

# Contact

School of Social Work

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2015



**EVIDENCE-BASED  
POLICYMAKING**

Social workers  
help lead  
the charge

# Message from the Dean



Jack M. Richman

This year, we celebrate a historic milestone—the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNC School of Social Work. From its humble start in 1920, our School has evolved from a program primarily focused on training state welfare workers to a Top 5 graduate social work research and practice institution.

Although our profession has experienced significant change over this same time, our School has intensified its efforts to provide innovative solutions to critical social problems such as poverty, mental health, homelessness and domestic violence. However, our ability to address these vital issues is becoming more challenging, given that we continue to operate with less and less federal and state financial support.

In fact, not only are we relying more heavily on private contributions, our faculty also recognize that they, too, must vigorously pursue creative ideas for funding their own research. Further, private support is also critical for the School's efforts to provide funding for student scholarships as well as funding for faculty support. Because of significant reductions in state and federal money for both higher education and research, it is clear that we have entered an era where we must do more to stimulate private support. Such efforts not only enable us to maintain our tradition of excellence in the classroom and

practice field, but help us to further invest in innovative research that truly makes a difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities across our state and nation.

As this issue of *Contact* illustrates, our faculty members also remain on the front lines of helping lawmakers understand the value of spending taxpayer dollars on social interventions and ideas that are supported by sound evidence. This common-sense approach of “evidence-based policymaking” is gaining more attention in Washington, and I am proud of our efforts in encouraging that more state and federal money be directed toward programs that have been rigorously evaluated and proven effective.

Meanwhile, here at the School, we also continue to think about ways to strengthen our MSW program so that it better serves the needs of all of our students. We are especially interested in offering more options in our Distance Education programs and to that end, we are currently evaluating the possibility of augmenting student flexibility by developing additional evening classes, hybrid (mix of online and face-to-face) classes, fully online classes, as well as weekend courses. I know our students are looking for ways in which we can be more user-friendly, and night, weekend, online, and hybrid courses offer us opportunities to meet their needs in new ways.

This year, we also welcomed several new faculty members and said goodbye to several more, including Kenan Distinguished Professor, **Maeda Galinsky**, who retired after 50 years of service, and remains the School's longest serving professor. Other long-time retiring professors were: **Evelyn Williams**, clinical associate professor and principal investigator for the N.C. Child Welfare Education Collaborative and the N.C. Child Welfare Comprehensive Workforce Project; **Dan Hudgins**, clinical assistant professor and senior policy analyst for the Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES); and **Margaret Morse**, clinical assistant professor and a publications manager with CARES.

**Professor Natasha Bowen**, **Assistant Professor Susan Snyder**, and **Clinical Associate Professor Mat Despard** all accepted positions at other universities. We will miss them and

wish them much success as they pursue new paths in their careers.

We also bid farewell to our Associate Dean for Advancement, **Mary Beth Hernandez**. Mary Beth has been with the School for 15 years and has been my energetic partner in guiding our development efforts. She was significant in our fundraising endeavors and with the University's larger campaigns over the last decade and a half. The School's success in this area, in many ways, is a reflection of Mary Beth's creativity, dedication and leadership. In August, she joined the Camp Corral leadership team as CEO. This is a significant loss for the School but a wonderful opportunity for Mary Beth.

At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome new Assistant Professors **Rainier Masa** and **LaToya Small** and Wallace H. Kuralt Distinguished Professor **Ding-Geng Chen**. Dr. Masa graduated from our School's doctoral program this year, with a research focus on economic and social determinants of health, including on food insecurity, sexual-risk taking, and HIV treatment adherence in resource-limited settings. Dr. Small arrives via the Ph.D. program at New York University. Her research agenda seeks to examine mental health needs and resources available to African American women with HIV/AIDS. And finally, Dr. Chen comes to us after serving as a professor of biostatistics at the School of Nursing and professor of biostatistics in the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester. His research is mainly focused on developing biostatistical methods and their applications to clinical trials, public health and nursing research.

In closing, our School's faculty, students and staff have helped shape the field of social work over the past 95 years through teaching, research and service. We are proud of this legacy and look forward to leading our profession for many more years ahead by producing the best social work graduates, researchers and community change agents.

# Contact

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# Social workers helping to lead the charge for evidence-based policymaking

By Susan White

As a national expert on child welfare, Spears-Turner Distinguished Professor **Mark Testa** is familiar with political arguments from the left and right on what's needed to tackle the country's most pressing social challenges. One side argues for more government investment to improve the lives of struggling families. The opposite contends that millions of dollars spent on programs with good intentions have done little to move these same families forward. With both sides unwilling to bend—as often seems the case—policy stagnates and problems, such as poverty, domestic violence and inadequate mental health care, don't get solved.

But what if, Testa often likes to challenge, there was a third solution? What if state and federal lawmakers agreed to invest taxpayer dollars in innovative programs and ideas that produce solid results and more importantly, have the rigorous evaluation and evidence to show for it?

"Instead of saying, we only have two choices—we either have cuts in government spending or we have to grow the welfare state—let's get somewhere in the middle and ask, 'What should we be spending our money on?'" Testa said. "And then let's invest in what's actually working."

That idea has been gaining traction in recent years, including among elected officials on Capitol Hill. Moreover, scholars, economists, philanthropists and others are helping to lead the charge for change.

On the academic side, Testa is among a growing group of researchers, including other social work faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill, who are successfully contributing to evidence-based policy and practice to in-



Mark Testa, Ph.D.

form and influence social programs that improve the lives of children, families and communities at-large (See "UNC program to help people with mental illness expands across the state," page 14). Their work has become part of a much larger national movement that has been dubbed the "age of evidence-based policymaking."

For years, social and behavioral science researchers have helped expand knowledge and potential solutions to systemic social problems that challenge government and NGO agencies nationally and internationally. Yet, governments generally have not used researchers' findings in the decision-making process, explained School Professor **Michael Lambert**.

"Typically, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers rarely talk to one another," said Lambert, who is currently advising an international initiative examining violence in childhood to help policymakers identify effective preventative solutions. "As a result, a lot is lost in the translation between research and informing policy as well as informing practice decisions. So, it's only been



Michael Lambert, Ph.D.

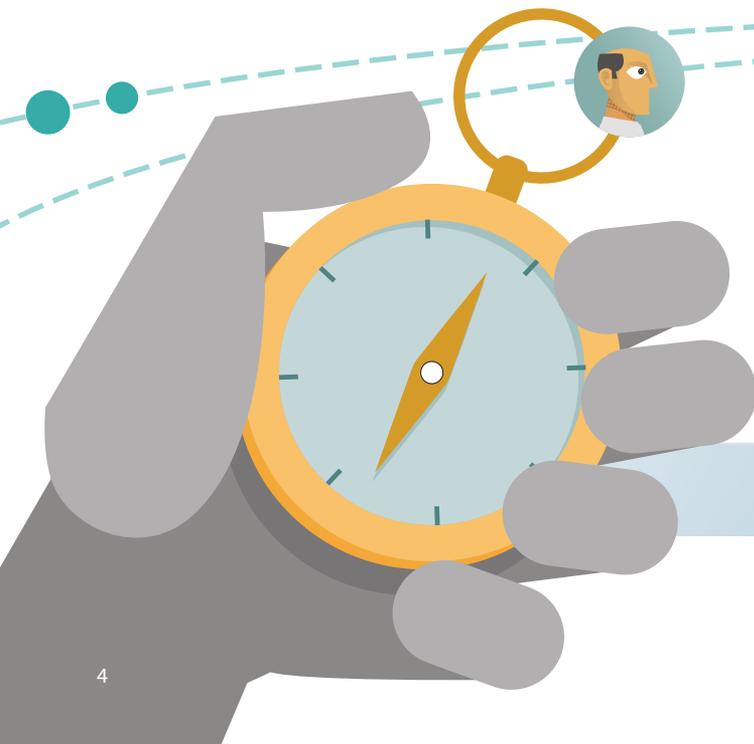
recent that people's feet have been held to the fire in terms of providing services as well as creating policies that really might be rooted in evidence."

Efforts to direct government spending toward social initiatives that work emerged with the Clinton and Bush administrations and have grown under President Obama, who has focused on innovative ideas targeting job training, career education, K-12 education, teen pregnancy, and maternal

and infant well-being. The goal: Reduce wasteful spending; expand innovative programs that have shown promise and eliminate those that have had minimal, if any, impact; and strengthen program accountability.

