop leader

The fifth-grade Girl Scout troop #55336 at Lakes International Language Academy (LILA) in Forest Lake completed the Dementia Friends training in November. They will become Dementia Friends Champions, teaming up with ACT on Alzheimer’s Forest Lake to educate their community about dementia for their Bronze Service Project. The Bronze Service Project is a 20-hour group project, defined by the Girl Scouts of America as “a project that involved hands-on learning sessions and workshops, as well as those that include collaboration with community groups, civic associations, nonprofit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations are the most likely to continue being relevant beyond a girl’s involvement.”

The girls already have created two skits to go along with the informational session that will be done for the community. In addition to the Dementia Friends session, they will educate local businesses and families at school by distributing resources such as bookmarks and brochures at “cookie booth”-like events.

As the first Dementia Friends group in our area, the girls will inspire and motivate others in the community to become Dementia Champions too. Promotional and informational materials are available through ACT on Alzheimer’s, but might be modified with a little LILA Girl Scout flare!
Working with Homeless Older Adults: A Care Manager’s Perspective
By Mary Hoffman, AEA Scholar, MSW
Class of 2016

On Nov. 20, the Area of Emphasis on Aging (AEA) Scholars hosted the event “Working with Homeless Older Adults: A Care Manager’s Perspective” featuring a presentation by Marilyn Cooper M.S.W ’04, a care manager at Catholic Charities.

Audience members were captivated and inspired by her engaging and informative talk about her work at Dorothy Day Center with homeless older adults. In addition, Cooper was joined by Mitch Mack, a speaker on homelessness issues and formerly a homeless older adult, who facilitated the Q & A period of the presentation.

Non-perishable food and winter-wear items were collected and donated to homeless older adults through the generous contributions of students, faculty and community members.

AEIR Event Explores Realities of Refugee Resettlement
By Amanda Ament-Lemke, AEIR Scholar, MSW Class of 2019

On Dec. 14, the AEIR Scholars hosted a panel discussion and conversation, “Refugees Locally and Abroad: Refugee Resettlement in Minnesota.” The panel was composed of Laura Svoboda, MSW, LISW, the assistant director of refugee services at the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC); Saw Ball Lone, a Karen refugee from Burma; and Zahara Said, an Ethiopian refugee from Djibouti.

The event brought approximately 50 people together, many of whom brought donated winter items for MCC to distribute to refugees. The mixture of students, faculty and community members led to an excellent discussion that was especially relevant given current public debate about whether refugees represent a humanitarian crisis or a risk to national security. Underlying some of this discourse is a lack of clear understanding of who the refugee families are and the extensive screening processes already implemented by the U.S. government.

Svoboda offered a definition and description of refugees and provided an overview of the long and rigorous screening and preparation processes all refugees undergo in order to eventually resettle in Minnesota. She highlighted refugees’ resilience and strength. She also offered specific information about the status of Syrian refugees. The refugee panelists gave personal testimonies about their life journeys, their experiences at refugee camps abroad and the challenges of fleeing their home communities to start anew in a safer place.

Prompted by an audience member to discuss what Minnesotans can do locally to help newly resettled refugees, Svoboda discussed volunteer and advocacy opportunities with MCC, including group or individual co-sponsorship of new refugees through a befriending program focused on helping refugees get connected to the community. Svoboda discussed the limited resources many refugees come with and their tight budgets; with this reality, MCC welcomes in-kind donations of home furnishings, household items, and new or gently used clothing to help refugees begin their new lives in Minnesota.

For more information on Refugee Services at the Minnesota Council of Churches and available volunteer opportunities, please visit www.mnchurches.org/refugeeservices. To view Svoboda’s presentation and additional resources, visit the event page at www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/DecAEIRevent
Powerful Two-part Event Honors Veterans Day

On Nov. 13, the AEMP Scholars hosted students, colleagues and the community for a powerful two-part event at the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University.

Carol Chase, associate professor and chair of the Department of Art and Art History, kicked off the event with a guided tour of David Byrd’s “War is Always With Us” exhibit. Byrd was a night orderly from 1958-88 in the psychiatric ward of the VA medical hospital in Montrose, New York, which inspired the paintings selected for the St. Kate’s show. This series of paintings illustrated the daily routines and individual personalities of institutionalized veterans and the isolation and desperation of mental illness.

