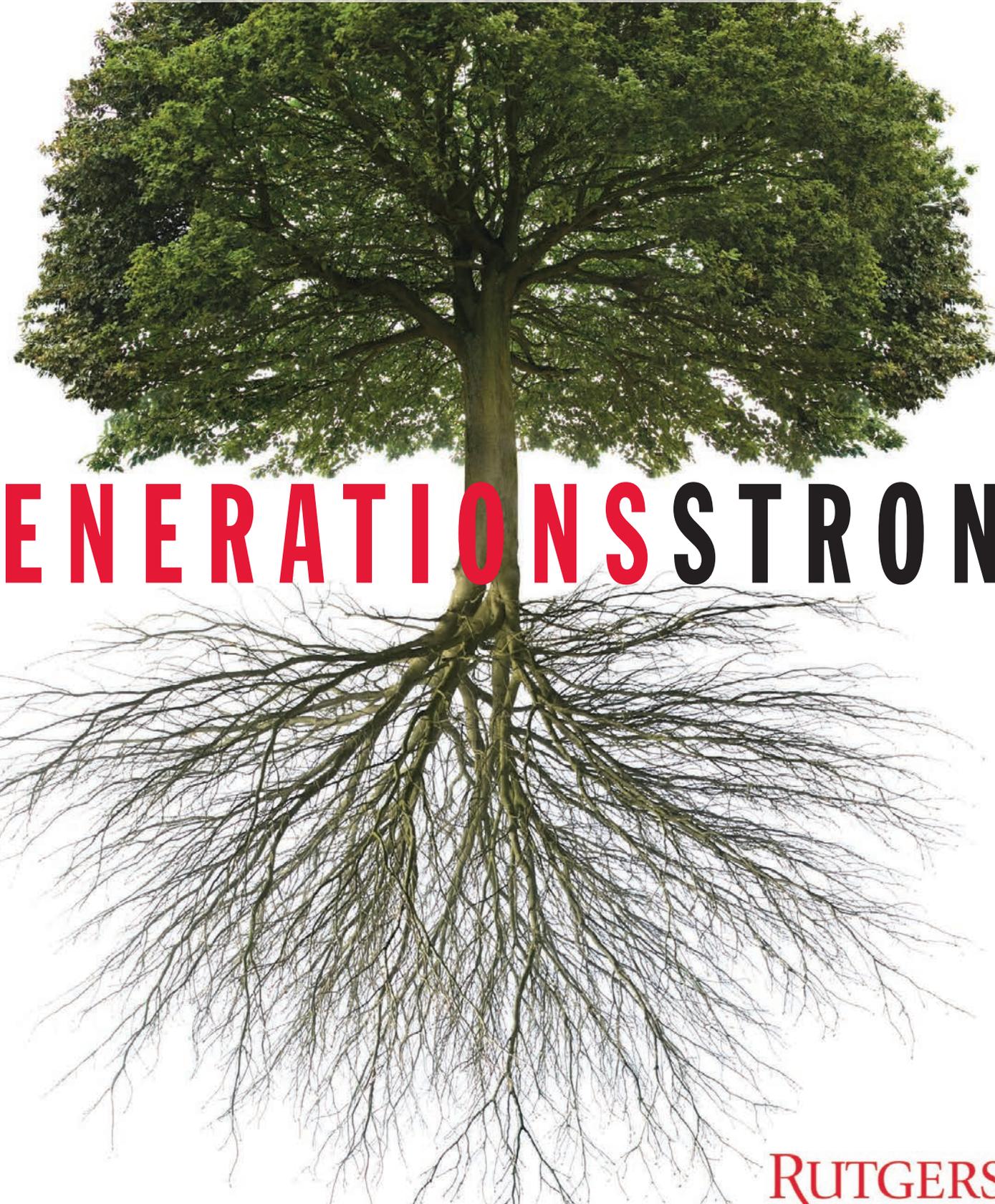


PARTNERING *for* CHANGE

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE RUTGERS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



GENERATIONS STRONG

RUTGERS

School of Social Work



“We need to remember across generations that there is as much to learn as there is to teach.”

GLORIA STEINEM

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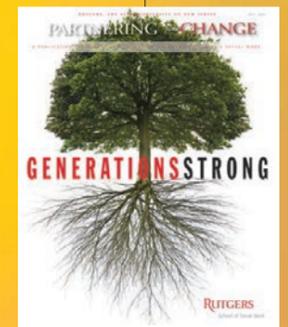
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Rutgers School of Social Work alumni with familial ties share what Generations Strong means to them.



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FALL 2020

PARTNERING *for* CHANGE

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DEAN
AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cathryn C. Potter, MSW, Ph.D.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND EDITOR

Laurie Zazenski

EDIT AND MEDIA SPECIALIST

Madison Molner

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Melissa Kvidahl Reilly
Laurie Zazenski

PHOTOGRAPHY

Pete Byron
Roy Groething
John O'Boyle
Laurie Zazenski

PUBLICATION DESIGN

Eric Miller + Associates

We welcome your comments and
suggestions. Please email us with your
feedback or ideas to
mmoiner@ssw.rutgers.edu.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

As citizens of the world, we have been experiencing an unprecedented set of challenges as we continue to respond to COVID-19. By now, you have likely read about some of the precautions we took to protect our community, including moving course instruction online, supporting faculty and staff who are working remotely, and moving events onto virtual platforms. These decisions were made with the best information available and with an eye toward community health.

At the same time, we are also in a moment where we, as social workers, are being called to live out our values as professionals and as citizens. Rutgers School of Social Work recognizes that the murders, police brutality, and racial injustices that occurred earlier this year – a continuation of the more than 400 years of violent racism and murder in this land – have caused great suffering across our community. The loss of Black lives, including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, serves as a painful reminder of the systemic and institutionalized racism that have plagued the United States for centuries. They are also a reminder that we have much more work to do in the fight towards justice. This is a historic moment that we hope can serve as a catalyst to galvanize real and lasting change.

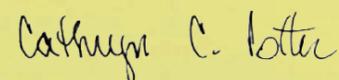
This semester, we have chosen to make the theme of our magazine generations strong. Initially a nod to NASW's theme for Social Work Month 2020, generations strong has particular relevance in this moment. Social work has been – and will continue to be – a profession that helps generations of people navigate the unique challenges they endure. Our job is to respond to these challenges with resilience and support our most vulnerable populations through the most difficult of times. You will read stories about two families that have several members who've attended Rutgers School of Social Work, a tie that strongly bonds multiple generations together. They share what generations strong means to them.

As social workers, we are going to keep learning many lessons as we continue to navigate through uncharted waters. We are going to recognize how much we need enhanced technology-aided intervention models and skills. We are going to learn a lot about community and personal anxiety-reduction needs and models. We are going to learn how to slow down the pace of life for a time, and how to manage the things our frenetic lives sometimes mask. We are going to enjoy the countless acts of selflessness and humanity we will see in our communities. We are going to have time to practice creative self-care approaches, and appreciate and care for those closest to us. I look forward to the conversations we will have about the lessons learned and the changes we will effect because of them.

I am extremely proud to be a social worker in these strange and difficult times. All of you working on the front lines, either in person or remotely, are critical to the future of our profession, our country, and our world. Social workers are everywhere, and we are needed everywhere now more than ever.

All of us at the School of Social Work continue to keep you and your loved ones in our thoughts, and we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Cathryn C. Potter, M.S.W., Ph.D.
DEAN AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
RUTGERS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Cheers

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2020 AT ITS VIRTUAL CONVOCATION CEREMONY

On Monday, May 18, Rutgers School of Social Work hosted a virtual convocation ceremony to recognize our BASW, MSW, DSW, and Ph.D. graduates.

Families and friends gathered virtually in support of their loved ones who have spent years of hard work completing their programs and tackling countless hours of class time, research, and field work. In total, 836 students earned a degree from the School of Social Work this year, including 681 MSW students, 140 BASW students, 14 DSW students, and 1 Ph.D. student.

Dean Cathryn C. Potter welcomed guests to the ceremony and recognized the many sacrifices our students have made over the past months during the pandemic.

Along with the conferral of the degrees, the School presented the following awards in recognition of our students' outstanding work:

- Dean's Dissertation Award: Ruby Orwenyo
- Outstanding MAP (Management and Policy) Student: Zoe Getz
- Outstanding Clinical Student: Dameon Stackhouse
- Outstanding MSW Student: Quaniya Jenkins
- Dean's Recognition Award for Excellence in Baccalaureate Social Work Education: Noelia Vicente
- Dean's Recognition Award for Excellence in Baccalaureate Social Work Education: Kendle Bryan
- Brian C. Wright Social Work Award: Sara Wickizer

In addition, faculty and staff members were presented the following awards:

- Outstanding Professor: Marla Blunt-Carter
- Most Supportive Professor: Mark Lamar
- Most Innovative Professor: Natalie Bembry
- Outstanding Part-Time Lecturer: Emily Atwell
- Outstanding Doctoral Student Instructor: James Hart
- Most Supportive Staff Member: Cynthia Reyes

To round out the program, student speaker Quaniya Jenkins, a member of the MSW Class of 2020, addressed the audience with words of encouragement and support. The audience was also treated to performances from Bryan Terrell Clark, an accomplished actor and singer/songwriter who has performed in Broadway's record-breaking hit *Hamilton*, and Christiana (Danielle) Hicks, a member of the MSW Class of 2020 who is a singer, songwriter, speaker, and was a Top 10 contestant on NBC's *The Voice* season 14.