"Instead of saying, we only have two choices—we either have cuts in government spending or we have to grow the welfare state—let's get somewhere in the middle and ask, 'What should we be spending our money on?' And then let's invest in what's actually working."

— Professor Mark Testa



In the nation's capital where powerful constituencies often direct much of the political agenda, such an approach seems almost radical, especially given Washington's history of funding programs that have delivered few results. For example, according to research cited by the nonpartisan Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, federal and state agencies have supported youth programs such as Job Corps and Upward Bound for years despite evidence that they are doing little to help. Moreover, according to "rough calculations" from two former U.S. policy and budget officials under Republican and Democratic presidents, "less than \$1 out of every \$100 of government spending is backed by even the most basic evidence that the money is being spent wisely."

The fiscal reality isn't that surprising, said **Lisa Zerden**, a School of Social Work clinical associate professor and associate dean for academic affairs. After all, even when there is overwhelming evidence of ineffective policies, public perception can still be far more politically persuasive, especially when dealing with "morality-based," policies, said Zerden, who has published on the issue.



Lisa Zerden, Ph.D.

For example, despite ample research, including from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that supplying sterile syringes to people who inject drugs are cost effective and help prevent HIV, hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases, the federal government and most states

continue to ban needle exchange programs, and federal funding is prohibited. Many opponents worry that these programs encourage drug use instead and send a contradictory message about drug policy.

"And yet, when you look at the public health and social work literature, we have findings that show that for every one dollar spent on a clean syringe, you can save over \$300,000 on HIV care per year," Zerden said. "So if you are dealing with very marginalized groups who are receiving Medicaid or any other subsidized health care, the question is how do you want to spend those very scarce resources?"

In fact, financial conundrums like these are why conversations are shifting ever so slightly toward a better understanding of how taxpayer dollars might best serve those in need and improve communities in the process, she said.

"The cost benefit approach is really the most powerful tool because it makes the most common sense, especially in a time of retrenched

funding," said Zerden, who has helped reform criminal drug policies involving accidental overdose in North Carolina and strengthened law enforcement training around these new laws. "It's only getting harder to provide services to people, and the safety net is shrinking. So we have to figure out another way to provide services that are both effective and based on evidence."

For Testa, this new era really isn't all that new. He's long been a champion of translating evidence-base interventions into more effective policies and practices that enhance the safety, stability and well-being of abused and neglected children nationwide. He also has a track record to show for it.

As the former director of the Children and Family Research Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Testa's research work in the fields of child protection and foster care led to a significant overhaul of that state's Department of Children and Family Services. In fact, his intervention research helped decrease the number of children in foster care in Illinois by 62 percent and saved the state an estimated \$90 million.

Furthermore, one specific reform in Illinois—subsidized guardianship—was successfully replicated in Tennessee and Wisconsin and eventually resulted in national legislation that among other things, now allows states to offer kinship guardianship assistance payments, helping family members to more affordably care for related children.

Since arriving at UNC, Testa's efforts to reform and influence child welfare policies have intensified, leading to the creation of the "Wicked Problems of Child Welfare Institutes." These novel conferences, which have been hosted in Chapel Hill, Chicago and twice in Washington, D.C., were developed with the understanding that the problem of child maltreatment is complex, lacks any single solution and that solid scientific evidence must be used to inform direct practice and public policy.

Testa, the School of Social Work's Jordan Institute for Families and the Children's Home Society of America have collaborated to use these institutes to assemble child welfare experts, service providers and government officials all to the same table. Among the goals: Encourage and disseminate sustainable solutions that are grounded in evidence that positively affect young lives that come into contact with state child protective systems.



Continued next page



“If you assert that you care about the community you serve, then it follows that you would want to know that your efforts are making a difference.”

— Assistant Professor Mat Despard, University of Michigan School of Social Work



More simply, Testa sees the work with Wicked Problems as an opportunity to address the grand challenges of child welfare and to move the country's social policies forward.

“We're trying to build a 21st century child welfare system that's built on the whole idea that every child deserves a safe and permanent home,” Testa said. “The trouble is because of political gridlock, all of our resources are still tied up with that old 20th century foster care system that says you can cure the ills of child abuse simply by removing kids from families and placing them in foster care. But the evidence indicates that removal and long-term foster care often compound the problem. We have to figure out evidence-informed ways to redirect that investment to more effective treatments that address the trauma of child maltreatment within the context of safe and permanent family relationships.”

Still, for all the advocates behind the evidence-based policy movement, others are reluctant to embrace it, partly because they worry that critical assessments will lead to funding cuts. Traditional rigorous evaluations can also be expensive and especially intimidating for small nonprofit groups that manage shoestring budgets and operate on goodwill grounded in compelling anecdotal evidence.

“You will often hear nonprofits push back against evaluation and evidence-based practice by saying, ‘You can't really measure what we do and the impact we have,’” said **Mat Despard**, Ph.D. '15, a former clinical associate professor at UNC's School of Social Work. “Nonprofits are capable of evaluating their efforts, as long as they consider a full range of methods appropriate for the questions they are trying to answer. For some, this may mean using semi-structured interviews to assess highly complex issues. For others, use of a control or comparison group and standardized measures or analysis of administrative data may be feasible. The point is to discern in some systematic way whether the people engaging in the nonprofit's services are experiencing quality of life improvements.”



Mat Despard, Ph.D.

Randomized controlled trials, also known as RCTs, are gaining more attention, including bipartisan support for low-cost RCTs, as a less expensive way for determining an intervention's effectiveness. Low-cost RCTs track outcomes for a group of people who receive treatment and a comparison group that does not. These low-cost studies are considered more affordable than traditional RCTs because they rely on data that public, private or nonprofit agencies already collect, such

as emergency room visits, the number of children in foster care, or graduation rates.

Testa is among those who think low-cost RCTs can offer states more flexibility for testing promising ideas and for increasing the amount of sound evidence in public child welfare. This spring, he was awarded a \$96,000 grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to conduct a low-cost RCT for Safe Families for Children. The national nonprofit recruits and oversees a voluntary network of host families with whom parents in crisis can briefly place their children in times of need to prevent them from falling into the foster care system.

Because the nonprofit helps to reunite children with their parents usually in less than two months, supporters say the program saves taxpayer dollars by avoiding the costs of foster care, which in Illinois, averages \$41,000 per child over a typical two-year length of stay. Testa's study could offer evidence Safe Families for Children needs to demonstrate that its program is just as safe as foster care to justify future funding.

Ultimately, evaluations can help nonprofits better understand what is working—a goal all should be aiming for, added Despard, now an assistant professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan.

“If given the choice of understanding whether your programs are achieving their intended outcomes and impacting the people you are trying to help versus choosing not to understand, the choice is pretty simple,” he said. “If you assert that you care about the community you serve, then it follows that you would want to know that your efforts are making a difference.”

The same can be said in public government, including in North Carolina, where lawmakers have required that state agencies take a more critical look at spending, especially during lean budget years. School of Social Work faculty, including within the Jordan Institute's Family and Children's Resource Program (FCRP), are among those who regularly evaluate state programs, helping to connect research to practice and inform policy decisions.

For example, FCRP assessed the state's foster parent training system a couple of years ago and found that county governments and private agencies that recruit and serve foster families needed to work better together and strengthen their support services. From that evaluation, the N.C. Division of Social Services contracted with FCRP to develop a toolkit to assist counties on how to work more effectively together and with the private sector to ensure foster children have the best opportunity of being placed in loving and stable homes.

“The goal was to give agencies in all 100 counties a way to evaluate their options and to select foster care providers based on quality of



“...It is important for us to provide evidence that will really make a difference in people’s lives.”

— Associate Professor Gina Chowa



care and the outcomes they achieve,” said **Mellicent Blythe**, a clinical assistant professor and education specialist with FCRP. Without such measures, frontline workers run the risk of placing children where they can find empty beds, she added.

“Given that the research shows that states save money by finding safe and permanent homes for foster children and that the overall well-being of these children greatly improves, it just makes sense that we would want proven programs and practices that serve the best interests of children and the foster families who care for them,” Blythe said.