Attendees then screened “The Invisible War,” a documentary about sexual assault in the military. Trista Matascastillo, veteran and chair of the Minnesota Women Veterans Initiative, and Linda Van Egeren, PhD, a military sexual trauma coordinator and psychologist at the Minneapolis VA, led a discussion about healing the wounds of this “invisible war.”

Therapeutic Riding Program Inspires AEMP Scholars

By Maggie Graham, MSW Class of 2016

In June, AEMP Scholars, spent an afternoon at Majestic Hills Ranch to learn about their Heroes on Horseback therapeutic riding program. Majestic Hills Ranch was founded in 1997 by the organization’s chair, Kim Howard, after she saw the amazing benefits and joy it brought her granddaughter who was born with a terminal respiratory disease.

In 2010, the Heroes on Horseback program was created for veterans who have been injured or disabled in some way. Larry Johnson, the executive director of the program, gave the AEMP Scholars a tour of the ranch, presented its history and detailed some of the incredible transformations he has seen clients make in the therapeutic riding programs.

Learn more about therapeutic riding and opportunities to volunteer at www.majestichillsranch.org
DSW Update

DSW Student Engagement: Who Says Online Learning Can’t Be Fun?

By Dr. Carol Kuechler, DSW program director

What is student engagement? With active interactions in both formal (course-based) and informal (Facebook, texting, phone calls, conference attendance) ways, our DSW students engage with one another constantly.

In our formal online learning environment, we’ve found that good “netiquette” is crucial in supporting group process and student engagement during our Adobe Connect synchronous sessions. Specifically, we’ve learned the importance of students and faculty consistently using USB-connected headsets to hear, speak and avoid unnecessary difficulties in communication during the precious time we have together online. The challenge? Getting students to want to use them!

Responding to this challenge, and to an article that stated “online learning isn’t fun,” Dr. Barbara Shank staged a contest for the best decorated headset in honor of Halloween during the program’s first online course. Associated photos illustrate Shank and her students preparing for a synchronous session that she described as “the most fun and engaging online session I’ve ever participated in.” See Mindy Eaves’ winning headgear, below:

In a remarkable show of professional, informal engagement, 13 of our DSW students were present at the national educators meeting, the 61st Annual Program Meeting (APM) of the Council on Social Work Education: Social Work on the Frontiers of Change from Oct. 15-18 in Denver, Colorado. We were especially excited to welcome most of them at the GADE (Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education) breakfast for doctoral students. Both cohort 1 and cohort 2 were well-represented, constituting the largest group of students from one program. As conference attendees – some for the first time – our students were busy representing their programs in a variety of activities related to hiring, accreditation consultations, attending presentations and presenting their work as scholars.

Examples of their presentations at APM are listed here:

Cini Bretzlafl-Holstein:

Laura Escobar-Ratliff:


Terri Klemm:

Who says online learning isn’t fun? Dr. Barbara Shank staged a contest for the best decorated headset in honor of Halloween during the program’s first online course.
St. Thomas Community-based Research Grants

2016 Recipients:
This fall, two BSW students were awarded St. Thomas Collaborative Inquiry Grants to do community-based research spring semester with faculty mentor, Dr. Ande Nesmith, in collaboration with a community partner. This is an extremely competitive grant process that includes a generous stipend. We look forward to seeing the results from these students in 2016:

Emily Titus: Welcoming Refugees in Minnesota.
Collaborating with Lutheran Social Services

Collaborating with Connections to Independence

2015 Recipients:
On Oct. 6, BSW students Carissa Franklin, Stephanie Lien and Ellen Mathiowetz presented their 2015 community-based research at the “Inquiry at UST” poster session held at the University of St. Thomas.

BSW Social Work Club
By Natalie Thoreson, Class of 2017

During the fall semester the Social Work Club met approximately twice a month to discuss issues relative to the social work field. Some meetings included discussions on voting and policy action. The club also had the opportunity to attend a joint meeting with the Psychology Club to hear from a panel representing the psychology and social work master’s programs. We also had an informal discussion about social justice issues and research projects that current students are working on. The social work club ended the year with a holiday party and made cards for a local nursing home. We look forward to another great semester in the spring.