Dean Potter concluded the ceremony with words of encouragement for the Class of 2020. "Graduates, you've been prepared for a long and impactful career in social work by an outstanding group of faculty and field instructors," she said. "We wish you every success. We know each of you will find creative ways to make a difference in this world in the lives of people and in the communities you serve. You are entering a new world at a time of great crisis and need. You are the future of our profession. This is not the end of our time together. You are a Rutgers social work grad now, and you will lead alongside the school for years to come. We are so very proud of you."

Congratulations, graduates, and welcome to the Rutgers School of Social Work alumni community!

FACULTY VOICES IN THE NEWS

"People who are homeless faced social isolation before the phrase social distancing entered our everyday lexicon and common experience. People who are homeless deserve our full attention and respect."

How do we keep the homeless safe during this crisis?

Associate Professor of Teaching, Director of the Baccalaureate Program and Coordinator of the Camden Program V. DuWayne Battle in *NJ.com*

"These findings fit with the idea that an orientation to helping others is a protective factor — something that is especially important for well-being when confronted with distressing life circumstances."

The Science of Helping Out

Associate Professor Emily Greenfield in *The New York Times* referencing her study on "felt obligation," which is measured by asking people questions such as how obligated they would feel to give money to a friend in need, even if it meant putting themselves in a bind.

"Having positive interactions with neighbors, as well as a strong sense of community more generally, are developmental assets and privileges to appreciate and enjoy."

Don't believe the haters. In the District, friendly neighbors are everywhere.

Associate Professor Emily Greenfield in *The Washington Post*

"Dog walking is a competitive business, while roughly 70% of home health workers are paid by Medicare and Medicaid. The government caps reimbursement for the service at a rate that — given operating costs and margins — makes for paltry wages."

Why dog walkers make more than childcare and eldercare workers

Associate Professor Jeounghee Kim in *Fortune*

"We saw multiple gaps in terms of research in rural settings even though these communities surpassed the urban overdose-death rate in 2015. Primarily, there are no long-term studies of treatment outcomes for rural patients, no attention to racial minorities in rural settings, limited attention to rural treatment barriers in the Midwest and no studies that asked rural patients for their perspectives on medication treatment."

Gaps remain in rural opioid crisis research

Assistant Professor Jamey Lister in *Medical Xpress*

"In these days of awful COVID-19 statistics, our assumptive worlds are in total disarray. Major losses inspire a sense that the next horrible event is right around the corner. Luckily, that does not make it true. Unfortunately, right now, the news indicates that threat does exist and this makes grieving so much harder."

Coping with grief in a time of COVID-19

Associate Professor Judith McCoyd in *NJ.com*

"We noticed a common theme among the women we spoke to — they were trying to force themselves to feel certain emotions like 'thinking positive' while trying to perform mind tricks to get themselves there. More surprisingly, the women informed us that they did not receive explicit advice on how to cope, think positive, or calm down."

Women with High-Risk Pregnancy May Need Professional Support

Associate Professor Judith McCoyd, Senior Associate Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Laura Curran, and Associate Professor Shari Munch in *PsychCentral*

"While I applaud the desire to reduce the stigma associated with drug offenses, I think working in a casino would be a high-risk environment for anyone in recovery, whether or not they have a criminal history, and I wouldn't recommend it. From a recovery perspective, we all know that individuals in recovery should avoid people, places, and things that could serve as relapse triggers."

New Jersey Drug Court Grads Can Now Work at Atlantic City Casinos

Lia Nower, Professor and Director of the Center for Gambling Studies and Addiction Counselor Training (ACT) Program in *Casino.org*

"As a former social worker working with people experiencing homelessness here in Jersey City, now professor and researcher of homeless services, I assure you Jersey City cannot afford a watered-down affordable housing plan that lets developers off the hook. We need to create more affordable housing now and we need to create it quickly or this housing affordability crisis will worsen over time."

Jersey City Council wants to make housing more affordable, but for whom? Opinion

Assistant Professor Emmy Tiderington in *NJ.com*

"One of the issues that drives abuse and neglect is stress. Everybody's stressed out now."

Social Work From a Social Distance: Coronavirus Forces U.S. Child Advocates to Adapt

Professor of Professional Practice Emeritus William Waldman in *The New York Times*

FACULTY ACCOLADES

FROM PUBLISHING
 GROUNDBREAKING
 RESEARCH TO
 EARNING SIGNIFICANT
 AWARDS, RUTGERS
 SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
 WORK IS PROUD TO
 SHARE SOME OF OUR
 FACULTY MEMBERS'
 MOST RECENT
 ACHIEVEMENTS.



Assistant Professor **Emily Adlin Bosk** authored the chapter "What counts? Quantification, worker judgment, and divergence in child welfare decision making" in *Human Service Organizations and the Question of Impact*.



Associate Professors **Ayse Akincigil** and **Emily Greenfield** published "Housing Plus Services, IADL Impairment, and



Healthcare Expenditures among Residents of Senior Housing: Evidence

from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey" in *The Gerontologist* and "Is College Completion Associated with Better Cognition in Later Life for People Who Are the Least, or Most, Likely to Obtain a Bachelor's Degree?" with Sara M. Moorman in *The Journals of Gerontology. Series B, Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*.



Assistant Professor **Vivien (Wen Li) Anthony**, Professor **Lia Nower**, and former post-doc **Devin Mills** co-authored two chapters in the upcoming book: *The Routledge Handbook of Social Work and Addictive Behaviors*. The first chapter, led by Dr. Anthony, "Internet Gaming Disorder and problematic technology use," highlights new and emerging issues around excessive video game play. The second chapter, "Gambling Disorder: The first behavioral addiction," led by Dr. Nower, provides an overview of the

evolution of gambling disorder and the nexus between gambling and interactive technologies.



Assistant Professor **Qiana L. Brown** authored the editorial "Possible unintended consequences for pregnant women of legalizing cannabis use" with Professor Deborah Hasin of Columbia University in *Addiction*. She also published the chapter "Disability and Addiction" in the second edition of *Addiction Medicine: Science and Practice*.



Assistant Professor **Laura Cuesta** published the paper "Nonstandard Work Schedules and Father Involvement Among Resident and Nonresident Fathers"

with Alejandra Ros Pilarz and Yonah Drazen in *Journal of Marriage and Family*.



Professor of Teaching and Director of the Intensive Weekend Program **Ericka Deglau**, Associate Professor **Ayse Akincigil**, alumna Anasuya Ray, and Part-Time Lecturer Jennifer Bauwens authored the chapter "What's in an MSW? Graduate education for public child welfare workers, intention, engagement, and work environment" in *Title IV-E Child Welfare Education Impact on Workers, Case Outcomes and Social Work Curriculum Development*.



Professor and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity

and Inclusion **Antoinette Farmer** published the book *Research Methods for Social Work: A Problem-Based Approach* with G. Lawrence Farmer.



Patricia Findley, Associate Professor, Director of the Master of Social Work Program, and Special Assistant to the Dean for Interprofessional Health Initiatives, authored the chapter "Disability Rights" in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Social Work*.



Kristen Gilmore Powell, Assistant Research Professor, Associate Director of the Center for

Prevention Science, and Director of the Northeast and Caribbean Prevention Technology Transfer Center, published "Emergency department-based peer support for opioid use disorder: Emergent functions and forms" with Alan B. McGuire, Peter C. Treitler, Karla D. Wagner, Krysti P. Smith, Nina Cooperman, Lisa Robinson, Jessica Carter, Bradley Ray, and Dennis P. Watson in *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.



Mark Lamar, Associate Professor of Professional Practice and Executive Director of the Office of Field Education, served as a volunteer strategic planning consultant to the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey, Inc. Together with the organization's Executive Director Elsa Candelario, Lamar conducted staff and board

retreats, analyzed stakeholder data, and drafted primary elements of the center's strategic plan.



Assistant Professor **Jamey Lister** authored the following publications: "Opioid prescribing and opioid-overdose deaths in Michigan: Urban-rural comparisons and changes across 2013–2017" with Jennifer D. Ellis and Miyoung Yoon in *Addictive Behaviors Reports*, and "A systematic review of rural-specific barriers to medication treatment for opioid use disorder in the United States" with Addie Weaver, Jennifer D. Ellis, Joseph A. Himle, and David M. Ledgerwood in *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*. **Jamey Lister**, **Mark van der Maas**, and **Lia Nower** co-authored a publication for clinicians, "Shedding Light on Gambling Disorder as an Addiction: A Guide for Practitioners" in the SAMSHA

Newsletter, *ATTC Messenger*.



Assistant Professor **Felix Muchomba** has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to support Muchomba's study examining policy levers that have the potential to improve and reduce disparities in maternal health in New Jersey. The two-year grant is the largest RWJF grant received in the School's history.



