

A Magazine from the FSU College of Social Work 2013-2014

Raising The TORCH



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» Journey to the
Top 25

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

A STORY OF EMBRACING THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL PROMINENCE AND SHAPING THE FUTURE



“Our lives are to be used and then to be lived as fully as possible, and truly it seems that we are never so alive as when we concern ourselves with other people.”
-Harry Chapin

The College of Social Work is uniquely positioned to identify emerging social issues and promote innovation in social policy, clinical practice and community development at local, state, national and international levels. The advancement of the art and science of social work is clearly aligned with FSU’s “Journey to the Top 25” in the United States. In this issue of *Communitas*, we take pride in showing our commitment to putting students first through excellence in teaching, providing outstanding field experiences and research opportunities, offering international studies, and serving as a national leader in distance learning. We are also pleased to present four new faculty members (who were highly recruited by other institutions) bringing a level of practice, research, and teaching that has bolstered our capacity for academic excellence.

The College of Social Work improves the public good through innovative projects, certificate and specialized studies programs, and community service. This has included state of the

art initiatives through the Institute for Family Violence Studies (e.g., The FSU Toolkit on Healthy Relationships and The National Prevention Toolkit on Officer Involved Domestic Violence), the Arts and Athletics Community Outreach Program for underserved youth, and the Multidisciplinary Center assisting children and their families through the provision of diagnostic, therapeutic, and consultative services for academic, behavioral, and emotional needs.

Beyond the impressive data relating to our enrollment, scholarships, degrees awarded, publications, national/international presentations, and awards, the FSU College of Social Work takes pride and encouragement in hearing that our graduates often relay their appreciation for the way they were valued, respected, and guided. Through our College’s humanity, discipline, and unwavering commitment we continue to work toward elevating our profession and helping students become lifelong learners, productive and caring members of their communities, and exemplary leaders.

I am proud to be a part of our College and University as we continue to prosper. I hope you will find the pages of this issue of *Communitas* to be informative, celebratory, and engaging. As I have often stated, the growth of our College is based on the collective strengths of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. With your support, we will continue to maintain our College as home and a source of inspiration and hope in shaping a future on the cornerstones of human rights and social justice.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas F. Mazza". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nicholas F. Mazza, Ph.D.
Dean and Patricia V. Vance Professor of Social Work

UP AND COMING: Journey to the Top 25

In 2013, Florida State University took a bold step announcing the intent of becoming one of the top 25 public universities in the United States. The Florida Legislature and governor had also recently designated FSU a preeminent research university. "U.S News and World Report" also ranked FSU two years in a row as the most efficient university in the country for delivering quality education to its students.

The University proposed to make this ascent into the "Top 25" using the "transformative power of bold ideas," choosing to focus on four key ideas that will enrich and enhance FSU:

- 1. Inspire, Engage and Transform the Next Generation of Students;**
- 2. Power a Great University to New Academic Heights;**
- 3. Encourage Innovation, Creativity and Discovery; and**
- 4. Improve the Public Good.**

Not just a University goal, The College of Social Work and other FSU colleges, departments and organizations play a major part in the transformation of the University into a "Top 25" school. Incorporating these four key ideas into the College, our mission and our student- and community-centered culture is a critical piece of this success.



Inspiring and Engaging Students



Excellence in teaching is the foundation of academic success, but it's the other experiences on campus that really bring an educational experience to the next level. FSU has sought to enhance the student experience via a four part strategy:

- Supporting a rich set of worthwhile experiences in and out of the classroom;
- Developing a strong sense of community to promote academic success;
- Developing a system of rewards and recognitions; and,
- Promoting access through scholarships.

Local Experiences

Along with field placements social work students complete, immersive social work experiences are made available both in and out of the classroom setting. Dr. Lisa Schelbe encouraged MSW students in her class to write letters to the editor and opinion pieces on the social work issues they were passionate about, several of which appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper.

Annually, faculty member Margaret Ashmore and several students participate in the Building Creative Communities Conference on activism, social artistry and storytelling in Colquit, Georgia.

International Outreach

In the past two years the College of Social Work has also seen major growth in its study abroad experiences and community outreach opportunities.

Most recently, the College's Director of International Programs Dr. Neil Abell and Associate Dean Dr. Dina Wilke established an Alternative Spring Break program to Grenada, West Indies in the East Caribbean giving social work students a chance to experience international social work and a greater sense of global community, working with the Programme for Adolescent Mothers. Dr. Jean Munn has also assisted in establishing a study abroad program to Costa Rica combining international social work and Spanish language immersion.