Mellicent Blythe, LCSW

**Gary Nelson** understands the desire to ensure that social programs are providing something of value, especially during such austere times. Still, the social work professor worries that too many may weigh evidence of success with an all-or-nothing point of view. That approach could limit other possible solutions for more complex problems, such as issues around race, poverty, and gender, he said.

“If you start with evidence only, you’re often closed to seeing anything that may be different that doesn’t fit your model,” said Nelson,



Gary Nelson, DSW

UNC’s Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair in Public Policy. “Then you force your model on things that it shouldn’t be forced on. So I think there’s a risk of overselling evidence-based policymaking simply because people want predictability and control. During periods of great change, when the institutions, the culture and the approach to change are themselves changing, it’s important to take the risk, innovate and follow the path that has not been taken with an eye toward improving

the welfare of those you serve. So, for me, it’s how do you remain open to innovation and use evidence to inform.”

Even with current bipartisan support for evidence-based policymaking, its political fate remains uncertain given recent efforts in Congress to cut Obama’s six major initiatives.

Still, social work researchers such as Associate Professor **Gina Chowa** are optimistic that this new dawn of government decision-making will progress just as it has over the years internationally. Chowa, whose research focuses on the effects of asset ownership on youth and families in resource-limited countries, has seen organiza-

tions in many of these nations also struggle for the most efficient way to create the biggest impact.

“For example, so much money has been thrown at poverty in Africa, but we still have the poor,” Chowa said. “Why? Because we’ve been doing things that are not putting a dent in poverty. And so from that angle, it is important for us to provide evidence that will really make a difference in people’s lives.”

Chowa’s work on the financial inclusion project, YouthSave, is helping to do just that and is challenging traditional thinking about youth in low-income families. She is particularly interested in learning how accumulating savings impact a youth’s educational, economic, psychosocial, physical and mental well-being.

Historically, banks in resource-limited countries have been unwilling to work with low-income people and have barred youth under 18 from applying for an account. YouthSave has helped open those doors and has the potential to influence broader financial policies in Africa to ensure that more young people have access to banking services and thus, more opportunities to help lift themselves out of poverty, Chowa said. The study is already showing some promising results among young savers, including an improved attitude on life, she added.

“The success of this project has changed a lot of financial institutions perspectives on working with low savers,” she said. “More and more banks are doing this out of corporate social responsibility. They understand that they will not make any profit up front, but if they allow these kids to open accounts, they will stick with them for the long haul. So banks are finally beginning to see these youth as an opportunity to build clientele for the future.”

Chowa said researchers in this country must continue to pursue evidence in a similar opportunistic manner—as the most effective way to influence U.S. policies that produce meaningful impact on people’s lives and guarantee a better future for everyone.

“After all, evidence for the sake of evidence will not help the field of research,” she said. “I am in this work to improve people’s well-being. And if I’m doing research that doesn’t really influence the interventions that are being put into place for poor people and toward their well-being, then I am not doing what is supposed to be done. At the same time, if our programs and interventions in this country are not based on evidence, then we are not doing any favors to the clients and to the populations we are serving.”



Gina Chowa, Ph.D.



## Richman leads School of Social Work into 95th year

By Brandon Bieltz, UNC's Office of Communications and Public Affairs

**H**e didn't know for sure what he wanted to do with a degree in anthropology, but as a college student, **Jack Richman** knew that he wanted to be helpful.

Not really knowing what kind of work that meant, he left the door open for anything by heading into social work.

"There are a lot of ways you can go about being in the helping profession, but social work allows you to not have to choose," he said.

After decades of working with struggling and vulnerable populations through research and counseling, Richman has continued to use his helping touch to bring the University of North Carolina School of Social Work to the forefront of the field — as dean.

As the school celebrates its 95th anniversary this year, Richman is dedicated to carrying on its legacy while keeping up with the changing field.

"We are really here to come up with intervention research that leads to innovative and cutting-edge interventions that will benefit populations," Richman said. "This has to do with everything from economic justice, social justice, human functioning, mental health and child welfare. We really cover the gambit in the areas, but it's all about economic and social justice and vulnerable populations."

The School's heavy focus on research has come a long way since it first opened its doors nearly a century ago.

Opened as the state's only School of Public Welfare in 1920 under the supervision of sociologist and first dean Howard W. Odum, the

school served as a training institution for North Carolina's welfare workers. At one point, the majority of the directors of social services in the state's 100 counties were graduates of the school.

Continuously growing throughout the years, it was renamed the "School of Social Work" in 1950. Then 45 years later — in 1995 — the school moved into a \$10 million, 75,000-square-foot facility.

The school's first classes amounted to less than a dozen students. Today, the School teaches 300 Masters of Social Work students and 30 Ph.D. It has grown in scope to cover a wide range of research including poverty, mental health, violence and substance abuse.

"We started in 1920 as the School of Public Welfare, so that was at the core of who we were," Richman said. "We still do an awful lot in the world of public welfare, but we broadened out as social work has grown. ... In 95 years, we've gone



from a small public welfare-focused school to fifth ranked [by the US News and World Report]. And we are becoming more global.”

A significant factor in that change has been Richman, who was named dean in 2002.

“We’ve come so far in offering an incredible experience to the student,” said **Louise Coggins**, an alumna and member of the school’s board of advisors. “Dean Richman’s leadership has been the largest part of that for decades now. He’s a very gifted teacher and professor as well as a gifted leader. He just has the skillset that really brought the school a lot of attention.

“He’s done so much. He’s really helping the school keep up with changes. He keeps retaining the best professors.”

Richman arrived at Chapel Hill from Nebraska Wesleyan University where he taught for six years. Initially, Richman served as assistant dean and director of studies for the UNC School of Social Work, but five years later he took a tenure-tracked professor position to return to the classroom.

From an assistant professor position, Richman worked his way back up the ranks and was selected dean by fellow faculty members in 2002. Richman continued the progress of the school, which now boasts nine certificate and dual degree programs, an MSW program and a Ph.D. program.



“I think he’s just continued on in the same way in promoting outstanding practice and research that adds to the field and the theoretical development of the practice,” said **Maeda Galinsky**, a faculty member for 50 years.

Over the past 13 years, Richman’s main goals as dean have been to acquire top-tier faculty members while promoting more research and focused on multiplying the school’s endowment to attract students — an effort he says that has continued to propel the school to become the nation’s fifth best school of social work.

The future of the school, Richman said, will depend on the future of the field, but it will always revolve around the concept of creating the best research to help practicing social workers.

“The research that’s driving the doctoral program and the faculty has to link up with the practitioner in giving them better tools,” he said. “The best practice is informed by research, and the best research is informed by practice. That’s the school we have to be. I think that’s where this school needs to go. We need to keep focusing on the nexus of research and practice so that we’re producing the best of both.”

# THEN & NOW



## NAME/MISSION

**THEN:** Originally established in 1920 as a School of Public Welfare and promoted primarily as a training institution for the state’s welfare workers.

**NOW:** The UNC School of Social Work took on its current name in 1950 and is now considered the 5th ranked school of social work in the country, a national prominence attributable to our quality classroom and field instruction, cutting-edge research, invaluable public service, community-engaged scholarship and technical assistance.



## STUDENTS

**THEN:** About a dozen full-time students were enrolled in the School’s very first classes.

**NOW:** More than 300 MSW and about 30 Ph.D. students are enrolled today.



## FACULTY

**THEN:** Less than a handful of faculty members served in the School’s early days and intervention research was nonexistent.

**NOW:** Today, the School has grown to include 82 tenured, tenure-track, clinical and research faculty—10 of whom are distinguished professors. In 2014, social work faculty received more than \$9 million in research grant funding.



## BUILDING

**THEN:** The School was once housed in the basement of what was then “Alumni Hall” and then later in a small building at 223 E. Franklin Street, which mainly housed offices. A hodgepodge of additional offices and classrooms were spread across campus.

**NOW:** The School’s current 5-story, 75,000-square-foot building on Pittsboro Street was completed in 1995 for \$10 million.



## ENDOWMENT

**THEN:** More than 25 years ago, contributions to the School amounted to barely \$40,000.

**NOW:** By 1996, the School’s endowment had grown to \$4 million and today, hovers around \$16 million, an amount that includes funding for student scholarships and chaired professorships.