Assistant Professor **Gabriel Robles Alberto** authored "The Influence of Shared or Separate Partner Residence on

HIV Testing Among Latino Immigrants in the United States" with Jane Lee and Jessica Lapham in *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. He also published "Motivational interviewing with male couples to reduce substance use and HIV risk: Manifestations of partner discord and strategies for facilitating dyadic functioning" with Tyrel J. Starks, Kendell M. Doyle, Mark Pawson, Paula Bertone, Brett M. Millar, and Karen S. Ingersoll in *Psychotherapy*.

Ph.D. candidate **Jordan J. Steiner**, Laura Johnson, Associate Professor & Director, Bloustein Public Policy Program Andrea Hetling, and Judy L. Postmus, published "Creating a Tool for Assessing Domestic Violence Risk and Impact Among TANF Clients" in *Advances in Social Work*.

Assistant Professor **Emmy Tiderington** was bestowed the Woman of Action Award from the City of Jersey City. She also authored the article "Medicaid Utilization and



Spending among Homeless Adults in New Jersey: Implications for Medicaid-Funded Tenancy Support Services" with Joel C. Cantor, Sujoy Chakravarty, Jose Nova, Taiisa Kelly, Derek Delia, and Richard W. Brown in *The Milbank Quarterly*.



Assistant Professor **Mark van der Maas** authored "Acceptability of Internet-based interventions for problem gambling: a qualitative study of focus groups with clients and clinicians" with Sherald Sanchez, Farah Jindani, Jing Shi, Sylvia Hagopian, Robert Murray, and Nigel Turner in *BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making*.



Assistant Professor **Abigail Williams-Butler** authored "Relationship Between Coping Strategies and Peer Victimization Among Low-Income African American Youth Living in Chicago" with Jun Sung Hong, Rachel C. Garthe, Jinwon Kim, and Dexter R. Voisin in *Child & Youth Care Forum*. Williams-Butler was also co-awarded a research grant "Weapons, Violence, and Trauma in the Juvenile Justice Population" with



Assistant Professor **Jacquelynn Duron** from the Center on Gun Violence Research at Rutgers University. ■

FIVE THINGS THAT MATTER

NEW FACULTY: **FIVE** OBJECTS THAT MATTER

R

utgers School of Social Work is pleased to announce the appointment of five new faculty members.

Professor of Professional Practice Elsa Candelario is a well-known expert on health and human services issues who served as Executive Director of the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey, Inc. for 20 years prior to joining Rutgers. She is currently a LCSW in New Jersey and provides clinical supervision to social work students and social work professionals. She further continues direct clinical social work practice with individuals.

Margaret O'Donoghue, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice & Coordinator for the Certificate on Child Well Being Program, researches children and adolescents, interracial parenting, race and ethnicity, emigrant experiences, school social work, trauma responses in schools (especially after non-school related homicides), and social work supervision.

Assistant Professor and Chancellor's Scholar for Inclusive Excellence in Sexual and Gender Minority Health Gabriel Robles Alberto's research interests include the health of sexual and gender minorities, motivational interviewing, Latinx health inequities, and bilingual intervention development.

Assistant Professor of Teaching & Coordinator for the Aging and Health Certificate Program Lauren Snedeker's research interests include aging experience, mental health during older adulthood, and caregiving.

Assistant Professor Hannah Szlyk's research focuses on suicidality among underserved youth and the use of technology-enhanced interventions. Her work aims to understand how technology-enhanced interventions can be developed, tailored, and implemented to meet youth needs and address barriers to care.

We asked each of them to identify five meaningful objects in their homes or offices.

01/ FAMILY PHOTO

For me, family represents unconditional love and a daily dose goes a long way. This photo was taken many years ago when my husband and I were regularly told "small children, small problems." I smile to think back on that simple statement that has proven to be incredibly wise, although today, even big children do not seem like big problems in comparison to world events. For me, the family photo has a grounding quality.



02/ MULTICULTURAL TRINKETS

Two decades ago, our summer youth training program participants made the ceramic Puerto Rican flag and gifted it to me during their closing ceremony. Since then, it has traveled with me through three office relocations. I appreciate that peers and co-workers have shared with me both culture and travel which are embodied in the many trinkets that adorn my space. They remind me that New Jersey's diversity is one of its many treasures.



03/ STATE OF NJ PROCLAMATION

This was the first government proclamation that I received in recognition of my career in social work. It was an honor to be acknowledged for service and leadership in conjunction with individuals from the business, education, and faith-based communities. The recognition specifically noted that the honorees embodied the spirit of "brotherhood" defined as serving all in the community. It was a proud moment to receive the proclamation signed by NJ's first and only female governor.



Elsa Candelario

04/ SESAME STREET PLUSHIES

My own childhood was filled with pleasant memories of learning from Elmo, Big Bird, and the rest of the Sesame Street cast. Many years later, the experience was replicated by my own children. Recently, the warm fuzzies made their way into my professional life when my organization was selected to embed "Sesame Street in Communities" tools into our practice. I marvel at the reincarnation of the cast of characters throughout my life and their ability to teach, heal, and instill resilience.



05/ ORGANIZATION'S MISSION

In 1997, I was the recently hired Executive Director of the Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey, Inc. who relocated to Camden and began to work with a new staff and board. Through a focused and inclusive process, we developed a mission for the organization that has endured the test of time. Throughout our buildings and in my office, the mission was kept visibly displayed as a reminder of our important role of service and advocacy within the community.

FIVE THINGS THAT MATTER



01/ OCEAN
Living close to the ocean has always been a dream of mine. Two years ago we moved to the Jersey Shore, and I get to walk on the beach every day. It fortifies my soul. I took this picture in April 2020 when the world wasn't in such good shape, but this sight lifted my spirit.

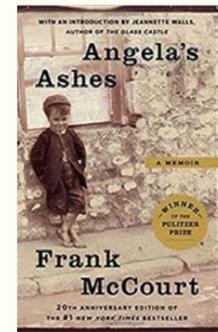


02/ MY MOTHER'S RING
I don't wear a lot of jewelry, but my one cherished piece is this ring passed to me by my mother. She had nine children, so the fact that she choose to give me such a loved object touched me greatly. It probably isn't worth much monetarily, but I guard it with my life!



Margaret O'Donoghue

03/ Ph.D. DIPLOMA
I was the first person in my family to attend college. My Ph.D. represents so much to me, including my family's dreams, the dreams of immigrants, and the possibilities open to my children. It took a lot of hard work, but I have never regretted it and feel privileged it has led me to Rutgers.



04/ ANGELA'S ASHES
I have always loved to read. I particularly like autobiographies because I love hearing people's stories, which is why I am a social worker. *Angela's Ashes* is set in Limerick, Ireland where I grew up, and my mother even knew some of the women depicted in the book. I feel an affinity, therefore, for the location and the cadence of the language. I can hear a Limerick accent as I read it.

05/ FRAMED POSTER
This is a framed poster commemorating the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to Newark during the Poor People's Campaign, eight days before he was assassinated. I worked in Newark Public Schools for nineteen years, and my daughter lives in Newark. The city has a special place in my heart. As a social worker, I am always reminded that the fight for social justice is still ongoing.



01/ A CUP OF COFFEE
I always seem to have a cup of cold brew coffee in hand. Admittedly, you will likely see me drinking this even during a winter snow storm. Don't get me wrong, I'd happily sip on a hot cup of joe; I just prefer some ice, soymilk, and an environmentally-friendly straw.

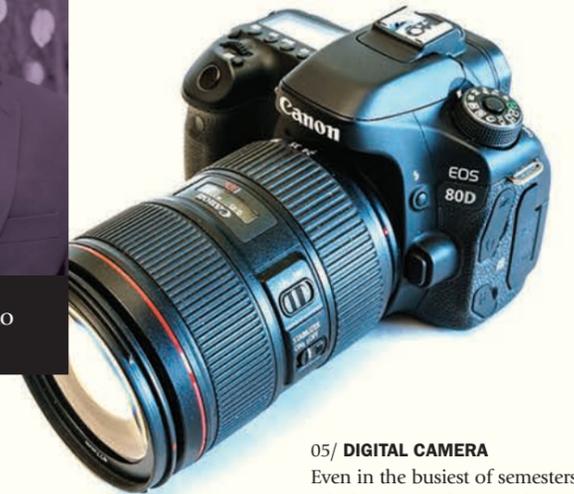


03/ APPLE TV REMOTE
Since grad school, I never had time to watch live TV, so I became reliant on services like Netflix and Hulu. To this day, I watch nearly all my TV this way. I always have something playing in the background like CNN, last week's episode of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, or even a brand new show that a friend recommended.

02/ DOG LEASHES
The one thing that wakes me up each day, makes sure I get home on time, and reminds me to take a break while working from home, is the perpetual dog walk. I love my dogs and I always make time for this. Any dog parent knows that we don't have dogs – dogs have humans!