Students Ellie Vazquez & Taylor Higdon performing at the Building Creative Communities Conference



Costa Rica



Alternative Spring Break Grenada, West Indies

Student Support

The ability of students to participate in these and other opportunities also stems from the College's ability to support them and offer additional resources to access these opportunities. This year, 41 social work students received scholarships established frequently by generous alumni and supporters of the College. To learn how you can assist with student scholarships contact Development Director Colette Podgorski (cpodgorski@foundation.fsu.edu).



Student Scholarship Recipients and Dean Mazza

Along with the growing number of social work scholarships, other funding sources are emerging on campus to support social work students. The Social Work Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Awards, (SWURCAA), created by Dean Nick Mazza, Director of the BSW Program Pam Graham and the FSU Office of Undergraduate Research, provides stipends to four undergraduate students each year to work directly with faculty on current social work research projects.

Mary DiNitto Endowed Scholarship

One of the College of Social Work's newest scholarships is provided by alumna Dr. Diana DiNitto (Ph.D. - 1980, MSW - 1974), Cullen Trust Centennial Professor in Alcohol Studies and Education and a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

The scholarship is named in honor of her late mother Mary DiNitto and is awarded to a student in good academic standing, of high moral character, and who demonstrates a commitment to the profession of social work. In 2013, the scholarship was awarded to MSW student Sara Clark Andrews.



Dr. Diana DiNitto & Mary DiNitto

2013 Student Scholarship & Distinguished Alumni Dinner

The College has also expanded its annual Student Scholarship Banquet to recognize and reward not only its growing number of student scholarship recipients but several worthy alumni that have significantly contributed to the College, students, social work and the community, including:



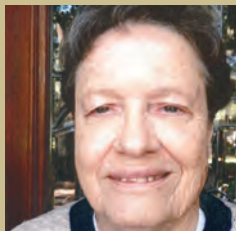
Distinguished Emeritus Alumni Award:
Joyce Laidlaw



Distinguished Young Alumni Award:
Dana Morris-Brooks, JD



Distinguished Alumni Social Work Educator Award:
Dr. Sharon Maxwell-Ferguson



Distinguished Alumni in Social Work Practice Award:
Jeanene M. Janes



Distinguished Alumni in Social Work Policy Award:
Guy Spearman

New Academic Heights

By investing in new and existing faculty, the reach for higher levels of scholarly achievement become more accessible for students and the University. In the past year, the College has recruited four bright, new social work faculty members to meet the demands of our growing programs: Dr. Lisa Schelbe, Dr. Jeffrey Lacasse, Dr. Philip Osteen, and Dr. Shamra Boel-Studt.

Lisa Schelbe



With a richly diverse background in social work practice ranging from direct practice experiences in areas of intimate partner violence and child abuse to working on

community organizing for the National Association of Social Workers, Dr. Lisa Schelbe has a deep commitment and expertise with youth aging out of the child welfare system, who are a vulnerable population and face poor outcomes.

“The hardships they face are substantial and costly both to the youth and the communities where they live,” Dr. Schelbe explained about the situation facing these youths coming out of the child welfare system. “The transition period is an opportunity to provide interventions and I am interested in how interventions can increase enrollment and retention of youths aging out in post-secondary education programs.”

Dr. Schelbe works to make her research accessible to the public so they can understand the experiences of these youth “aging out,” and to encourage policy makers and practitioners to use this knowledge to design better programs and policies to serve this population.

This accessibility to research and evidence-based practice is also apparent in the classroom, with Dr. Schelbe encouraging her students to engage the public in a dialogue on important social work issues.

Jeffrey Lacasse



“I am a mental health researcher, as social workers are the largest group of mental health providers in the US,” Dr. Jeffrey Lacasse said.

“A major focus of my research is examining how

the pharmaceutical industry and related institutions impact the way we conceptualize and treat mental health problems.”

Much of his work focuses on barriers to the dissemination of accurate, research-based information to social workers, clients, and the general public. Dr. Lacasse, for instance, has argued that direct-to-consumer advertising of psychiatric medications contains misleading information, and he has been, “working on the development and testing of interventions that provide the most accurate data possible, which may aid in good clinical decision-making.” He and neuroanatomist Jonathan Leo have also published a series of recent articles on the ghostwriting of scientific studies, which they propose is a major barrier to accurate knowledge dissemination.

Students at all levels are routinely involved in and play essential roles in his research, being placed in various research roles to match their interests, thereby enhancing their educational experiences. According to Dr. Lacasse, his research also informs his teaching, and vice versa.

“In the classroom my research projects and familiarity with the latest data allows me to give students an evidence-based perspective on mental health issues,” Dr. Lacasse said. “On the other hand, classroom discussions often generate very interesting ideas for further research.”