# School receives \$2.2 million in federal funding to prepare students for integrated healthcare

By Susan White

The School of Social Work's UNC-PrimeCare program graduated its first 10 students in May 2015, and selected another 21 students to complete the specialized training in integrated behavioral healthcare during the 2015-2016 academic year.

These trainees are part of a \$1.4 million, federally-funded program created to prepare MSW students for work with medical professionals in the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents, and young adults who have, or are at risk for, a mental health or substance-use disorder.

The funding, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration, is among tens of millions of dollars granted last year to universities, agencies and communities to increase the number of mental health and public health workers nationally, especially those serving adolescents, and to improve access to quality health services. The School's dual master's degree program in social work and public health was also awarded a nearly \$867,000 grant as part of this funding to help further prepare graduates for leadership roles in social work and public health.

Long-term, the federal grants, which will fund both programs for three years, will enable the School of Social Work to pursue other possibilities for collaborating with campus partners and community agencies and for better integrating behavioral health, public health and primary care, said School Dean **Jack M. Richman**.



Dean Jack Richman, Ph.D.

"These two grants were developed by our faculty in full interest of and in collaboration with the Health Affairs Schools at UNC and with many of our community agency partners," he said. "I am confident that these programs and the money that is supporting them will really step up our work and impact in the health and behavioral health systems and provide significant

financial support for many MSW students working in these areas. I am further confident that these grants will afford the School the opportunity to become a leader in these emerging and critical areas of practice."

Overall, UNC-PrimeCare aims to train 93 MSW students over the next couple of years, increasing the School's number of behavioral health graduates by threefold. UNC officials say these professionals are needed because of the increase in the number of people who are insured as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and to address a shortage of behavioral health services for youth. This shortage is especially acute in North Carolina, where children, who are 12 and older, have among the nation's highest rates of illicit drug use and dependence.

In return for fully participating in UNC-PrimeCare and as an incentive to pursue a career as a behavioral health specialist in an integrated healthcare setting, trainees receive a \$10,000 stipend. They also hone their skills and knowledge by attending required monthly field seminars related to integrated behavioral health.

In addition, trainees participate with their field instructor and field placement team members in workshops that are led by experts in the field and that foster creativity and collaboration within integrated health care teams. The UNC-PrimeCare project team organized four seminars this year, focusing on a variety of topics, including the



adverse effects of commonly prescribed psychiatric medications and ethical issues in integrated care.

UNC-PrimeCare "really is a win-win for everyone," said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Lisa Zerden**, who is collaborating with Co-Investigator and Clinical Professor **Anne Jones** on the project.

"Students get the specialist training they need, more opportunities to work in integrated healthcare settings and generous compensation for their work in the field," Zerden said. "While on the other end, healthcare providers get well-trained state-of-the-art social workers who can assist practices in treating patients more holistically."

Over the last few years, changes under the ACA have opened the door for incorporating more behavioral health professionals, especially social workers, into primary care practices. Generally, doctors and nurses are seeing more patients with substance abuse and mental health disorders and as a result, need more support and resources to screen and treat these individuals' needs, Zerden said. Trained social workers are a "natural fit" for these roles and for helping patients manage their overall care, including assisting with referrals and navigating the complex healthcare system, she said.

Perhaps most significant, these same social workers can help to screen and treat youth and young adults between 16 and 25—the critical age range for catching behavioral and mental healthcare problems before they become problematic, Zerden said.

"We really have the opportunity to intervene before those patterns of drug use or mental health symptoms worsen," she said. "And if we can intervene and provide healthier development, healthier patterns and healthier coping mechanisms, then we can hopefully have healthier outcomes into adulthood."

The recent federal award to the MSW/MPH program will also significantly support students preparing for leadership roles in North Carolina, as well as across the country. Over the years, dual



Lisa Zerden, Ph.D.



Anne Jones, Ph.D.



“Students get the specialist training they need, more opportunities to work in integrated healthcare settings and generous compensation for their work in the field. While on the other end, healthcare providers get well-trained state-of-the-art social workers who can assist practices in treating patients more holistically.”

— *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Lisa Zerden*

degree graduates have landed top posts with state and local health departments, community and migrant health centers, voluntary health agencies, hospitals and medical centers, child advocacy agencies, policy organizations, and international health programs. In these roles, graduates have focused on a myriad of social and health issues, including adolescent health and well-being, substance use and abuse, school-based programs, violence prevention, healthy birth outcomes, and health disparities.

Financial support for these students is especially critical in the summer during their second year field placements, explained Professor **Kathleen Rounds**, co-director of the MSW/MPH program. Thanks to the federal grant, each student will receive a \$10,000 stipend for living expenses and tuition, as well as about \$3,000



Kathleen Rounds, Ph.D.

for graduate student health insurance.

“It’s more funding than we’ve had in the past for students, and it’s critically important because the summer field placement is full-time, and students pay summer school tuition, and they have no way to support themselves during that time,” she said. “This funding makes a huge difference for them.”

The three-year grant will also support a nine-month interdisciplinary leadership training program. This program, which has been offered since 2001, is co-sponsored by the social work and public health dual degree program, Maternal and Child Health at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, and Leadership in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities. The training experience is offered to students, parents of children with special health care needs, professionals from the North Carolina Title V program, and self-advocates.

# School awarded \$1.24 million grant to address child

By Susan White

Researchers at the UNC School of Social Work began working closely this year with a team of public and private agencies, including law enforcement and justice department officials, social workers, mental health workers, nonprofit agencies, and religious organizations to tackle child trafficking in North Carolina.

The work is part of the five-year, federally-funded Project NO REST, a collaborative effort focused on increasing awareness of sexual and labor trafficking among children and youth involved in the state's child welfare system, especially those in foster care. The U.S. Children's Bureau, Office of the Administration for Children & Families awarded a \$1.24 million grant to Research Professor **Dean Duncan**, who helped launch the initiative late last year. The project, which stands for "North Carolina Organizing and Responding to the Exploitation and Sexual Trafficking of Children," aims to reduce the number of youth who are trafficked in the state—which ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation in potential cases—and to improve the outcomes for those who are.

"Human trafficking has devastating consequences for victims and our entire community," said Duncan, who is leading the project with co-principal



Dean Duncan, Ph.D.

investigator **Joy Stewart**, a research assistant professor. "Project NO REST will enable North Carolina to get in front of this critical issue."

Several factors contribute to the state's climate for trafficking, including the convenience of major highways and ports, which make it easier to transport victims, Duncan said. Easy access to and from tourist areas, where there is a high demand for labor and sex trafficking, and the state's large military presence, which often attracts nearby adult businesses that fuel or front for sex trafficking, also make North Carolina an appealing place for the slave trade.

"We also have an expansive agricultural community that has a high demand for manual laborers and large isolated, rural areas in which trafficked laborers can be easily concealed," Duncan said. "So all of these features make it easy for predators to locate, coerce or seize, move, and sell vulnerable victims."

Although the total number of youth in North Carolina lured into modern-day servitude is unclear, the U.S. State Department estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked worldwide every year—50 percent of which are children age 13 on average. Many victims are runaways who



Joy Stewart, MSW



# trafficking in North Carolina

have been in foster care or who were living in abusive homes, Duncan said. Youth with multiple experiences in foster care are especially at risk for trafficking.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, studies have shown that about 1 in 3 runaways who do not return home are trafficked or forced to trade sex for basic needs. Such traumatic experiences in childhood can have life-long negative effects, Duncan added, which is why Project NO REST aims to identify potential trafficking victims more quickly and link them with culturally appropriate services that promote recovery and healing.

That work launched in cooperation with the team of public and private agencies that are helping to develop a state strategic plan to address trafficking and provide needed services to child victims, including screening, assessment, therapeutic care, medical and oral health care, housing, employment, education, and life skills. Once that plan is in place, three to five counties from across the state will be selected to pilot it, Duncan said.

“These counties also will look at establishing procedures and protocols for how to handle issues of trafficking to minimize trauma,

how to perform outreach and provide a safe space for victims,” Duncan said. “One of the big issues that we will need to try to work through is if you bring these children into care, where do you want to put them?”

Some have suggested that because traffickers stand to make a lot of money off these children that they may not be safe in foster homes, Duncan added. “At the same time, you don’t want to put them in a secure facility or even in a group home because they could think they’re being put in jail, and we don’t want them to feel like they’re being locked up,” he said.