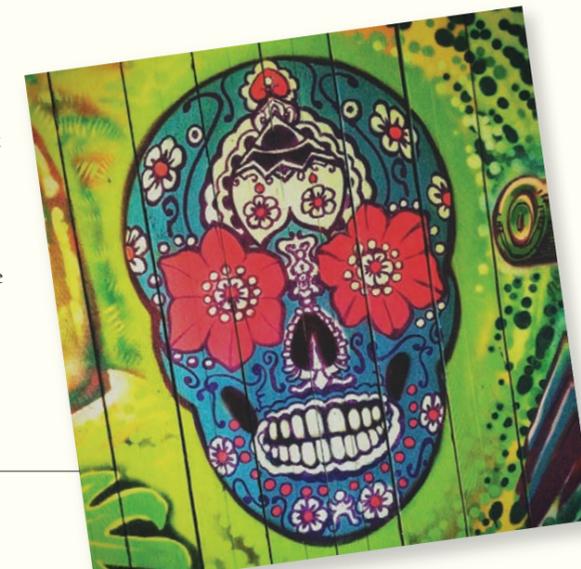


Gabriel Robles Alberto



05/ DIGITAL CAMERA
Even in the busiest of semesters, I find time to refine my photography skills. I always read blogs or watch videos on how to get the best pictures on an iPhone and fancy digital camera. Whether it's walking around the park, around campus, or on a restful weekend in Asbury Park, I always have my digital camera or phone handy. Remember, the best camera is the one that's with you.

04/ PAINTING OF A SUGAR SKULL
My family always had an ofrenda, an altar set up to honor the memory of dead family members, set up in our house all year long. My mother also set aside space to place pictures of important childhood milestones such as birthdays and even photos of our youth soccer teams. She told us it was important for our family members to celebrate our successes – even in the afterlife. To this day, I make sure to continue this practice by having a sugar skull in my office and home.



FIVE THINGS THAT MATTER



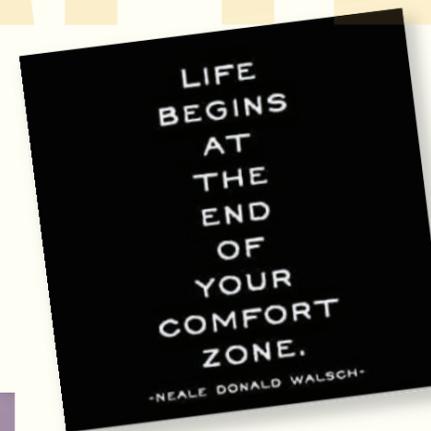
01/ COFFEE MUG
Like most people, I am completely reliant on coffee to start my day. I enjoy it in this mug that a dear friend bought for me.



04/ MAGNETS
I love to travel! I collect magnets from each place I have visited. Most recently, my husband and I drove along the coast from Vancouver to San Clemente, California for our honeymoon. For our next trip, we hope to go south for some warm weather.



01/ MY PARTNER'S ARTWORK
My partner, Jake, enjoys making art with a 1980s pen plotter. He uses digital data, from sound waves to basketball statistics, to feed into the plotter. This piece is from his NBA "small forwards" series, which visualized specific players' shot records using spatial probability functions. While I admire his academic work in geophysics, I am also proud of his creative projects. We are often apart for training, and seeing his artwork makes me happy.

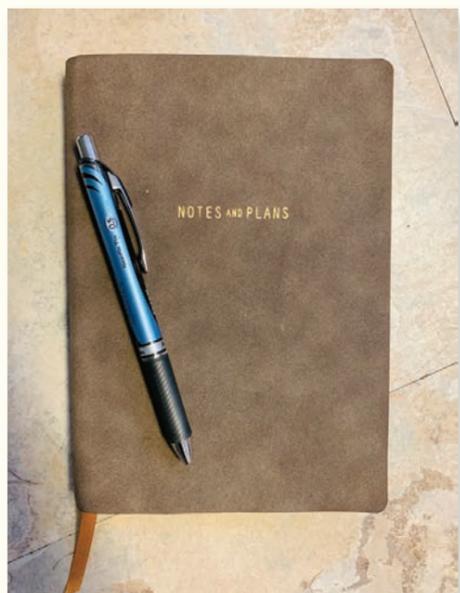


03/ MY MANTRA
I originally bought this card after I moved to New York City for a Master's program. I was fresh out of college and excited to continue my education, but I was also terrified. I experienced many firsts: finding housing on my own, navigating a huge city, and training to be a social worker. This card reminds me that I can accomplish more than I think I can, even if it is scary.

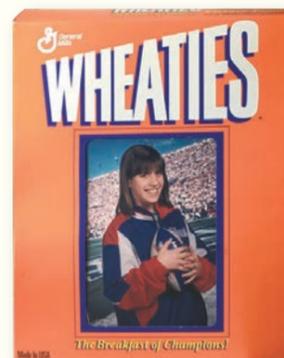
02/ GRADUATION TASSEL
In addition to being the first person in my family to pursue a Master's degree, I am also immensely proud of my MSW journey because I completed my degree while working full time. After three years of working, interning, and attending classes during evenings and weekends, I walked with my peers at Lincoln Center and received my diploma. My family originally told me they could not attend because it was during the work week, but when I crossed the stage, I saw them cheering me on. They surprised me! It's a memory I will have forever.



Lauren Snedeker



05/ AGENDA
For as long as I can remember, I have always been someone who loved shopping for back-to-school supplies. Buying pencils, pens, highlighters, sticky notes, and agendas is my version of shoe shopping. This is a picture of my most recent agenda, in which I write my goals, schedule, and to-do list every day.



02/ WHEATIES BOX
I grew up in New Hampshire, and the Patriots are a very important part of New England culture. I am not a fan, so I'm not sure how I was coerced into posing with Patriots gear for my 4th grade photo. My partner found the box at my parents' house and insisted that we keep it. It has since become a fixture at our various apartments and is a frequent source of giggles.



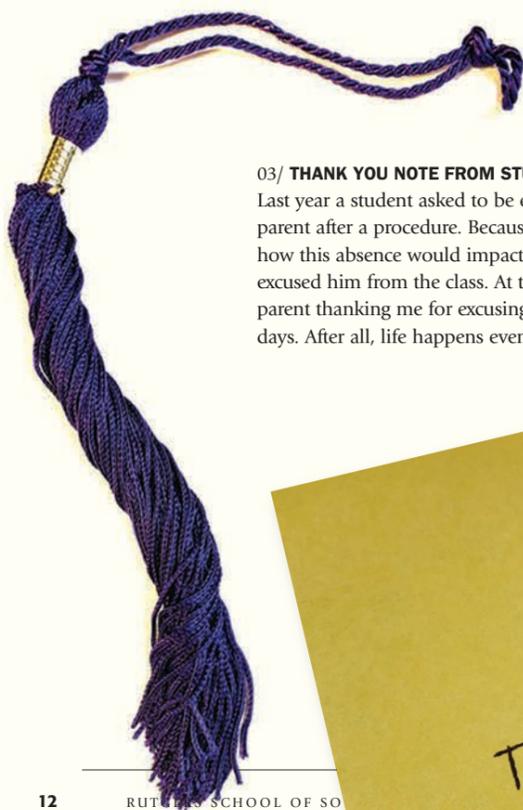
Hannah Szlyk

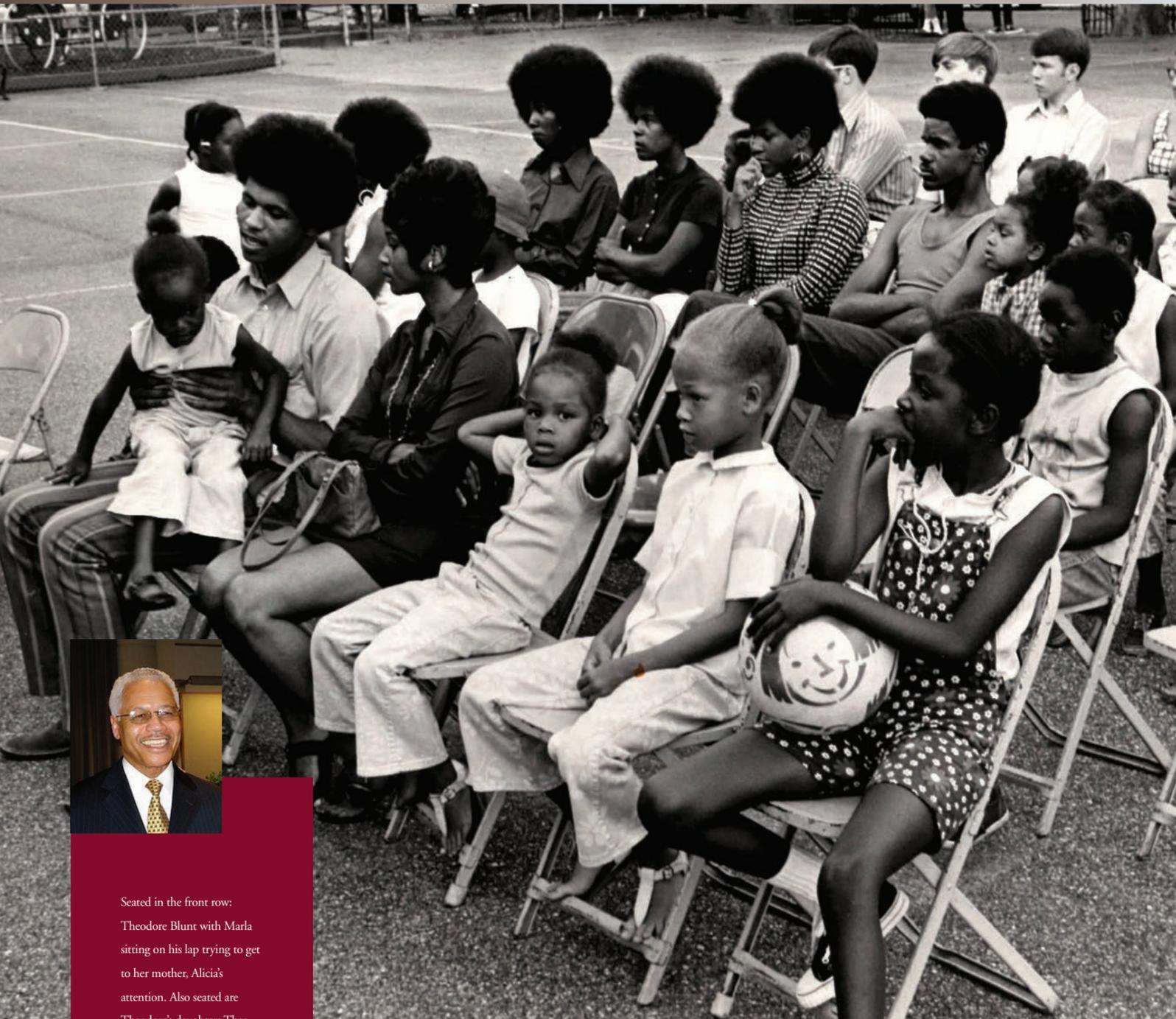
04/ YOGA MAT
Daily exercise is important to me and is how I decompress. Before the pandemic, I attended a gym that focused on mat work. Since I cannot go to the gym right now, I like to stream my gym's classes from YouTube. While my living room setup is different than the gym (I use canned food for weights and cats as gym mates), my daily mat time gives me routine.