Philip Osteen



“Research informs education (and practice) and helps me to incorporate the most current, informative, and relevant advances in social work practice into the classroom.” Dr.

Osteen explained about relating research to education and service. “As someone who teaches many statistics and research methods courses, the importance of research is a central theme in my teaching.”

Combining twenty-five years of experience in social work practice, research and education with two Ph.D.’s, one in social work and the other in statistics, Dr. Philip Osteen focuses on the significant public health issue of suicide and suicide prevention in his research. Dr. Osteen takes a particular interest in identifying “how” and “why” suicide prevention training programs are effective.

He also takes his research knowledge into the field and has been a part of the national dialogue on suicide through his association with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention’s Research Prioritization Task Force. He also volunteers as a research manuscript reviewer for several social work journals and provides pro bono statistical and research consultation to a wide range of organizations, both local and national.

Dr. Osteen’s goal as an instructor is to help social work students, “understand the critical link between research and practice.” Students become evidence-informed practitioners using research, and through practice contribute to the always increasing body of social work knowledge.

Shamra Boel-Studt



Dr. Boel-Studt’s research focuses on informing policy and practice targeting vulnerable, trauma-affected youth populations and those in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems

that are placed in residential and group care facilities. “My interest in pursuing social work research was sparked by my direct practice experience working with adolescent males in residential treatment.” Over time she observed the approach to treatment and evidence supporting the effectiveness of residential treatment was lacking. “I wanted to learn more about evidence-based practice and, in particular, how to improve outcomes of youth in residential programs.”

As a research associate for the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice at the University Iowa, Dr. Boel-Studt actively engaged in evaluation and research in the area of child welfare for seven years, prior to joining the College of Social Work faculty. She has presented her research to child welfare service providers at the state and local levels, contributing knowledge for the benefit of the public as well as offering consultation and training to agencies. This practical connection with social work policy and practice and the populations they impact also translates well into the classroom. She not only shares her research in the classroom, but strives to provide students with research opportunities and assistantships to build students’ skill development and the cultivation of their own research interests. Dr. Boel-Studt emphasizes the importance of “maintaining a close connection with service providers and children and families involved in the system in order to ensure my research is connecting with real-world practice and policies issues.”

ENCOURAGING INNOVATION & DIVERSITY

The ability to think creatively and innovatively is becoming essential in a fast-paced and complex culture. FSU and the College continue to keep up, offering opportunities for students to find distinctive ways with which to utilize their skills and talents.

The College of Social Work has developed certificate programs and areas of specialized studies to allow degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students to explore a social work niche with greater depth, giving them an edge as they enter the job market.

The College offers three certificates:

- **Child Welfare Practice Certificate:** Students develop knowledge and skills in child welfare practice and children's mental health. And the a Child Welfare Practice Certificate for Professionals offers coursework in the field to help enhance their skills and give them Child Welfare Practice experience.
- **Gerontology/Aging Studies Certificate:** Students develop an understanding of gerontological theories and practice giving them the skills needed for frontline positions in practice and administrative positions in social service organizations.
- **Leadership in Executive and Administrative Development (LEAD) Certificate:** The LEAD certificate educates students about leadership theories and provides students with leadership experience, giving them skills needed for middle and executive positions in social service organizations.

The College offers two areas of specialized studies:

- **Arts and Community Practice:** Students learn how to apply the arts to community development with an emphasis on prevention, enrichment and response to social concerns.
- **Family Social Work:** Designed for the MSW Clinical concentration, students develop advanced competency in couples and family social work.



DANIELLE REYES, MSW LEAD CERTIFICATE

"The courses helped me learn how to manage an organization.

It was an awesome thing for me to do while still getting the degree I wanted. The program builds skills that are valuable for your future success. It also has a lot do with your character. I have always been told from a young age that I was a leader.

Leadership is something I value and that I really enjoy."

VICKY THOMAS, MSW GERONTOLOGY CERTIFICATE

"I think the certificate program helped me focus and really appreciate that was what I was going to do when I graduated. Having core classes dealing with gerontology really focus in on what I want my specialty to be."



IMPROVING THE PUBLIC GOOD

The FSU Multidisciplinary Center: Services and Training

Working with preschool and school-aged children and their families, the Multidisciplinary Center (MDC) provides evaluations, therapeutic interventions and consultations to address severe or complex academic, medical, behavioral and emotional problems. These activities aim to improve the achievements of the children they serve, aid parents and teachers, and provide better awareness of the factors that contribute to learning and behavioral problems.

John Henry Dixon was one of the children to come to the MDC for assistance. Parents Bill and Shannon Dixon were able to get answers and assistance regarding the challenges facing their son, working with the MDC and John Henry's school to create a lesson plan for him.