Over the next few years, Project NO REST also will explore ways to collect reliable data on the number of children and youth trafficked to get a better idea of the size of the problem in the state and ways to widely distribute information and raise awareness of the issue.

“The stakeholders I have met,” Duncan said, “will not rest until all systems are aligned to prevent further human trafficking of children in child welfare, to identify those children who are victims and to quickly connect them to culturally competent, effective services to begin their healing process.”

## Macy assists with efforts to combat human trafficking

By Susan White

**R**ebecca Macy’s research work is helping to inform services for survivors of human trafficking in New York City and continues to bring additional attention to the same problem in North Carolina.

Restore NYC, an anti-human trafficking organization, began working with Macy last year in an effort to ensure that their current services are helpful to their clients. Macy, the School of Social Work’s L. Richardson Preyer Distinguished Chair for Strengthening Families, spent three days in September with the organization, where she learned more about Restore’s staff and their programs, including their safe house.



Rebecca Macy, Ph.D.

During the visit, Macy also provided consultation to Restore on their work and developed plans for a collaborative evaluation. As a new member of the organization’s strategic advisory board, Macy will continue to assist Restore as they work to end sex trafficking in New York and restore the well-being and independence of foreign national survivors.

Meanwhile, Macy continues to work closely with the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault to build awareness around the issue of human trafficking in the state. The coalition recently tapped Macy to assess the state’s efforts to provide comprehensive services to undocumented immigrants who are in the country as a result of force, fraud or coercion. These individuals are considered among the more vulnerable victims of trafficking because they don’t yet have the certification or recognition they need from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Refugee Resettlement to access federal services and support.

Although Macy’s assessment found that law enforcement agencies, child welfare and mental health workers, and others who work with trafficking survivors still need more in-depth training to ensure that victims receive the services they need, she also found that the state has done a good job of bringing service providers and law enforcement professionals to the table to work together. Efforts have also been successful in educating various agencies and groups to identify and recognize human trafficking.

As a scholar and expert on human trafficking, Macy also participated last October in an interdisciplinary “Roundtable on Human Trafficking” at The Human Rights Center at the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University.



Macy talks with staff at Restore NYC

# UNC program to help people with mental illness expands across the state

By Susan White

A pilot program designed to connect individuals with mental illness and complex social needs with services and support has expanded into six more counties around the state.

The Critical Time Intervention (CTI) program—a collaborative effort between the UNC School of Social Work and the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health—extended into Alamance, Caswell, Gaston, New Hanover, Onslow and Cumberland counties in July, said Clinical Assistant Professor **Barbara Smith**, who directs the project along with co-director and Assistant Professor **Gary Cuddeback**.



Barbara Smith, MSW

These expansion sites join others in Orange and Chatham, where the pilot intervention program originally launched in 2012, with funding from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in Winston-Salem.

The CTI model expanded as part of the Crisis Solutions Initiative, a project of the N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, Partners Behavioral Health Management,

and Coastal Care are sharing nearly \$1.5 million in mental health block grant funds to oversee the additional program sites. The state is also contracting with the School of Social Work's Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program to help manage the expansion.

Over the past year, Smith helped champion support for the additional sites, in part, by promoting the successful partnerships that the Orange County team has developed with multiple community agencies, including the Orange County 100,000 Homes Task Force, a group of health, human services, and law enforcement professionals who help find housing, healthcare and services for those most at risk of dying on the streets.

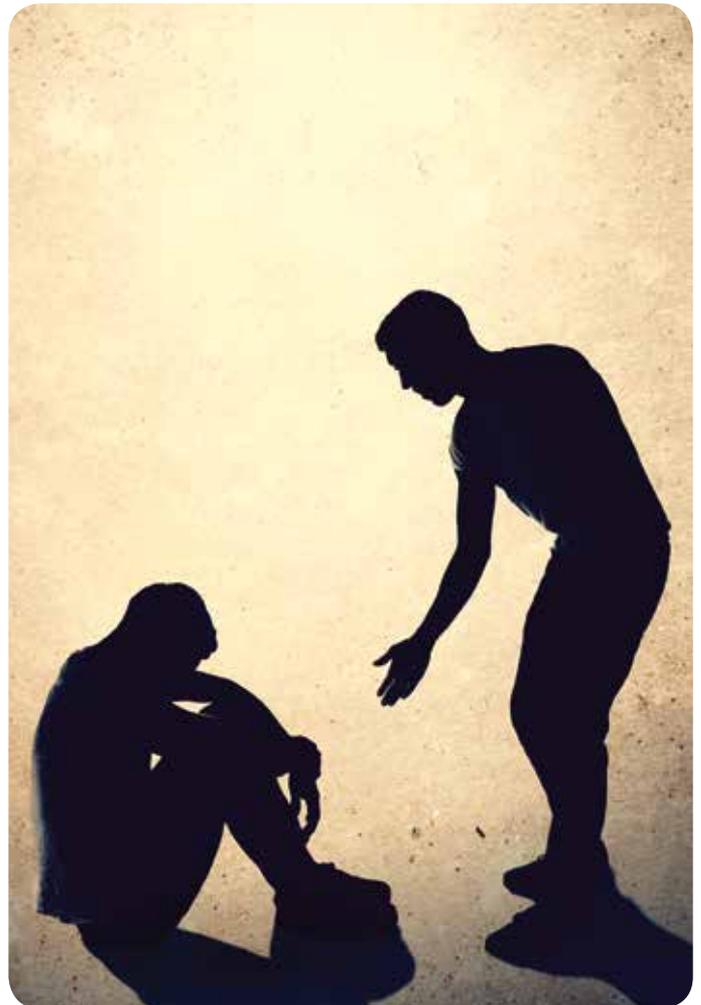
"Because we have good strong relationships here, people have realized that the CTI model is a good thing and that it's been working to help some of the most vulnerable people in our local community," Smith said.

CTI was designed as an intensive case management program that aims to prevent recurrent homelessness in individuals with severe mental illness who are leaving shelters, hospitals or other institutions, including prisons. The model works by providing emotional and practical support during the critical time of transition and by strengthening an individual's long-term ties to services, family, friends and the community.

Research has shown that without adequate shelter, medical or mental health care, homeless people with mental illness often wind up in emergency rooms or in jails, neither of which is equipped to provide long-term solutions. Under the CTI model, a team of trained workers led by a licensed clinician connects these vulnerable adults, including those struggling with substance abuse and addiction, to critical services within the community more quickly. As a result, people are directed toward more sustain-



Gary Cuddeback, Ph.D.



able and effective care and diverted away from costly hospitalizations and institutionalized care.

Although outcome data for the pilot project is still being evaluated, Smith and her colleagues are pleased with what they have learned so far. Since launching, the program has assisted nearly 115 people, a little more than half of whom were male. About 45 percent of all clients were diagnosed with a mood disorder; 18 percent were diagnosed with bipolar disorder; and another 18 percent were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

This same report, which was compiled by **Nick Lemmon**, MSW '12, found that of the total clients served over the past two years:

- 59 percent were housed, versus 43 percent at referral.
- 53 percent had disability benefits, versus 41 percent at referral.
- 65 percent were receiving mental health services, versus 44 percent at referral.
- 52 percent were connected to primary care, versus 28 percent at referral.

Such data informs how effective CTI is, but the project has also helped identify the gap that remains between homeless and mental health services, Smith said.

“It’s been interesting, especially when agencies that offer each of these services are basically serving the same population,” she said. “So that’s been an interesting conundrum—how do you bring those two things together?”

Over the next few years, Smith hopes to see CTI programs in even more counties. In the meantime, the Orange County team is preparing to join a global CTI network. The network is being developed by Daniel Herman, a professor and associate dean for scholarship and research at New York’s Hunter College, and the creator of the CTI model.

The system will give those who support CTI a chance to build relationships and learn from one another, Smith added.

“What I’m hoping is that we can develop a really robust learning community and get all of these collaborative relationships going,” she said. “But I also hope we learn more about how to roll out a new evidence-based practice and make sure that providers who are doing it are doing it well and adhering to the model and making sure that it’s quality care.”

## School assisting state to offer mental health screenings and treatment to new refugees

By Susan White

The School of Social Work is partnering with the state to improve access to health and mental health services to refugees in the Triangle.