PHOTO BY JOE ANGELES

05/ CATS
I never liked cats growing up. When I was living in Houston, a stray kitten walked into my apartment, and she still lives with me nine years later. I tried the "capture and release" strategy with her, but she never released. My partner and I have acquired three more rescue cats, so we now have Gracie, Miguel, Giancarla, and Frank. In case you were wondering, four is a nice number of cats.





Seated in the front row: Theodore Blunt with Marla sitting on his lap trying to get to her mother, Alicia's attention. Also seated are Theodore's daughters Thea and Lisa.

Living Legacies

THOUGH PREVAILING SOCIAL CHALLENGES SHIFT, ONE THING PERSEVERES: YEAR AFTER YEAR, THIS FAMILY — AND SOCIAL WORKERS EVERYWHERE — REMAINS DEDICATED TO SERVICE.

BY MELISSA KVIDAHL REILLY



Theodore Blunt graduated from the School of Social Work in the late 1960s. About 35 years later, his daughter Marla Blunt-Carter followed in his footsteps. And 10 years after that, so did his granddaughter and Marla's niece, Alyssa Bradley. Here, these three generations weigh in on why they decided on social work, the influence of family, and what it means to be Generations Strong.

FIRST GENERATION: THEODORE BLUNT MSW'68

Theodore Blunt has always been driven by a passion for helping others, so when he had the opportunity to attend the School of Social Work to earn a master's degree, he committed to routinely taking two buses, a subway, and a car from Philadelphia to class in New Brunswick and back — all in, a three hour commute each way — to make it happen. His illustrious career spanned the housing authority, a local school district, and public office in Wilmington, Delaware, where he served on the city council for 16 years and as its president for an additional eight years until his retirement in 2008.

ABOVE:

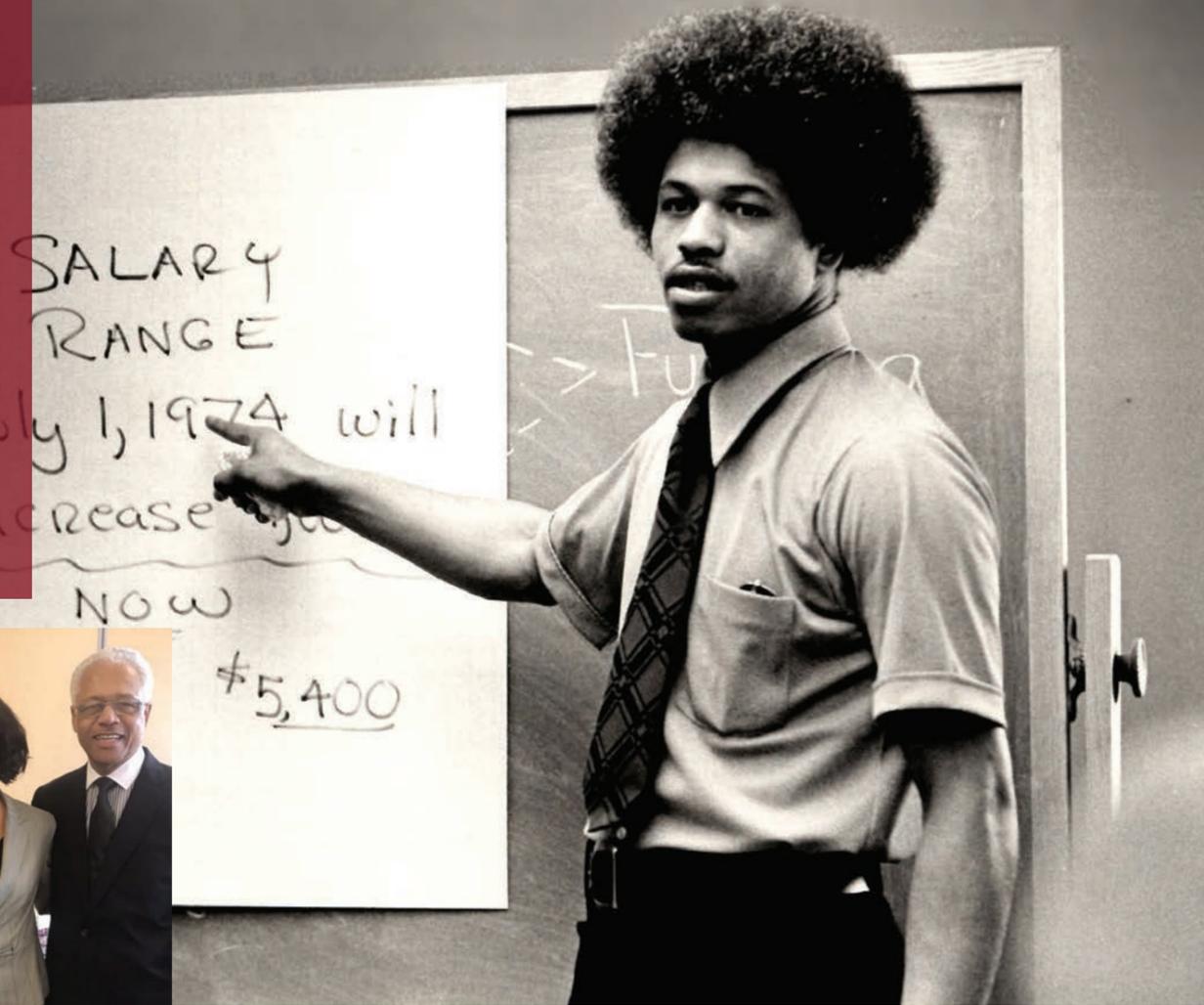
Ted Blunt giving a presentation to public housing residents about salary ranges for various jobs.

BELOW:

Marla Blunt-Carter with her mentors.

OPPOSITE:

Theodore, Marla and Alyssa.



Why social work:

I believed I had an ability to connect and communicate with people, especially those I was hoping to serve who were less fortunate than others. I grew up in public housing, I had a public education, and we received public assistance. I felt I could do a better job conveying a positive message to these people.

On campus in the 1960s:

When I started at Rutgers in 1966, the name Paul Robeson had just started coming back to campus. For a long time, his name was missing from the university. There was no mention of him. This was a large issue, especially for minorities: What happened to Paul Robeson, the school's greatest scholar and athlete?

On his influence:

I don't know whether I influenced my granddaughter and daughter, but I do know that you can sometimes become what you see. And if you see people doing good for other people, you inherently do good for other people.

My job and life experiences have always taught me to do the best I could for everyone else as well as my family. My daughter saw me working

in the field of social work. She saw me involved in the community, not on the sidelines, but willing to get into the ring and fight the battle.

His message for today's social workers:

Social workers, now more than ever before, need to be engaged in politics and understand the value of being connected to politics. Historically, that was a forbidden thing to do. But we need to be out in front instead of in the background, proposing what can be beneficial to the community at large, and not just saying it but doing something about it. Because from politics, we create public policy and that creates law.

What Generations Strong means to him:

I think it means passing along things that could be beneficial to the next generation, and figuring out how you can implement those things to make life better for everyone else.

SECOND GENERATION: MARLA BLUNT-CARTER, MSW'03

Marla Blunt-Carter is assistant professor of professional practice at the School of Social Work, where she teaches graduate courses on macro social work practice, management, and policy. Twice named Professor of the Year, Marla teaches seven courses annually on the Rutgers University-Camden campus.