UST/SCU BSW Social Work Club

Congratulations to Ross Aalgaard MSW ’09, DSW, whose first article, “A literature review of forgiveness as a beneficial intervention to increase relationship satisfaction in couples therapy” has been published in the Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment. Aalgaard is currently assistant professor of social work, tenure-track, at Minnesota State University – Mankato. In addition to teaching, he also works one day a week as a psychotherapist at Mankato Marriage and Family Therapy Center.

Social Work Students Register Over 100 Campus Voters
BSW students in the Social Policy for Social Change class carried out a multi-stage voter registration and engagement project during fall 2015. They were trained in non-partisan voter registration by staff from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. They worked to register student voters on both campuses, and then to educate and inform them about upcoming elections, both in 2015 and 2016. By the November 2015 elections, they had registered over 100 campus voters.

Teron Buford, BSW ’10 and current MSW student
Teron Buford is the president-elect of MnACC, the Minnesota Association for Counselors of Color, an organization of roughly 60 colleges and universities with the goal of bringing access to first-generation and students of color. Buford is currently an assistant director of admissions and the coordinator of multicultural recruitment at the University of St. Thomas.

BSW students offering voter registration on the St. Thomas campus
MSWSA Open Baskets Volunteer Day a Huge Success

Once again, the MSW Student Association had a great turnout for their annual Open Baskets volunteer day on Nov. 21. Students, faculty, staff, friends and family joined other volunteers for a morning of inspiration and volunteerism, assembling holiday gift baskets for neighbors living with a mental illness.

Since 2005, Open Baskets has partnered with Mental Health Resources, "filling the hearts, minds and souls of our neighbors who live with a mental illness." For many, these baskets are the only gift they receive each year. In 2015, Open Baskets distributed 1,600 holiday baskets for adults and 200 for children – this represented over 51,000 individual items worth over $125k!

In addition to sponsorships and donations, Open Baskets raises money through its annual Dash-it-for-Baskets 5k. Join the MSWSA on May 14 for our fourth year of supporting this event. Last year Open Baskets raised $13,000; this year the goal is $25k! Help by creating a team and seeking pledges or by volunteering with the race. More info to come!

A Passion for International Volunteerism Motivates Alumna to 'Raise the Standard'

An update from Hilary Hampton BSW '14

My first volunteer experience came in 2012, when I spent my summer break working in an orphanage in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This was a wonderful experience, so after my graduation from college, I signed up for more. In August 2014, I took off for Southeast Asia, spending six months volunteering in Cambodia, Thailand, India, Nepal and China. I taught English to impoverished students in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; planted banana trees, dug irrigation canals and helped build a foundation for a foster home with the hill tribes in northern Thailand (pictured here); served as a classroom aide for disabled children in Faridabad, India; and spent a month shadowing physicians at a teaching hospital in Chitwan, India. Lastly, I devoted my time to the upkeep and development of a home for disabled children in Xi’an, China. These collective experiences opened my eyes to the realm of international volunteerism and enhanced my cultural sensitivity to the needs and wants of those I was trying to help.

I’ve been in Australia, working as an au pair, backpacking, and doing a short stint at door knocking and fundraising for the charity Save the Children when I was in Melbourne. In November I spent a month in Vietnam, then traveled to Israel and hiked the Israel National Trail.

I plan to start the MA in International Development program in fall 2016 at University College Dublin. Through all of my experiences, I’ve come to the conclusion that volunteer work is sometimes of questionable value. My intention in pursuing a career in international development rests in the concept of holding proper qualifications and knowledge before attempting to work within a foreign country. I hope to raise the standard for international volunteerism and to use my own education to make a positive difference and contribution to the work abroad, both with the locals and with the volunteers who come to help.
BSW Student Bridges Policy and Practice
Undergraduate student Bao Lee was invited by Sen. Greg Clausen to attend a monthly state senators’ meeting to talk about student loan debt. Lee had connected with Clausen during her social work policy class and he contacted her to attend the meeting in June to share information, with Democratic senators and to advocate on behalf of all college students at both graduate and undergraduate levels.