"I cannot begin to describe the progress he made over the next two years! John Henry is now in fourth grade and he has been able to learn right along with his peers with no accommodations for over two years," Bill Dixon stated about his son's improvement.

"We were incredibly grateful for the expertise provided by Dr. Hutto and the MDC, which literally changed our son's life. We are blessed that we could afford to pay directly for the testing which made such a difference for John Henry. Shannon began to feel burdened for other families with children like John Henry, who might not have the means to pay for testing."



John Henry & Bill Dixon at Doak Campbell Stadium

So in 2013, the Dixons created the John Henry Dixon Children's Fund to provide financial support for children and their families who come to the MDC for assistance.

Over the past year, the MDC has assisted numerous families like the Dixons performing diagnostic evaluations for 472 children, providing school-based counseling to 326 students, consultation for 155 parents and consultation for over 500 teachers and school administrators.

The Multidisciplinary Center also offers training opportunities including a Doctoral Psychology Internship Program as well as internship placements for social work, mental health counseling, art therapy and music therapy that serve the students in multiple programs at FSU. Social work students in particular benefit from hands-on internships in assessment, diagnostics, classroom observation and case management.

Contact Development Director Colette Podgorski (cpodgorski@foundation.fsu.edu) to learn how you can contribute to the John Henry Dixon Children's Fund to assist more families coming to the MDC.

To learn more about the Multidisciplinary Center visit <http://mdc.fsu.edu>.

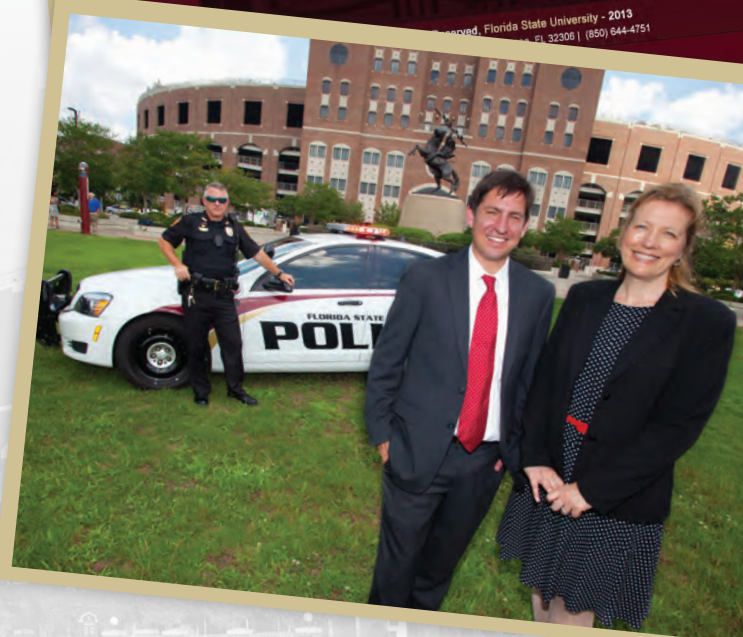
The Institute for Family Violence Studies: Two new violence prevention initiatives

The Institute for Family Violence Studies (IFVS) serves as a catalyst for the elimination of all forms of domestic violence by collaborating with public and private organizations, disseminating information and advocating for effective policies and programs. In 2013, the IFVS launched two new violence prevention initiatives to provide resources on the local, state and national level: The FSU Toolkit on Healthy Relationships and the National Prevention Toolkit on Officer Involved Domestic Violence.

The FSU Toolkit on Healthy Relationships

was developed as a collaborative project between the IFVS and the College of Social Work to educate college students on the components of a healthy relationship, teach them to recognize warning signs of dating and sexual violence and to provide resources available on campus for students in need. The free toolkit goes into information focusing on collegiate veterans, LGBT students, Greek Life and online dating. Resources are also made available for university faculty and staff, and parents. Learn more at fsutoolkit.fsu.edu.

The National Prevention Toolkit on Officer Involved Domestic Violence is another collaborative project developed by the Law Enforcement Families Partnership within the College of Social Work's Institute for Family Violence Studies to work against violence in the homes of criminal justice families. This toolkit provides support to criminal justice families, agencies and communities. The free training and resources serve to educate law enforcement officers and the public, and to support a law enforcement culture that prioritizes domestic violence prevention. Learn more at nationaltoolkit.csw.fsu.edu.



CSW Arts & Athletics Program: Investment in Local Youths

For the past two years and moving into its third year, the College of Social Work has operated an arts and athletics summer camp offering a unique opportunity to 20 youths in the Big Bend, including those with limited social and economic opportunities, to experience college life.