**Josh Hinson**, a social work clinical assistant professor who is leading the “Refugee Mental Health and Wellness Initiative,” and his team of social work students began working closely with the state Department of Health and Human Services in January to provide mental health screenings and treatment to refugees in Durham, Orange and Wake counties. The team is also training agencies that are assisting resettled immigrants. The state is funding the project with an \$87,880 grant from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Most of the work expands on what Hinson and his team began in 2013 with a pilot study, which found that many newly arriving refugees in Durham and Orange counties are eager for mental health assistance, including help adjusting to life in a new country. As part of the study, Hinson’s research team successfully screened 57 clients, most of whom were between the ages of 20 to 40, male and from the countries of Sudan, Iraq and Burma. All were offered individual and group therapy treatments, though some declined the services.



Josh Hinson, MSW

Overall, research has shown that refugees often experience trauma and struggle with culture shock and displacement. As a result, many face stress-related disorders, such as chronic physical illnesses, mental illnesses, and substance abuse. But historically, few public and private agencies have addressed these needs, Hinson said. Instead, most have geared efforts toward temporary services such as housing and employment.

Through the contract work with the state, the UNC project aims to do more to connect refugee communities to needed interpreters, services and mental health treatment, Hinson said. Social work students, including **Laura Garlock**, MSW ’15, who worked on the project in 2013, and **Kevin McNamee** assisted with these efforts as part of their field placements this year with the office of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Raleigh. **Abbie Heffelfinger**, a research assistant and a dual degree student in UNC’s social work and public health program, is helping with data analysis and outreach.

Hinson hopes to continue the project over several years to give students a chance to “establish relationships with all of these agencies, to train providers and to help develop an awareness among refugees and provider communities about the need for mental health services.”



Josh Hinson and MSW students Abbie Heffelfinger, Allie Hill and Erin Magee speak about the Refugee Mental Health and Wellness Initiative to the School of Social Work’s Board of Advisors on Oct. 31, 2014.

“I feel like this is a huge step in developing a system of care that just doesn’t exist right now,” he said.



# Fund honors legendary coach Dean Smith, helps students pursue an education

By Susan White

To the nation and especially to North Carolina, **Dean Smith** was one of the most successful and admired college basketball coaches of all time. But he was also a champion for education and a new fund created to honor his life and legacy will ensure that many more students have the best opportunity to attend college regardless of their financial resources.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in consultation with the Smith family and with its full support, officially launched a fund-raising campaign this spring to raise money for The Dean E. Smith Opening Doors Fund. This new fund will make college a reality for outstanding undergraduates from lower-income families and enable professionals in education and social work to pursue advanced degrees.

“The world knew Coach Smith as a great basketball coach, but the Carolina family knew him as a great teacher and humanitarian. His care for his players was for life,” UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor **Carol L. Folt** said of Smith, who died Feb. 7, 2015. “He was a force for good and a remarkable pioneer, promoting equality, civil rights and respect for all. This fund will be a fitting tribute, opening doors to opportunity for many just as he did.”

The Dean E. Smith Opening Doors Fund, which will be funded by private gifts and matching University dollars, is the first at UNC-Chapel Hill to support both undergraduate and graduate students. Recipients, known as the Dean E. Smith Scholars, will exemplify Coach Smith’s qualities of leadership, service and excellence.

The campaign, which will solicit endowment gifts to generate revenue in perpetuity, has no set goal or duration, but officials hope to award the first scholarships to students entering Carolina in the fall of 2015. Based on current attendance costs at UNC, the fund will provide annual \$5,000 need-based scholarships for undergraduate students to help them cover college expenses; graduate awards will be up to \$30,000 annually for a full scholarship, although smaller amounts also will be awarded to provide a range of resources, such as funding for innovative research, travel and dissertation stipends.

Gifts to the fund will be divided evenly among the three areas targeted for support. The University will match all gifts dollar for dollar with non-state funds that the chancellor can use at her discretion to meet a campus priority, further leveraging the impact of donor contributions. The matching dollars will support Dean E. Smith Scholars at the undergraduate level, because of this population’s broad presence on campus.

That the fund also will support social work graduate students speaks volumes of Smith’s commitment to the profession, said **Mary Beth Hernandez**, former associate dean for advancement at UNC’s School of Social Work.

“Dean often spoke very passionately about the need to support social work because he said social workers were the ones doing the important work in society,” Hernandez said.

In fact, Smith lived his entire life as a change-maker, said **Louise Coggins**, a personal friend of the Smiths and chairwoman of the School of Social Work’s Board of Advisors. Smith was a long-time board member; his wife **Linnea** still actively serves on the board. He actively worked against racial discrimination in the South, recruiting the first African American star basketball player in the Atlantic Coast Conference. He also helped to integrate a restaurant and neighborhood in Chapel Hill. His efforts off the court earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country’s highest civilian award.

“Dean was a great basketball coach, but he was a much greater man and mentor,” Coggins said. “His dedication to families and to

social justice, not to mention equality and racial justice issues—every single cause he believed in was just in his blood and demonstrated in his actions.”

Smith’s work extended to the School of Social Work, which he supported “with his time, input and effort,” praised **Dean Jack M. Richman**.

“When called upon, he would often use his fame to share the importance of both education and social work—two professions that offer real solutions to social problems such as poverty, family violence, and racism.”

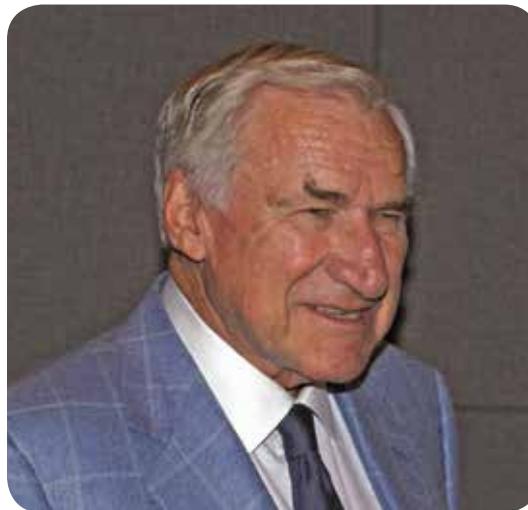
Smith’s influence was instrumental in helping to secure several of the largest gifts the School of Social Work has ever received, including from UNC alumnus **Sam Reeves** and from former UNC athletes **Harris Barton** and **Michael Jordan**.

Reeves and his wife **Betsy** of Fresno, Calif., donated \$1 million to the School in 2007 to establish the Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professorship and the Armfield-Reeves Innovations Fund. Over the last five years, the couple has also given more than \$1 million to the University to support social work doctoral students.

Barton, a 1987 graduate and former All-pro offensive lineman for the San Francisco 49ers, made a large gift in honor of his late father, Paul C. Barton, whose name now graces a conference room at the School. Jordan’s \$1 million donation in 1996 helped establish UNC’s Jordan Institute for Families. The institute, which is still based at the School of Social Work, brings together experts across disciplines to develop and test policies and practices that strengthen families and children in need.

“His impact on the School, though he often did the work behind the scenes, is immeasurable,” Hernandez said.

That impact will continue through the Dean E. Smith Opening Doors Fund. To make an online gift to the fund, go to <http://giving.unc.edu/opening-doors>. Gifts by check can be mailed to: The Dean E. Smith Opening Doors Fund, Office of University Development, P.O. Box 309, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514-0309.



Dean Smith at a UNC School of Social Work event in 2007

# School researchers explore food insecurity in Zambia among residents with HIV/AIDS

By Susan White

Today, millions of people in Zambia lack adequate access to food at all times, not because food isn't available but because they are too poor to afford it. Perhaps, more troubling is how food insecurity is emerging as a widespread problem for people living with HIV or AIDS. After all, when these residents cannot afford to keep food on their tables, they are less likely to take the required drugs they need to survive, even when those medications are free of cost.

But at UNC's School of Social Work, researchers are leading a pilot exploratory study that could help Zambia's poor increase their financial assets and improve their overall health, especially among food-insecure adults living with HIV. Researchers were awarded \$40,000 in grants to pursue the study, including from the School's Armfield-Reeves Innovation Fund and from the Center for AIDS Research at both UNC and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The project, in collaboration with Zambia's Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health, aims to address the various

social and economic risk factors that hinder or prevent an individual from taking needed antiretroviral drugs—medications known to suppress the HIV virus and stop the progression of the disease. These risk factors are important to understand because too often, interventions “target the biological and biomedical part of HIV, but it is also a social problem,” explained Associate Professor and Principal Investigator **Gina Chowa**.