While the University of St. Thomas has only been a co-educational institution since 1977, women have played important leadership roles throughout the life of the university. In 2014 the University of St. Thomas Women Faculty Leadership Council put forth a call for proposals to document these women leaders through the university’s history and their contributions to its success. In October 2014, the School of Social Work was awarded the UST Women’s History Project Grant for the project, “Women’s Work: Women in Leadership in Social Work.” This video project documents the long-held leadership roles that women have played in the School of Social Work at the University of St. Thomas, specifically focused on three prominent women leaders: Dr. Barbara Shank, Dr. Angeline Barretta-Herman and Dr. Janice Andrews-Schenk (all pictured below).

The following videos and article can be viewed at: www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/womenswork

Video #1: Two Universities – One Mission: The History of the School of Social Work
Video #2: A Builder and a Visionary – Dean Barbara Shank
Video #3: Women Leaders in the School of Social Work
  • An International Perspective – Dr. Angeline Barretta-Herman
  • A Radical Social Worker and Scholar – Dr. Janice Andrews-Schenk


Kimberly Rorie MSW Class of 2016, AEMP Scholar, was first author on a poster at the American Public Health Conference in Chicago, Illinois, and second author on a poster for the Geriatric Society of America Conference in Orlando, Florida. Additionally, she is co-author of a book chapter on older veterans in J. Beder’s second edition of Military Social Work due out in June.

Nora Smyth BSW ’14, MSW Class of 2017, engaged in research on the Environmental Justice in Social Work Practice Study. This study entailed surveying a random sample of licensed Minnesota social workers on their experiences with clients facing environmental injustice. She contributed to analyzing the qualitative data in the fall 2014 semester and co-authored a published paper (with Dr. Ande Nesmith) that was in print this September. Smyth co-presented her findings with two faculty.

Dr. Jessica Toft, associate professor, is now serving as president-elect for NASW-MN. Jessica will assume the role of President in summer 2016.

Sarah Ferguson
Dr. Ferguson has served as the faculty speaker at St. Catherine University since June 2014. In this role she is the lead for St. Catherine University faculty governance and represents the faculty in their engagement with St. Catherine administration. St. Catherine University is in the midst of exciting transition as it re-visions the Evening Weekend Online program and engages in a search for a new president. Dr. Ferguson has been granted the great honor of serving on the search team to identify a new president.
Diane Bauer Conferred Emerita Status at the University of St. Thomas

As stated in her notification letter from President Julie Sullivan, “The conferral of this status is richly deserved and a fitting gesture for one who provided 17 years of dedicated service to this university. In your case, emerita status recognizes special strengths: your intellectual vitality, your commitment to teaching, and a generosity of spirit that will continue to shape our Social Work programs for years to come. Further, while emerita status need not necessarily gauge a professor’s popularity, yours recognizes the large measure of personal friendship and tremendous respect you have earned among peers and students alike.”

We couldn’t agree more. Congratulations Diane!


Dr. Laurelle Bidwell Now available in a bookstore near you, *Mixed Methods Research for Social Work* presents a step-by-step framework for constructing a mixed methods research project, along with a model for how social workers can play a sustaining role in the future of mixed methods research. In the first full-length mixed methods research text for social workers, Wendy Haight and Laurel Bidwell illustrate the essential compatibility of social work and mixed method research.

Dr. Catherine Marrs Fuchsel with community partners Roxana Linares and Maria Padilla (not pictured: Ana Abugattas and Leigh Hartenberg)

**Dr. Catherine Marrs Fuchsel** Congratulations to Dr. Catherine Marrs Fuchsel and her community partner, Centro, whose article, “Sí, Yo Puedo Curricular: Latinas Examining Domestic Violence and Self,” was accepted in *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*. Marrs Fuchsel’s work is highlighted in the St. Kate’s news story, “Professor’s curriculum project empowers women on the fringes.” As this article states, “Marrs Fuchsel has found her life’s calling addressing the needs of some of society’s most vulnerable women: Latinas living in the U.S. with no immigration status, unfamiliar with the language and culture, and being physically and verbally abused by an intimate partner.”