These middle school aged students from the Tallahassee Housing Authority spend two weeks on the FSU campus with days filled with arts and athletics activities helping them gain confidence, social skills, and to experience some of campus life. Through positive youth development experiences, it is hoped that these students will be motivated and inspired toward continued academic and social achievements, including the pursuit of higher education.

The program also serves as a service-learning experience for FSU social work students to participate as camp counselors and mentors, gaining leadership and community service experience.

Created and directed by Dean Nick Mazza, this program is one the College hopes to continue in the years to come with continued and growing partnerships with several FSU's departments and organizations, including FSU's Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE), the FSU Art Department and the FSU Athletics Department.





Student Highlights



BSW Student

David Cromer

David Cromer was awarded the Social Work Undergraduate

Research and Creative Activity Award (SWURCCA) for his project, "Integrative Community Service Project and Race Relations," (supervising professor, Dr. Stephen Tripodi) that was presented at FSU's 2013 Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence. You can read more about his project at <http://fsu.edu/profiles/cromer/>.

What drew you to social work as a major and career path?

What drew me to social work as a major and career path was the reward from positively impacting lives. It may sound selfish, but I'm in it for myself - even if it's infrequent, I love knowing I have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.

What is your primary area of interest and the population(s) you are focusing on?

My current primary interest is working within schools, specifically those without much funding and a high rate of students of color. I've recently discovered a new desire to work with both younger and older students.

How do you currently give back to the community?

I try to give back to the community by being a voice that speaks up for injustice, feeding the homeless, and being present at minority group events; for example, the BSU pageant and PRIDE drag show.

How have the College and FSU helped to prepare you for your career path?

I hate to use platitudes, but the cohesion between the professors and students along with my student peers has allowed me to explore myself and how I see the world around me in exciting, although sometimes depressing, new ways. Together, the professors and my peers have motivated me beyond measure, while fully supporting my journey, struggles, doubt, and hope to build my confidence that I've chosen the career path that best fits.



Jacy Mesch

Jacy Mesch received the College of Social Work's Joyce Laidlaw Scholarship and was a student speaker at the College's 2013 Distinguished Graduate and Student Scholarship Dinner. She and MSW student Sarah Hindle served as 2013 co-presidents for the FSU Chapter of the Association of Student Social Workers (ASSW) and established the first Social Work Film Festival, partnering with the College of Social Work and College of Motion Picture Arts.

What drew you to social work as a major and career path?

As an avid traveler, I have seen many instances of human rights abuses and knew getting a Master's in Social Work would give me the knowledge and credentials to assist in reducing human rights violations.

What is your primary area of interest and the population(s) you are focusing on?

I am primarily focused on child welfare, specifically children living in institutions and orphanages around the world.

How do you currently give back to the community?

As one of the presidents of the FSU Association of Student Social Workers, I am involved in a wide variety of community service projects including volunteering at a food bank, marching for domestic abuse awareness, visiting with patients at a hospital, etc. I have also spent the past two summers volunteering at an orphanage in Eastern Europe.

How have the College and FSU helped to prepare you for your career path?

The College of Social Work has provided me with broad knowledge basis on the theories and application of social work practice. What is more, College of Social Work provided a platform for me in which to further explore my interests in child welfare.



Ph.D. Student

Kristin Brown

Kristin Brown is a doctoral candidate in the College of Social Work. She received the 2013

Dianne F. Harrison Scholarship for the best dissertation prospectus. She was also awarded the Leslie N. Wilson - Delores Auzenne Assistantship for Minorities university fellowship from The Graduate School at FSU.

What drew you to social work as a major and career path?

I am passionate about improving socioeconomic conditions for minorities, especially lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Social Work graduate study provides the knowledge and skills to achieve these goals.

What is your primary area of interest and the population(s) you are focusing on?

For my Ph.D. dissertation, I am researching the well-being of bisexual women of African ancestry, interviewing women in the US and UK about their social support and health care experiences and needs.

How do you currently give back to the community?

In 2010 I traveled to Ghana in West Africa, participating in planning for HIV/AIDS prevention programs. In 2013, I participated in White House briefings that addressed issues affecting African American LGBT communities.

How has the College and FSU helped to prepare you for your career path?

On study abroad in 2010, I met with health agencies in the UK, inquiring about services for lesbian and bisexual women; I return in 2014 for dissertation research. I will continue working with organizations internationally, to increase inclusion of LGBT women in health programs.

ALUMNI

Barbara White



Dr. Barbara White, received her first degree from Florida A&M University in music education and psychology. She taught music in public schools in Florida before returning to school at Florida State to pursue a career

change, earning her BS and MSW in social work and later receiving her doctoral degree in political science from FSU.