Gina Chowa, Ph.D.

“So this study will increase the knowledge in terms of the social and economic structural barriers to preventing and managing HIV/AIDS,” she said.

Currently, 13 percent of Zambia's 15-to 49-year-olds are living with HIV. Although most have access to free antiretroviral drugs, many struggle to adhere to treatment optimally because of lack of food. For instance, many people living with HIV skip taking their medications because they want to avoid experiencing severe side effects that occur when powerful medications are taken on an empty stomach, explained Assistant Professor and study Co-Investigator **Rain Masa**.

“Obviously, people living with HIV are trained about the importance of food and nutrition for maintaining better health,” Masa said.

“But if they don't have the resources to buy the food they need, then that message becomes almost futile.”

At the same time, even when those living with HIV receive food assistance, that support typically lasts six months to a year, Masa added. “And when you are required to take your medication for the rest of your lives, that (assistance) really is not enough,” he said.



Rain Masa, Ph.D.

Chowa and Masa hope to address this problem with the launch of the year-long project, “Health & Wealth,” an integrated HIV and livelihood program that promotes social and economic well-being by employing participants with the tools they need to generate sustainable wealth and health. These tools include small business training and a grant (about



\$200 in U.S dollars) to help participants start an income-generating activity, such as retail startup.

Participants also receive training on how to better manage their money and are given the opportunity to open a savings account with a local bank.

“The idea of adding the savings component to the intervention is to address sustainability,” Chowa said. “You can't just look at income generation because if they just increase their income, it's about consumption... and then they're not planning for the future, and they run the risk of falling back into the cycle of poverty and food insecurity. So we added the savings component so they can actually build assets and sustain their food security in the home so they are able to take their medications as prescribed.”

The UNC researchers are partnering with two hospitals in Eastern Province, Zambia, and expect to enroll a total of 100 participants, ages 18 to 45, in the longitudinal study. Long-term, Chowa and Masa hope the pilot project will offer the results needed to conduct a larger study.

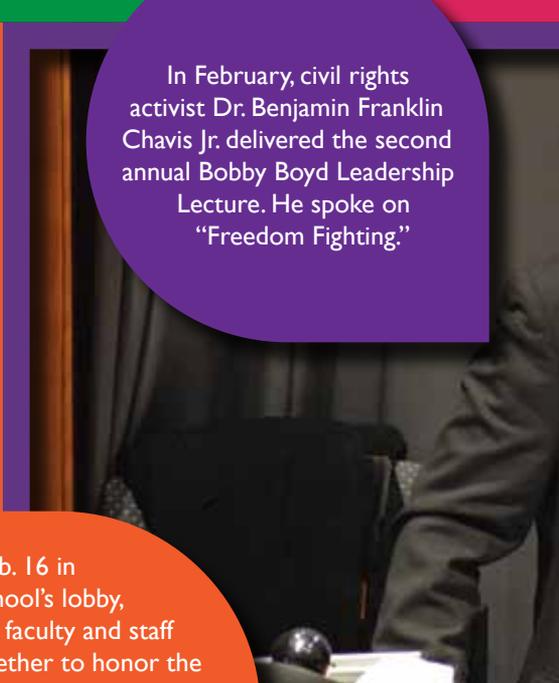
# LOOKING BACK...



In April, the School of Social Work hosted its annual Career Day to connect students with employers.



In August, MSW students kicked off the semester by attending JUMPSTART: Preparation for Practice, a conference-like experience to help prepare students for their social work graduate education and career.



In February, civil rights activist Dr. Benjamin Franklin Chavis Jr. delivered the second annual Bobby Boyd Leadership Lecture. He spoke on "Freedom Fighting."



On Feb. 16 in the School's lobby, students, faculty and staff came together to honor the lives of Chapel Hill shooting victims Deah Shaddy Barakat, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha.



In April, MSW students, faculty, staff, board members, family and friends gathered at the School of Social Work to honor scholarship donors and recipients. Springle Scholar Cathy Nguyen relays how her scholarship is enabling her to accomplish her goal of working with military veterans and their families.



The School's annual Harambee multicultural event celebrates ethnic, racial and cultural diversity through food, art and performances. MSW student Naomi Broadway performs a Ballet Folklorico.



In May, the School hosted an Appreciation Conference for 150 field instructors and task supervisors.



Students collected donations from faculty, staff, and friends to sponsor blue pinwheels, the symbol for child abuse prevention. They were planted outside the School in April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Organized by MSW student Danny Ball, all proceeds went to Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina.



# 2014-15 MSW Scholarships and Awards

**Alumni Development Award**  
Regina D' Elizabeth Auria

**Melvarene J. Howard Adair Scholarship**  
Theresa Marie Colosso, Annia Cuebas-Colon, Julia Minor Tarr

**Jane Hall and William Johnston Armfield Scholarship**  
Olivia Bass, Karina Fabiola Alvarado, India DePriese Dunn, Whitney Renee McCollum

**Berg Scholars Award**  
Sara Elizabeth Harwood

**Annie Kizer Bost Award**  
Betty Kelly

**Amy Louise Brannock, MSW Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
Kayla G. Bryant

**Kathleen Price Scholarship**  
Sherise Baesa De Leon, Barbara Ray Harviala Rodriguez, Sara Elizabeth Harwood, Star Sullivan

**Chaney-Jacobs-Preyer Award**  
Rhiannon Nicole Kelly

**Brett Chavis Memorial Scholarship**  
Jeffery King Neer

**Child Welfare Education Collaborative Scholars**  
Christine Alvarado, Paulina Burch, Rachel Carlston, Aimee Fairchild, Elizabeth Gibson, Jolanta McKinnie, Susan Parker, Tedra Wiggins, Tonya Williams, Katie Yadusky, Hannah Yoder

**Child Welfare Education Collaborative Leadership Scholars**  
Mshairi Evans, Betty Kelly

**Robert and Peggy Culbertson Scholarship**  
Katherine Falbo-Woodson

**Martha Sherrill Dunn Scholarship**  
Kimberly Autumn Bowers

**Bertie Oscar Edwards Scholarship**  
Aimee Gilliam Fairchild

**Joanna Finkelstein Gorham Scholarship**  
Jacqueline Elaine Bennett, Regina Elizabeth D'Auria, Capricia Collette Davis, Jeffrey Gene Mynhier, Yaneli Crafton Smith

**Kirsten E. Hewitt Scholarship**  
Yaneli Crafton Smith

**Alan Keith-Lucas Scholarship**  
Nicole Breanne Felkel, Vickie Pearman Whitley

**Jeffrey Langston Scholarship**  
Emily Ruth Abernathy

**James and Connie Maynard Scholarship**  
Lauren Louise Finn, Melissa B. Kimathi

**Robert Ernest McClernon Memorial Fund**  
Kennetra Keyana Louise Irby, Justin Robert Kretzschmar, Jon-Erik St. Claire Misz, Crystal Kim Randles

**Meehan Scholarship**  
Brittany Teresa Allen, Alexandra Brye Whatley Balkum

**Betsy Rogers Millar Scholarship**  
Courtney Ann Hereford

**Hugh MacRae Morton, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**  
Andrew Timothy Heil

**Jane Curtis Parker Award**  
Jordan Elizabeth Bunch, Caitlin Avery Klein, Rachele Catherine Zecca, Natalie Christine Ziembra

**Joan Phillips-Trimmer Scholarship**  
Jennifer L. Bandzwolek, Ellen E. Power Scholarship, Donald Eugene McDonald

**Kenneth C. Royall, Jr. Scholarship**  
Leah Kathleen Smith

**Janice Hough Schopler Scholarship**  
Rosa Stephanie Toledo, Glamarys Eliane Acevedo, Michael Lazar, Felicia York Brown, Earl Robert Forbes, Darlene Shovelle Hodges, Jamie Persons, Portia Sydne Ganpot, Madeline Julianna Serpa, Briana Janai Yarber, Hannah Renee Yoder