Read full article: news.stkate.edu/articles/marrs-fuchsel_2015.html

Congratulations once again to professor Pa Der Vang, who completed the Twin Cities Marathon in four hours, 14 minutes and six seconds!
Fall 2015 Professional Notes


**Eva Solomonson:** Solomonson, E. (June 2015). “Collaborating with language interpreters to build more effective bridges to non-English speaking clients.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Social Workers, St. Paul, Minnesota.


**Miriam Itzkowitz:** Itzkowitz, M. (August 2015). Postpartum depression: Expecting the unexpected. St. John’s Hospital, Maplewood, Minnesota.


**CSWE-APM 2015**


**Participants included:**
- **Barbara W. Shank**, dean and professor, presided over many sessions and receptions in her roles as the CSWE board chair (2013-16; 2016-19) and president of the International Consortium on Social Development.
- **Lisa Richardson**, MSS, LICSW, director of MSW field education, organized and led numerous sessions in her roles as the president and treasurer of the North American Network of Field Educators and Directors and member of the CSWE Council on Field Education.
- **Jessica Toft**, MSW, PhD, LISW, assistant professor, presented two paper presentations.
- **Katharine Hill**, MPP, MSW, PhD, LISW, associate professor, presented two paper presentations.
- **Kari Fletcher**, MSW, PhD, LICSW, assistant professor, presented one paper presentation.
- **Ande Nesmith**, MSW, PhD, LISW, assistant professor, presented three paper presentations.
- **Carol Kuechler**, MSW, PhD, LISW, DS program director, presented one paper presentation.
- **Katie Christophersen**, BSW, presented one paper presentation.
- **Carolyn Lokensgard**, MSW, presented one paper presentation.


**Hill, K. & Koester, S. (2015).** (All he needed was love): An examination of the impact of permanency on young adults’ special education experiences. Children and Schools. doi: 10.1093/cs/cdv016


Group Work Institute
By Kathy Caron

On Nov. 6, 2015, the Group Work Institute hosted a training titled “Voices of Strength: Narrative Therapy in Group Work.” The workshop was facilitated by Kirsten Romness MSW ’07, current MSW field instructor. Romness is an LICSW and recreation therapist in private practice and employed at the W. Jepson Day Treatment Program of Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Romness has developed a narrative therapy group work design with a focused intention on treatment services for psychosis. Romness led participants through an interactive and enriching morning that was attended by 69 people. Participants walked away with a broader understanding and application of group work and narrative therapy.

Advanced Clinical Practice Institute
In collaboration with the Minnesota Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy & Psychoanalysis (MICPP), ACPI hosted Donna Orange, PhD, PsyD, presenting “My Other’s Keeper: Sustaining the Ethical Turn In Psychoanalysis” on Oct.24. The content of this conference grew out of Orange’s profound empathic connection with her patients. Her clinical work has focused on lived experience and its meanings for her patients. She describes psychoanalysis as a process of “making sense together,” and as “a human conversation about meaning for the purpose of organizing troubled worlds.”

On April 29, ACPI is once again looking forward to co-sponsoring the Hamm Clinic Bob Nesheim Conference being held at St. Catherine University. This year’s conference will feature William Doherty, PhD, presenting “Soul Searching: Therapy and the Ethical Lives of Our Clients.”

Welcome to the School of Social Work:

Robin R. Whitebird, MSW, PhD, LISW associate professor in the Doctorate of Social Work program. Prior to joining us she worked as a research scientist in the area of health care and aging; she received her MSW and PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Renee Hepperlen, AM, PhD, LICSW assistant professor. Hepperlen has her master’s degree in social work from the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration and received her PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Melissa Lundquist, MSW, PhD, LGSW assistant professor. Lundquist has her MSW from Fordham University and her PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Tanya Rand, MSW, LICSW, clinical faculty. Prior to joining us full time in September, Rand taught as an adjunct and served as longtime field instructor. Rand teaches MSW clinical field seminar and is the coordinator of aging services. Rand has a master’s degree from St. Catherine University – University of St. Thomas and is currently completing her doctorate of education in leadership at St. Mary’s University.