“I was drawn to social work before I was aware of the professional preparation for social work,” Barbara said about what drew her to social work in the first place. “My motivation was the same as most of us who discover the profession of social work. I wanted to learn how to effect change, make a difference in people’s lives, and impact social conditions, particularly in the area of social justice. I was enthralled with my coursework in the [then] School of Social Work and knew I had found ‘my home.’”

Dr. White went on to have a bright career in social work, including serving as an Associate Dean for the FSU College, and as National presidents of the two major organizations in social work. In her most recent academic position, she served as the Dean of the School of Social Work at the

Tom Herndon



Brought up to have a strong sense of public service, Tom Herndon, MSW spent almost 33 years in state government. After an associate’s degree from St. Petersburg College and a bachelor’s degree from University

of South Florida, Tom found himself in his first job as a “welfare worker” working with low income families.

“At the time, it wasn’t clear what I was getting into, or how the experience was going to affect me,” Tom reflected.

Soon afterwards he accepted a position with Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board working

as a protective service worker with abused and neglected children. Both experiences led him to pursue his MSW at FSU, an opportunity he hoped would lead to work in social work management and expand his impact on public service beyond one-on-one situations.

“The FSU College of Social Work fundamentally changed my life. Not only through the education I received and the ongoing relationships I still maintain, but through the internships I experienced,” Tom said about his experiences in the MSW program. “One internship in particular under the supervision of Dr. J.P. Love led to my later employment in the Florida Legislature and kick started my government career. I was able to complete my Master’s thesis on the need for a Statewide Child Abuse Reporting Law, which was subsequently taken up by the Legislature and eventually enacted into law.”

Tom went on to serve in several other government positions, including six years as the executive director of the State Board of Administration

HIGHLIGHTS

University of Texas at Austin for 18 years, and upon her retirement in August 2013 was awarded the title Dean Emeritus. Dr. White continues her dedication to social work by serving on a board of directors for a community-based organization and on a limited basis acting as a consultant to universities on social work education.

“I am extremely indebted to the College of Social Work for preparing me and setting the direction of my career. There were many important opportunities that the College (then a School) and Florida State University provided that fostered my development as a person and as a professional,” Dr. White said about her time at FSU. “To say that I will always be indebted to this alma mater is an understatement, and I will always support the work of the College and University in any way I can.”

“ My motivation was the same as most of us who discover the profession of social work. I wanted to learn how to effect change, make a difference in people’s lives, and impact social conditions, particularly in the area of social justice. ”

(also know as the Florida State Pension Fund). He has been recognized with numerous state and national public service awards for his work, including the Florida Distinguished Service Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service to the State in 1995. Currently, he is enjoying retirement with his wife Cathie of 46 years and their family, but continues to serve on six boards of directors for charitable organizations in Tallahassee, including Capital Health Plan, the Claude Pepper Foundation and the Lawton Chiles Foundation.

“FSU and the College changed my life in profound ways and that is why I will always be an advocate for the school and program.”

“ The FSU College of Social Work fundamentally changed my life. Not only through the education I received and the ongoing relationships I still maintain, but through the internships I experienced. ”



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

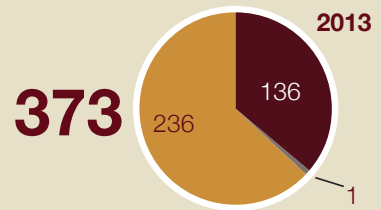
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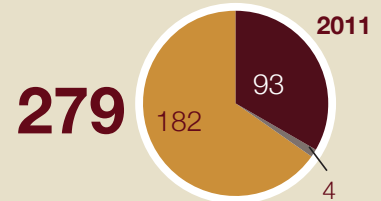
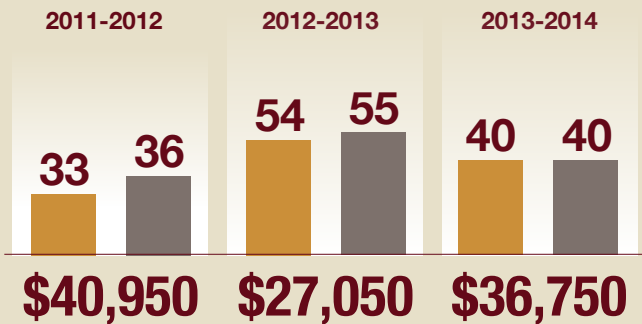
ENROLLMENT SPRING 2014



NUMBER OF DEGREES AWARDED



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Degree Description

- Bachelor's Degree
- Doctoral Degree
- Master's Degree

2014-2015 # of anticipated Scholarships

62



\$59,300

Projected Total

- # of Students Who Received Scholarships
- # of Scholarships Given
- Amount of Funds Given \$

NEEDED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

ESTIMATED COST FOR THE 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR PER STUDENT

	Florida Resident	Non-Florida Resident
Undergraduate Student	\$21,684	\$39,058
Graduate Student	\$27,752	\$44,682

Alumni: Updates

2013

Kathryn Walton (MSW) was awarded the JJ Daniel Award for Social Work with Children from the NASW-FL Northeast Unit.