On her father's influence:

He was very much a part of my life decisions. In fact, I went to his undergraduate and graduate school alma maters, so I've been following in his footsteps for quite a while. He was always helping people and would always include my sisters and me in everything he did. If he was running a program, we were there. If he was running for office, we were dropping off literature and going to rallies. I got to see what his work meant to so many people. And I wanted to be like him.

He often shared with us his trials growing up with a single mom raising four kids in North Philly, being the first in his family to go to college, and being married and having three kids while in graduate school. He worked hard to succeed academically and people would ask, why would you do all of that for a social work degree? Dad answered that he did it because he wanted to help people. I wanted to be like that. I wanted to be someone who helped other people.

On her "ah-ha" moment:

I couldn't finish my last undergraduate semester at Winston-Salem State University in 1988 due to stressors surrounding academic pressures, serving as the SGA president, and being an outspoken political science student activist. I was overwhelmed and left school without having a clear career path.

I became a flight attendant, and it was on a flight in 1992 that I met renowned poet and author Maya Angelou. She sat and recited her poems for me and the other flight attendants as we crowded around her in the first class cabin. She inspired all of us with her wisdom and as the other flight attendants returned to doing service, I remained by her side. I was in awe of her brilliance and her grace, and then she reached her hand out to me and said, "What are you doing here? Your light is too bright, my dear. You should not be here. You should be doing something else." Those words changed my life. I immediately got off the plane, called Winston-Salem State and said, "Please tell me how to transfer my credits to the University of Delaware, I need to finish my degree and fulfill my purpose."

That was the beginning for me: someone saying do the work you know you were called to do. That's the thing about social work - we know it's in us. Many of us run from it because of the public perception that it's not glamorous or doesn't pay, but we end up right back here, at home.

On campus in the 2000s:

I was taking classes and still working as a flight attendant when 9/11 happened. Everything changed for my coworkers, the traveling public, and the American people. I was consumed with the health, welfare, and safety of

my fellow flight attendants, both in the air and in life off of the plane. I also had many airline friends affected and infected by HIV in the 1990s.

Both 9/11 and the AIDS epidemic were discussed in our classes and in the stories my classmates shared from their field placements. We didn't use the term "trauma informed care" at that time, but that's what we were doing. We were learning how to help people make sense of what did not make sense, and show them how to manage during uncertain times.

What Generations Strong means to her:

I think it speaks to the fact that social work has been around for generations, and it is as strong and necessary today as it was in the days of Jane Addams. Social ills still exist and we are still needed.

THIRD GENERATION: ALYSSA BRADLEY, MSW'12

With a professional history in rehab counseling and disability training, Alyssa Bradley is currently program manager at Year Up, a workforce development program for young adults.

On her family's influence:

They absolutely had an influence on me. My family is a family of service. And I knew I wanted to help people. So I talked to my aunt and grandfather and explored what they did, and they shared how social work can open up so many opportunities to help people on a micro and macro level.

After graduation, my aunt invited me back to speak to one of her classes and it was really rewarding. It showed me that she thought I had something to contribute. To be able to share and speak to the students, and see how proud she was of me, gave me more confidence in my ability to do my work.

On campus in the 2010s

One of the big issues at that time, and which is still an issue, was the opioid epidemic. Right after I graduated, I was a drug and alcohol counselor at a methadone clinic. I made the shift to young adults because I felt I wasn't getting to people soon enough and by the time I did work with them, there were so many patterns already in place that meeting with me once every week or every two weeks wasn't enough to really help them. I wanted a job focused on the younger population, to perhaps head off this issue before those patterns were in place.

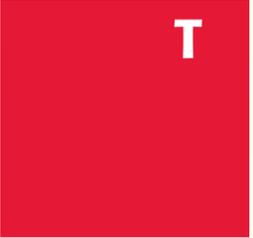
What Generations Strong means to her:

What comes to mind, especially when I think of my family, is a legacy of public service continuing with intentionality, passion, and perseverance. ■



GENERATIONS STRONG

BY LAURIE ZAZENSKI



THREE GENERATIONS OF THE FURNESS FAMILY – CHARLES, JANET, AND STEPHANIE – SHARE A BOND BEYOND THEIR FAMILIAL TIES: THEY EACH RECEIVED THEIR MSW DEGREES FROM RUTGERS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK. JANET AND STEPHANIE SHARE HOW THE PRECEDING GENERATIONS OF THEIR FAMILY IMPACTED THEIR DECISION TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK AND EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GENERATIONS STRONG.

Janet Furness '72

Janet is a professor of social work at Nyack College. Following 23 years of adjunct teaching and working in administration, policy, planning, and advocacy in agencies and congregations in New Jersey, she has been working in higher education full time since 1994.

On campus in the 1970s

My graduate school experience occurred during the volatile Vietnam War period and the unfolding of the community-based programs in Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. Poverty and urban catastrophe reflected the ravages of race riots of the late 1960s. I was familiar with urban





“We must continue to work toward tearing down obstacles that prevent us from working together within our profession, as both clinically and non-clinically based practitioners.”

blight and human impoverishment from growing up in a family that served the city of Newark. Studying at Rutgers School of Social Work during this period gave me the tools for a meaningful career serving diverse populations.

On her father's influence

My dad was a minister and the Executive Director of Goodwill Home and Rescue Mission in Newark. His motivation for earning his MSW was realizing that with all the work he had done as a minister over 20 years, he was not prepared to serve the changing needs of the people who were coming to the Mission for services. He wanted to be up to the challenge, so he graduated from Rutgers School of Social Work in 1961 and was among the first members of the Academy of Certified Social Workers. In addition to participating in the Essex County Health and Welfare Council, he established a child welfare agency, which became licensed as an adoption agency.

In 1965 when he left Newark, he began the next phase of his career as a social work educator, starting the first BSW program at Cairn University. Bible colleges were known to prepare people for ministry, and Dad was convinced that ministers needed to know how to serve people holistically: he believed in the bio-psycho-social-spiritual model before it was diffused throughout the profession's curriculum decades later. Dad encountered resistance to social work values in a college committed to male leadership. His innovative spirit convinced the administration that women needed to become leaders of the collegiate social work organization because, historically, the profession rose up under the leadership of women. The administration was convinced, and female social work students prevailed. Later, he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree, and he also wrote the book *The Christian and Social Action* (1972, Revell). He then retired in 1983.

He was probably the greatest influence on my decision to pursue social work, but he did not put any

pressure on me. He earned his MSW while I was in my formative years, and my recollection of his stories were unforgettable. He had a vibrant experience that probably drew me in more than I knew. Even in college, I did not consider social work thinking it was out of my reach since my dad was a social worker. When I got a sense that I could combine many of my interests — especially advocacy — as a social worker, I chose to pursue a career in the field.

My dad was my best cheerleader as my career advanced. We were both macro inclined, and our conversations had much to do with the impact of the work environments we encountered as well as policy developments. I learned a great deal from him regarding higher education since he worked in the field for 18 years.

On her father's enduring impact on the family and beyond

My father's influence remains alive within the family. He represented stability, competence, deep love, inclusion, grace, patience, and perseverance, and he stood firm on the values of social work while never wavering from his call to Christian ministry. With those values operative in his life, and given his level of integrity in all things, a high standard of excellence was our norm. Thinking of others was our priority.

My father's influence remains alive outside the family as well. Of particular note was his ability to mediate inclusion in a culture where racial, religious, ethnic, and gender diversity was victim of white privilege in a custodial institution. The social work department kept the college connected to the city and pressing urban needs with integrity. Rather than using religion as a means to protect themselves and build a fortress against the realities of the time, Dad knew how to negotiate the fine line between the administration's mandates and the accreditation process. His life work had been at the interface of life's most abject situations with people who didn't necessarily have a religious orientation, and he had

grown up poor during the Depression in a single-parent home. He not only had the intellectual requirements but exuded empathy as well.

Today, Cairn University has had three BSW program directors, including Dad, and has 55 years of continual BSW accreditation. It's as if Dad left his spirit behind. Hundreds of graduates take that spirit to practice arenas around the world. When Dad died suddenly in 1985, our family established a scholarship fund in his name benefiting social work students each year.

Both influenced by my father to earn our MSW degrees, my niece Stephanie and I have a solid relationship as family and professionals. There is an unmentioned connection between us because we are both social workers and graduated from Rutgers School of Social Work. I'm able to give her advice about some of the macro perspectives of the profession, and she clues me in on clinical developments.

What Generations Strong means to her

The obvious first reference for me is the three generations represented by our family. It's a meaningful family legacy. In my doctoral work, I studied the development of social work education from its start. I can track the development decade by decade: the generation of initiation, one of imitation, another of motivation, one of organization, another of redefinition. I think social workers in this current generation working in the midst of the pandemic are being appreciated for their frontline status. Newly-minted social workers are ready with cutting-edge technology to intervene. They are a generation of innovation.

On the future of social work

The future of social work is seen in the demands of the present. We must continue to work toward tearing down obstacles that prevent us from working together within our profession, as both clinically and non-clinically based practitioners. Our historical roots are in forging paths across systems to network with other professions for the best interests of our clients and to advance

a social policy agenda based on the values of social work, and we must continue to foster these relationships.