Christa Bobick joined the School of Social Work in October 2015 as the field information coordinator. Prior to joining SSW, she worked at CVS Corporate as an operations analyst. She has a degree in photography and graphic design from Concordia University St. Paul.

John Kupris, BA ’87, MDiv ’89, EdS ’06. A graduate of three St. Thomas degree programs, Kupris joined the University of St. Thomas as the director of development for the School of Social Work this fall.

Loan-forgiveness Program Encourages Mental Health Professionals to Work in Underserved Areas

Excerpt from MinnPost article by Andy Steiner, Dec.4, 2015

Beginning this year, mental health professionals have been added to the Minnesota Loan Forgiveness Program, which was developed to ease the debt burden of health care workers and encourage them to work in an underserved area of the state. This means that a cohort of recent mental health graduates willing to work for three to four years in one of the state’s designated Health Professional Shortage Areas will receive funding to pay off an average of 60 percent of their college and graduate school loans.

See link to full article at www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/news
**Upcoming Events**

**February**

**Feb. 26 – Supervision Institute:**
BSW Supervision: "The Basics of Generalist, Agency-Based Supervision", featuring Jane Hurley Johncox, MSW, LICSW. McNeely Hall, Room 100, St. Thomas (CEHs)

**March**

**March is Social Work Month!**
Check the event calendar for daily activities scheduled during the week of March 7.

**March 11 – Group Work Institute:** "Ethics and Group Work."
McNeely Hall, Room 100, St. Thomas (CEHs)

**April**

**Bonnie Jean Kelly and Joan Kelly Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture, featuring Rachel Lloyd. TO BE RE-SCHEDULED IN 2017**
The School of Social Work’s 2015-16 annual theme is Justice for Victims of Human Trafficking. In keeping with this theme, the School of Social Work’s 2016 Justice Lecture was to be combined with St. Catherine University’s Bonnie Jean Kelly and Joan Kelly Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture featuring Rachel Lloyd. Lloyd, a survivor of trafficking, is the founder and chief executive officer of Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) in New York City, and a leader in the passage of New York’s Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act (2008). Lloyd’s visit has had to be re-scheduled to 2017. More information to come.

**April 29 – The Advanced Clinical Practice Institute, co-sponsoring:**
Hamm Clinic Bob Nesheim Conference, “Soul Searching: Therapy and the Ethical Lives of Our Clients”, featuring William Doherty, PhD, Coeur de Catherine Ballroom, St. Kate’s (CEHs)

**May**

**May 14 – Dash-it-for-Baskets 5k**
Supported by the MSWSA

**May 16 – Clinical Research Paper Presentation Day**
All are invited to join our MSW students as they present their clinical research papers throughout the day.
McNeely Hall, Room 100, St. Thomas (CEHs)

**August**

**Aug. 2 – Field Practice Institute:**
Annual Summit on Emerging Issues in Social Work Practice. Coeur de Catherine Ballroom, St. Kate’s (CEHs)

Details, registration and events for specific audiences: www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/events

**Keep us POSTED!**

The School of Social Work wants to know what is new with you.
Tell us about your career advancements, papers, honors and achievements, and we will include this information in our notes section. Simply visit www.stthomas.edu/socialwork/alumni, and update and include the information you’d like to highlight in the comments section.

**Stay connected online!**

Find us on facebook
St. Kate’s – St. Thomas School of Social Work

Join us at LinkedIn
SCU-UST School of Social Work Student/Alumni group

Check out the School of Social Work website: www.stthomas.edu/socialwork

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Sarah Ferguson, BSW & MSW program director
Carol Kuechler, DSW program director
Carey Winkler, BSW field education director
Lisa Richardson, MSW field education director
Kathy Caron, MSW field weekend cohort coordinator
George Baboila, director, Social Work Services,
Interprofessional Center for Counseling and Legal Services
Laurel Bidwell
Mary Ann Brenden
Michael Chovanec
Kari Fletcher
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Catherine Mars Fuchsel
Ande Nesmith
Lance Peterson
Tanya Rand
David Roseborough
Eva Solomonson
Jessica Toft
Pa Der Vang
Robin Whitebird

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Diane Bauer
Jacob Blumberg
Michele Braley
Christine Dawson
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Teresa George
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