2011

Jennifer Spaulding-Given (Ph.D.) was awarded the Social Work Educator of the Year by the NASW-FL Northeast Unit.

2008

Meredith Huner (MSW) is currently a Case Manager/Social Worker at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital in Tallahassee, Florida.

Lelanya Hanks Taber (MSW) is a social worker with Regency Hospice in Pensacola Florida and is a registered intern working towards licensure. She is also continued continuing education chair for the Northwest Florida Chapter of NASW-FL.

2007

Julia Buckey (Ph.D.) opened her own business URChoices (c) assisting individuals and organizations with support for surrogates who make healthcare decisions for other adults that cannot make them for themselves.

Taryn C. Dobson, LCSW (MSW) is a clinical supervisor of outpatient services at Families First of Florida in Tampa, FL. She is an active member of NASW, CSWC and TBSC.

Crystal C. Mitchell is currently a clinically licensed LISW-CP Social Worker for Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, SC. She is also the Co-Chair of the medical center's Student Intern Committee. She assists with coordinating and facilitating field placements for interns from FSU, the University of South Carolina, Winthrop, and other universities. Crystal provides services and resources to veterans who have issues with homelessness, finances, transportation, home health as well as a variety of other concerns.

2005

Dawn Lynn Jackson (Ph.D.) is an adjunct professor at the University of North Texas.

Lisa Mertes Sepahi (MSW) is a senior associate at the Center for Social Innovation (C4) a women-owned small business in the Boston areas that develops, tests and disseminates creative solutions to complex social programs. Lisa helps communities implement government programs to prevent and address homelessness.

2004

Jessica Geib (BSW) is working in external affairs in the Florida Division of Emergency Management and is located in Tallahassee, Florida.

2003

Cynthia Smith-Funkhouser (MSW) is the executive director of the Sulzbacher Center providing assistance for the homeless in Jacksonville, Florida.

2002

Alexi Thomas (MSW) works for the American Society for Microbiology planning meetings and dealing with committees in Washington, D.C.

2001

Indira Wallace-Harris (MSW) is the Officer-In-Charge Supervisory Social Worker at the Womack Army Medical Center located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and is currently a Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

2000

Mary Kraus (MSW) is an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio and has a private practice focused on group therapy.

1999

Alana M. Monge (MSW) is the senior deputy court administrator for the state of Florida's Court Administration in Sarasota, Florida.

Christine Large-Rothberg (MSW) is a therapist and owner of The Healing Project in Jacksonville, Florida where she provides psychotherapy and limited case management for the local refugee population suffering from effects of trauma and torture.

Erica Hill Serrine (BSW) is the Arts and Science Chair at Warner University.

1998

Betty Carolyn Friday (MSW) is a licensed nursing home administrator in Coolidge, Georgia at the Glen-Mor Nursing Home, Department of John D. Archibold Hospital. She is an instructor for candidates of the Georgia GA Administrator in Training program.



Alana M. Monge (MSW) is a senior deputy court administrator for the State of Florida Court Administration in Sarasota, Florida.

1997

Stephen Cook (MSW) is a social work supervisor at HPH Hospice in Dade City, Florida and is responsible for the social work supervision for hospice patients in the East Pasco region of the agency. He recently received a pin for 10 years of service. HPH Hospice serves patients regardless of their location of residence with majority of patients reside in their own homes and some also found in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and in HPH Hospice's in-patient unit.

Malinda Dobyne (MSW) was honored for her contributions to the social work profession as the 2013 Public Citizen of the Year for the NASW Illinois Three Rivers District.

Catherine Steen (MSW) is a suicide prevention case manager at the Department of Veteran Affairs Boston. She is dually licensed as a Massachusetts licensed clinical social worker and Florida clinical social worker.

Jeremy White (MSW) owns a successful private practice in Naples, Florida.

1993

Miguel Fernandez (MSW) is now working for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice overseeing all the DJJ facilities.