Stephanie Furness '07

Stephanie Furness is a LCSW in North Carolina who writes social work course content for a company that delivers online learning solutions to healthcare and human service organizations. She also spent 12 years practicing clinical, community, and medical social work in New Jersey and Georgia.

On campus in the 2000s

I identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, and I saw the need for social workers to address homophobia and transphobia in society — particularly the widespread problem of queer youth and homelessness. During my second year at Rutgers School of Social Work, I interned at a private psychiatric hospital that had a specialized program for LGBTQIA+ adults experiencing addiction. I marketed their program, ran process groups, and facilitated a youth peer support group in the outpatient building. While I did not end up working exclusively with that population, I have made a point in my clinical and other work to provide affirmative services and participate in advocacy efforts.

On her family's influence

My grandfather, Charles, passed away when I was four years old. I have vague memories of him and some pictures of us together but never had the opportunity to know him well. What I do know of him I've learned from my family members. By the time I decided to apply to Rutgers School of Social Work, I knew he had graduated from the first accredited class and felt happy to follow in his footsteps. It also meant a lot to me that my aunt Janet had attended the school. She and I have grown closer over the years via the shared language of social work.

My mother also took a few classes at Rutgers School of Social Work in the early 1980s. She imparted a lot of the same values in me growing up. She was a teacher for many years and demonstrated the importance of service and lifelong learning.

I chose to attend Rutgers School of Social Work because I knew it had a fantastic reputation for shaping students into mission-driven, competent social workers. There was a part of me that felt because my grandfather and aunt had both attended, I was continuing a meaningful family tradition. In college, I became active in grassroots organizing and social justice efforts. I felt galvanized to make a difference in the lives of others.

What Generations Strong means to her

Generations Strong speaks to the unique perspective each generation brings to the social work field. Also, generations depend on and learn from each other. The social work that Mary Richmond practiced was in some ways different than what many practice today. Still, each succeeding generation of social workers has learned about Mary's work. There is always value in considering where we overlap, as well as what we might do differently. Society benefits from such consideration.

On the future of social work

Those who decide to become social workers need to continue to want to practice social work to the core of their beings. Systems, laws, and expectations are in constant flux, and we are charged with the responsibility of adapting to all that change. Burnout is, of course, real and the concept of self-care can be nebulous. In short, I believe the future of social work involves us learning how to take care of ourselves in a way that makes sustainably remaining in the profession possible. This shift would have to occur on all levels; for example, advocacy efforts for social workers to have work-life balance and support from supervisors, and for all social workers to receive required education on specific, research-based self-care activities for preventing compassion fatigue and burnout. ■

FOURTH ANNUAL CHALLENGING RACIAL DISPARITIES CONFERENCE: A CALL TO ACTION

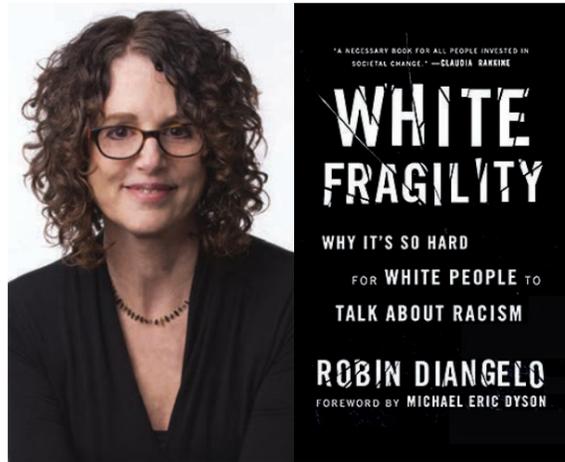
By Laurie Zazenski

Rutgers School of Social Work hosted its fourth annual Challenging Racial Disparities Conference, “A Call to Action,” on Tuesday, June 2, bringing together social workers and allied professionals for a powerful learning opportunity on the topic of racial disparities and white privilege. More than 1,000 participants attended the virtual conference, which was organized by the School of Social Work’s Office of Continuing Education.

This annual event occurred amidst the deep social strain in America that resulted from the murders of Black citizens, including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. With these events at front of mind, Dean and Distinguished Professor Cathryn C. Potter, Ph.D. offered initial remarks to attendees, recognizing the need for immediate and sweeping change.

“We are all here because of our commitment to social justice and social change,” she said. “We’re here today to be challenged to commit and recommit to social justice action and to be uncomfortable. If you’re not uncomfortable, you’re not paying attention.”

Robin DiAngelo, Ph.D., author of the bestseller *White Fragility: Why it’s so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*, served as the keynote



speaker. Dr. DiAngelo is an influential white anti-racist thinker who brings a stirring call to conscience, and most importantly, consciousness. She takes an unflinching look at white privilege and what it takes to adopt an anti-racist approach. The keynote lecture is offered each year in honor of social work professor Dr. William Neal Brown, the first Black professor at Rutgers, who passed away in 2009. Dr. Brown’s longtime partner, Suzanne Zimmer, supports the annual conference as a way to acknowledge his legacy and contributions to Rutgers, which have historically gone unnoticed.

Following Dr. DiAngelo’s keynote was a panel discussion moderated by Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admission & Assistant Professor of Teaching

Christine Morales, LCSW. Panelists included Sylvia Chan-Malik, Ph.D., Robin DiAngelo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Jacquelynn Duron, Ph.D., and alumna Alexis Jemal, JD, LCSW, Ph.D. Morales posed challenging questions submitted by audience members, and the panel answered thoughtfully. Much of the discussion was centered on the many ways white people can stand in solidarity with Black, indigenous, and people of color and how these efforts can be sustained over the long term.

Attendees gained new skills and ideas to address issues of race in their practice with clients, organizations, communities, and within themselves. ■

MSW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM / PROGRAMA DE CERTIFICADO DE MSW

LISTA

LATINA/O INITIATIVES FOR SERVICE, TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

CALLING LATINX ALUMNI

Rutgers School of Social Work and the new LISTA (Latina/o Initiatives for Service, Training and Assessment) MSW certificate program are seeking mentors for MSW students.

The Latinx population is the fastest-growing minority group in the United States, and it is imperative that social workers and other mental health practitioners be knowledgeable about how to effectively serve this community.

With support from the New York Community Trust, LISTA and the SSW aim to fill this need by providing culturally-sensitive training to prepare our students to become the next generation of social workers.

For more information about LISTA's mentorship program, contact Raymond Sanchez Mayers at mayers@ssw.rutgers.edu.

COPING DURING COVID-19

Every generation faces challenges, and COVID-19 has proven to be one of this generation’s greatest. Social workers have been — and continue to be — on the front lines of the pandemic, providing essential services for the most vulnerable among us. Despite the daily challenges they face, our community members often find light even in the darkest moments. We asked them what positive things they’ve noticed since the pandemic began. Here’s how they responded.

“I’m truly awe-inspired by the nurses, nursing assistants, doctors and practitioners, therapists, fellow social workers, support and admin staff that — despite the risks of just walking into the hospital — show up every day and work to get the job done. The selflessness you see in these people is incredible. I really hope young ones look up to these people and say, ‘That’s what heroes are made of.’ I’m most especially proud of my own family members and friends, many of whom are nurses, doctors, and health care professionals. I was always proud of them, but with this pandemic and their resilience and determination to see their patients through, I couldn’t be prouder.”

— JINO GATPANDAN '19, social worker at University Hospital in Newark, NJ

“I have had the chance to spend time playing, laughing, and hanging out with my daughters, which is usually time limited with our ‘normal’ schedule. I am able to do the things I’ve wanted to do but just did not have the time or energy for — I started an herb garden and a lettuce garden, and I finally have a consistent exercise regime!”

— NATALIE MOORE-BEMBRY, Teaching Instructor, Assistant Director of Student Affairs and Camden Campus Coordinator

“COVID-19 has rerouted us back to the heart — the heart of students, the heart of our faculty, the heart of our own program. It has resurfaced the humanistic part of us that can get lost through the daily grind and order of operations. My belief is that while our world is obviously going through a lot in this moment, the positive things that have been created and caused us to wear our hearts on our sleeves will forever be remembered. I would much rather be remembered for caring rather than following guidelines from a manual.”

— KARINA F. DAVES '11, Assistant Director of Administration for the Rutgers Filmmaking Center at Mason Gross School of the Arts

“This happened during my first semester at Rutgers as an assistant professor. I was worried that I was going to miss the opportunities to meet with and form friendships with colleagues. To my surprise, I was invited to a standing weekly Zoom chat. I was also invited to join a text chain in which we send daily check-ins, talk about daily tasks, send cute emojis, and talk about positive ways to stay healthy. I know that my experience is not anomalous. I hear so many stories about people around the world doing something similar. Through this constant communication, I still feel connected to the School of Social Work.”

— GABRIEL ROBLES ALBERTO, Assistant Professor; Chancellor’s Scholar for Inclusive Excellence in Sexual and Gender Minority Health

“The pandemic has caused us to go back to the core of what is essential to the human experience — to remember how delicate and uncertain life can sometimes be. It has caused me to shift as a leader in finding ways to think outside of the box to solve student issues and build community. It is also pushing institutions of higher education to think deeper about how we do student affairs and deliver student services — and what ways we can better utilize technology to meet student needs. I wholeheartedly believe the pandemic will thrust higher education into new levels of creativity and innovation. Necessity is the mother of invention.”

— ISSATA OLUWADARE '09, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the Honors College of Rutgers University – New Brunswick

REMEMBERING DR. PAUL GLASSER

By Laurie Zazenski



Dr. Paul Glasser, former Dean of Rutgers School of Social Work, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. He was 90 years old.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Glasser, a luminary in the field of social work," says Rutgers School of Social Work Dean Cathryn C. Potter. "Dr. Glasser had a profound impact during his tenure at Rutgers School of Social Work. Among many accomplishments, he was steadfast in his pursuit of increasing equality and diversity at all levels throughout the School. His remarkable legacy will continue to live on at the School of Social Work and within the field for generations."

Born in the Bronx, New York, he graduated from City College at the age of 19 and went into the Army as a medical social worker achieving the rank of First Lieutenant. He received a Master's in Social Work degree from

Columbia University and earned a Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Glasser was a professor at the University of Michigan from 1958 to 1978 and served as Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington from 1978 to 1988. He then became Dean of Rutgers School of Social Work from 1988 to 1992, stepping down from that role and becoming an Endowed Chair through 2008. He was named emeritus professor in 2008. After retiring, he lived in Israel for several years before returning to New York.

Dr. Glasser was a seminal figure in social work. He was the recipient of three Fulbright Hays scholarships and conducted pioneering research in the areas of group behavior and dynamics, marriage and family, child welfare, and the patient interview process. He authored over 100 articles in social work and was the author of many books, including the classic, *Individual Change Through Small Groups* (co-edited with Rosemary Sarri and Robert Vinter), *Families in Crisis* (co-edited with Lois Glasser), *Group Workers at Work: Theory and Practice in the 80s* (co-edited with Nazneen Mayadas), and

The First Helping Interview: Engaging the Client and Building Trust (with Sara Fine).

He leaves behind two children, Heather and Frederick, three grandchildren, Joshua, Miriam and Everett, and beloved nieces and nephews, Robin, Amy, and Stephen.

Rutgers School of Social Work Associate Professor Raymond Sanchez Mayers explains, "Besides being a leading figure in social work and social work education, on a personal and professional level, Dr. Glasser was a man of great integrity and intellect. As a dean, he believed in faculty governance and equity. He was a gentleman and a scholar."

"Paul was a scholar and leader in the social work profession," comments former Rutgers School of Social Work Dean Mary Edna Davidson. "Paul was also the best of colleagues. He welcomed me as dean with open arms and was steadfastly loyal throughout my tenure."

Condolences can be sent to Frederick Glasser at 5 Hickory Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778. ■

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our deepest sympathy to the loved ones of the deceased alumni and friends listed below whose passing has been shared with the school between November 2019 and June 2020.

Laura A. Alston SSW'92
 Jean R. DiMaria SSW'83
 Dagny Marie Fecht SSW'66
 Susan L. Fleece SSW'04
 David Friedman SSW'88
 Marilyn S. Guernsey SSW'75
 Pearl J. Hardy NCAS'75, SSW'83
 Nahid Hemmat SSW'85
 Edna E. Holland SSW'85
 Louise F. Holley SSW'85
 Otis Jones SSW'79
 Victoria Kaloss SSW'87
 Lee D. Knight SSW'12
 Walter S. Kucher, Jr. NCAS'64, SSW'70
 Alexandra R. Larson, Esq. DC'70, SSW'78, NLAW'86
 Carmen N. Martinez LC'78, SSW'80
 Miriam H. Mason LC'81, SSW'82
 Susan Piccolo SSW'88
 William C. Readell, Jr. SSW'65
 Sister Julia Dowling Scanlan SSW'84
 Barbara Singleton CCAS'94, SSW'95
 Betsy Howe Smith DC'77, SSW'80
 Sylvia Yarost Tumin SSW'75
 Dorothy Drosdick Van Dyke DC'46, SSW'67
 Joan M. Walsh SSW'92
 Brinda B. Wederich, Ph.D. SSW'83, GSNB'95
 Booker T. Wilkins SSW'74
 Luevina Wright SSW'91

We appreciate

our alumni and friends who made gifts between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Your contributions create opportunities for our dynamic and determined students and faculty which otherwise would not be possible and hope you find lasting pride in Rutgers School of Social Work.

Please note that names are listed as they were entered at the time of the gift. Questions or changes can be directed to Erin Capone at ecapone@ssw.rutgers.edu.

Thank You!

^ Denotes multi-year major gift donor.

\$100,000 or higher

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Lauren N. Sorkin
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Mary Patricia Van Hook, Ph.D. GSNB'84
Marvin Yeo
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\$100 to \$499

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Dr. Stephen C. Ainlay GSNB'77, GSNB'81
Caitlin Alago SSW'16
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Thank you to all of our alumni who have sent us their news and updates. We encourage you to keep us posted with any updates about your job, your life, or your family. Email your news to mmolner@ssw.rutgers.edu.

Dr. Rochelle Abramowitz SSW '77 is applying to law school after receiving her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Florida Atlantic University in 2004.

Edwin Be RC'54, SSW'63 is enjoying retirement after a 40 year career in social work. Living in Chicago, Edwin enjoys quality time with his 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Susan Chizeck DC'69, SSW'83 is semi-retired after a career in academia at the University of Texas at Dallas. Susan continues to manage student internship and independent study programs in the department of Interdisciplinary Studies. She remembers her time at Douglass College and the SSW fondly.

Now retired from a career in clinical social work **Anne Dobb DC'75, SSW'92**, is enjoying additional time volunteering with various political campaigns and causes, as well as catching a Yankees game and performances in New York City. Throughout recent months, Anne has mastered Zoom and feels fortunate to be in touch with colleagues from the School of Social Work.



MSW Class of 1989, work **Reggie Dorsey**, has opened a private practice, Abundant Life Counseling, LLC in Yardley, PA. Before this chapter, he had worked at

Advocates for Children of New Jersey for 30 years, which was the site of his field placement as an MSW student. Reggie and his wife Gwen also celebrated 28 years of marriage in June 2020.

In response to COVID-19, **Carol Drake '94**, has created the Facebook advocacy and support group, *Join the Mask Movement* to encourage mask wearing and share positive community pictures.

Bestselling author of *The State of Black Girls*, **Marline Francois-Madden, LCSW SSW'11** has launched a digital academy offering access, equity and opportunity for Black girls during the time of COVID-19. Marline is also owner of Hearts Empowerment Counseling Center and is enrolled as a PhD student at Montclair State University researching the adultification biases of African-American girls.



For more information about her work and to connect with Marline, visit www.mline-francois.com.

Frank L. Greenagel II, RC'01, SSW'06, EJB'15 published *A Failure of Indoctrination*, a play in three acts, based on his experiences in the United States Army while being stationed in Poland. His play provides a snapshot of 21st-century Army life and the devastating consequences of soldering. It is available now on Amazon.



Working at East Orange General Hospital as Clinical Coordinator in the Behavior Health Access Center **James (Jim) Kimberling SSW'08** has experienced the challenges of COVID-19 firsthand. Jim and colleagues quickly learned the importance of proper

PPE use and tele-health, as wearing hospital scrubs and face masks have become his new normal.



Director of Clinical & Integrated Health at Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton **Lisa Lawson's SSW'15** team was recently awarded a federal expansion grant funding to support communities in Mercer and Burlington counties. Lisa is proud to share the success of her work as it

will continue to break down mental and behavioral health barriers and provide services to families and crisis intervention.

After working 39 years at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, **Kim McLennon SSW '94** retired on April 1, 2020. Throughout her career she held positions including Registered Music Therapist, Program Coordinator of the Deaf Program, and Social Work Supervisor. Kim credits Rutgers SSW for providing her with the skills and education needed to move forward in her career.

Working at a nursing home **Erika Radetich SSW'08**, has found new creativity in developing activities for her clients amidst COVID-19.

Kenneth Palmisano SSW'18 has earned his LCADC, LSW, and most recently passed the NJ exams needed for his LCSW. He currently works as a substance abuse counselor at the Morris County Jail and as the jail liaison to the Morris and Sussex Counties Drug Court teams. Kenneth also works as a Certified Peer Recovery Counselor

for the Family Guidance Center of Warren County's Opioid Overdose Response Program.

Working at a nursing home **Erika Radetich SSW'08** has found new creativity in developing activities for her clients amidst COVID-19.



In June 2020, **Timothy Ryan BASW'18, MSW'19** published a personal memoir, *Chronic Junkie: A Story of Addiction, Despair, Unconditional Love, Hope, and Triumph*, detailing his decisions that carried him through different chapters of life- from addiction to education to advocacy. Timothy now shares his story with high school students, youth groups and at county jails in hopes of making a positive connection and providing hope.

Richard Seaton '81, LCSW, MBA, has retired after a rewarding career of 30 years working in health, education and human services. Richard sends his regards to the Class of 1981!



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