Jay Seligman (MSW) as of April 2014 will be the chief social worker for the Bureau of Prisons in Washington, DC and will provide oversight for 40 social workers around the country as well as work on preparing prisoners for release and successful reintegration into the community a Congress granted authority for BOP to ask a court to grant an inmate's reduction in sentence request.

1992

Cindy Terrebonne (BSW) recently moved to Louisiana and is working towards her doctoral degree in Social and Community Issues at Capella University.

1987

Vaught T. Scott (MSW) retired 1989.

1985

Joyce Couch (MSW) is currently the executive director of the Jacksonville Housing Authority. Shannon Fenn Hughes (BSW) is the new Chief of the Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida for the Florida Department of Health (DOH), overseeing the bureau's efforts to reduce illness, disability and death related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.

1983

Janet Courtney (MSW) presented a TEDx Talk entitled "The Curative Touch of a Magic Rainbow Talk," in September 2013. View it online on YouTube. Dawn Brown Lockhart (MSW) has helped to develop and test a model that lifts 1,000 families out of poverty every 1,000 days. Follow their progress at www.1000in1000.com.

1982

Art Cleveland (MSW) runs a successful practice with a focus on children in Tallahassee, Florida.

1981

R. Kevin Grigsby (MSW) works for the Associate of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C. and served as a Dean for Pennsylvania State University. He has also served in several other administrative and academic roles at both Yale University and University of Georgia.

Elizabeth Cheeks-Jones's (MSW) most recent position was as the senior intern volunteer in the Office of Senator Hillary at The Capitol in Washington, DC where she analyzed and coordinated Constituent's written and oral requests to Senator Clinton and communicate to constituents the Senator's policy specific to the issue and the request. She currently resides in Mooresville, North Carolina.

1979

Anne Kabatt (MSW) has been the executive director of the Northwest Community Mental Health Center in Buffalo, New York since 2011. Starting as a clinical social worker in this agency after graduating from FSU has held several positions for the past 34 years including clinical supervisor, director of clinical programs, associate director of clinical services and then director of clinical services for 15 years.

1975



Left to right: Rebecca Dunitz Flint, Sam Flint, Judy Overstreet Bernier, and Tom Bernier at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.

Three days later we were in the bush on safari in the Sabi Sand game preserve, adjacent to Kruger National Park, South Africa.

We are all members of the MSW class of the March 1975. We were all single when we met in Tallahassee. We dated; married (36 years ago); each couple had two children and we are now blessed with two grandchildren. We have been close friends for nearly 40 years and often travel together.

Tom and Judy are recently retired after serving the state of Alabama for 30+ years. They live in Montgomery, Alabama. Tom ran the state's child support program and Judy was a senior executive in the public assistance policy unit.

Sam and Rebecca live outside Chicago in Buffalo Grove, Illinois and are still working. Sam teaches health policy at Indiana University Northwest, and Rebecca is an executive in an early childhood education program.

The four of us (plus Larry Henson also a close friend from our class) were the principal organizers for The MSW Class of March 1975 scholarship.

Wishing the best to our alma mater,
Sam

1974

Sylvia Patten (MS) was awarded the Life Time Achievement Award for 2013 by the NASW-FL Northeast Unit.

1973

Doby Flowers (MS) was recognized by the Oasis Center for Women and Girls as a 2014 trailblazer as a champion of civil rights at the Women's History Month Community Luncheon.

1970

Claudia Bomicino (BS) retired from United Airlines and lives in Woodland Hills, California.

Anne Bristol (BS) is the head of the Monarch Academy for

Alexander Mahood Sutton (BS) is a retired probation/parole officer for the North Carolina Department of Corrections. He is currently involved in writing a book on the Mini Cooper automobile.

1969

Jane Godager (MS) is retired from social work and is volunteering as the senior assembly member for the California Senior Legislature advocating for seniors.

Janice McNeely (BS) is the director of the Department of Clinical Care Management for Carolinas Rehabilitation in Charlotte, North Carolina.

William Meezan (MS) is retiring from his position as the Mary Ann Quaranta Chair in Social Justice for Children and Distinguished Professor at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service.

1968

Gordon Denham (MS) and his wife Michele are retired and traveling the country in their RV. Visit their travel blog at gandmrvttravels.blogspot.com.

1966

Jacqueline L. (Satterfield) Tatum (MS) is a mental health specialist with the Union CI Department of Health in Raiford, Florida.

IN MEMORIAM

Maxine Thurston-Fischer received her Ph.D. from FSU in 1981 and received her MSW in 1964 becoming the first African-American student to receive a degree at Florida State.

William "Billy Solberger received his MSW in year and served the mental health community for more than 35 years as a licensed clinical social worker at the Apalachee Center in Tallahassee, Florida.

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