**Social Justice Fund Scholarship**  
Rosalva Soto

**Florence Soltys Memorial Scholarship**  
Dawn L. Lampman, Jayme Rebecca Tetro

**Springle Memorial Scholarship**  
Cathy Duyen Nguyen, Rhianna Cohen Rakip

**Linda M. Summer Scholarship**  
Ann Cotton, Nicollette Elizabeth Connelly, birnettiah f.g. killens, Caroline Elizabeth Stayer

**Leah Tannenbaum Scholarship**  
Latimer Breck Alexander, Tomeko Michelle Moore, James Douglas Moses

**Kristen Marie TenHarmsel Anderson Scholarship**  
Samantha Marie Watson

**Smith P. Theimann Scholarship**  
Sable Sanders

**Walsh-Cioffi Award**  
Derrell Rashad Pettitway, Tiffany Ruffin

**Ellen Black Winston Scholarship**  
Chelsea Dynea Kolander, Erin Page Magee

**Leadership in Public Health Social Work Education**  
Alice Drozdziak, Kathryn Fahje Steber, Sara Harwood, Erin Magee, Melanie Sadur



# 2014-15 Doctoral Student Awards

**APPLES Summer Internship Program, teaching SOWA 492**  
Laurie Michelle Graham

**Armfield Reeves Innovation Fund Award**  
Wen (Vivien) Li, Rainier De Vera Masa

**Doctoral Merit Assistantship**  
Ashley Dawn Givens

**Frank Porter Graham Graduate and Professional Student Honor Society**  
Todd Michael Jensen, Charity Sneed Watkins

**Leadership Development Scholars Program**  
Jaime Moore Hughes

**North Carolina Center of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (NC-ACE) Pre-doctoral Fellowship**  
Katie Lyn Cotter, Caroline Bill Robertson Evans, Qi Wu

**Outstanding Doctoral Student Award**  
Caroline Bill Robertson Evans

**Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Scholar Award**  
Caroline Bill Robertson Evans

**Robert L. Schneider Influencing State Policy (ISP) Dissertation Award**  
Tonya B. VanDeinse

**Royster Society of Fellows**  
Laurie Michelle Graham, Shiyou Wu, Todd Michael Jensen

**Sam & Betsy Reeves Doctoral Fellowship**  
Kanisha Latina Coleman, William James Hall, III, Christina Elyse Horsford, Todd Michael Jensen, Candace Killian Farrell, Wen (Vivien) Li, Brianna Marie Lombardi, Elaina Michele Sabatine, Charity Sneed Watkins, Christopher John Wretman, Shiyou Wu

**Summer Research Fellowship**  
Brianna Marie Lombardi

**Village Pride Award from WCHL radio "Hometown Hero"**  
Laurie Michelle Graham

# You can make a difference

Ebon Freeman-James is a 2002 MSW graduate of the School of Social Work and current president of the Alumni Council. As an LCSW who has worked in healthcare, she understands the impact of giving back.

"Although the value of social work is not always reflected in our salaries, we know firsthand how valuable giving can be," said Ebon. "Many of us work in organizations that rely primarily on the generosity of others who recognize the value in the work we do. Our School relies heavily on gifts to fund critical research and scholarships, enabling it to carry on its mission of teaching, research and service."

The School needs your support, because only about 40% of our total operating costs are funded by tuition and state dollars.

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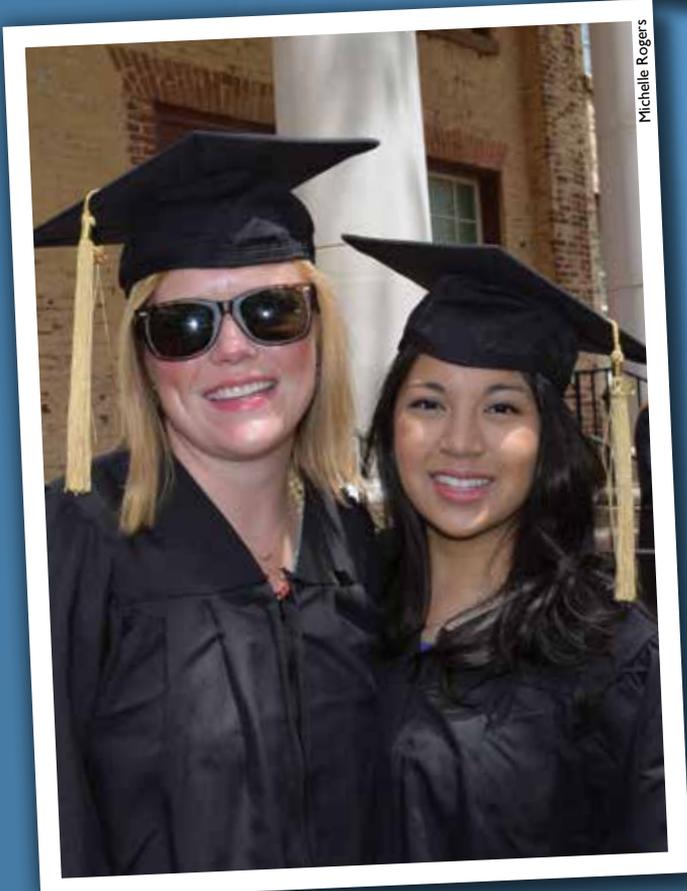
# Congratulations

## Class of 2015

The UNC School of Social Work held its 94th annual commencement on May 9, 2015. Over 1,200 people packed Memorial Hall to celebrate the 132 MSW and seven Ph.D. graduates. Amy Locklear Hertel, MSW, J.D., Ph.D, director of the UNC American Indian Center, gave the commencement address.



Michelle Rogers



Michelle Rogers



Michelle Rogers



Michelle Rogers

diploma memories dream  
**excellence** integrity  
friendship



Michelle Rogers



Photo Specialties

community

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cap & gowns

degree



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success

search  
knowledge



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See our graduation photo gallery and download photos at:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/unc\\_school\\_of\\_social\\_work](http://www.flickr.com/photos/unc_school_of_social_work)



# Faculty spotlight

## Deborah Barrett



Barrett launched the UNC Clinical Institute Series, offering in-depth trainings in evidence-based practices for mental health professionals. She also presented on chronic pain management, including educational series through AHEC programs, Duke University, and the Levin Jewish Community Center. Barrett also had a new

Q&A column in *Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Life* magazine in the spring 2015 issue.

## Sarah Bledsoe



Bledsoe co-authored an article in *Research in Nursing and Health*.

Bledsoe taught an “Introduction to Systematic Review” course at the International Summer School at Renmin University in Beijing, China, from July 4-24.

## Gary Bowen



Bowen received a sub-award of \$118,239 through Kansas State University to conduct a systematic review focused on safe, stable and nurturing families and the antecedents that promote these families. Doctoral student **Todd Jensen** and MSW students **Crystal Randles** and **Kaitlyn Taylor** are working with Bowen on this one-year project.

## Iris Carlton-LaNey



Carlton-LaNey published an article in *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*. She also co-authored a chapter in, “By Grace: The Challenges, Strengths, and Promise of African American Marriages,” published by NASW Press. Carlton-LaNey co-edited a special issue of the journal, *Social Work*, published by NASW Press, entitled, “Women’s Issues in Social Work Revisited.” This special issue describes the gains that have been made and provides recommendations for improvement in the profession and in practice.

She was named an NASW Social Work Pioneer (see story on p. 28).

## Mimi Chapman



Chapman was selected as the winner of the 2014-15 China Urbanization Research Proposal Competition by the UNC Center for Urban and Regional Studies for her proposal, “The Well-Being of Migrant Youth in China: The Potential for an Assets Building Approach to Increasing Adolescent Well-Being.” Assistant Professor

**Gina Chowa** is consulting on the project.

Chapman and Chowa traveled to China to meet with some of the School’s international research partner institutions and to present at a seminar entitled, “Social Work Practice and Research Under the Setting of Globalization,” at the China Youth University of Political Science. Chapman also presented a paper and convened a panel at the International Visual Studies Association Conference in Pittsburgh in June 2014. She also presented on behalf of her “Envisioning Health”

project research team at the National Institutes of Health, Methodological Approaches to Measure Culture meeting. Chapman co-presented a national webinar on April 22, 2015, that highlighted the work of the Envisioning Health Research team. She also co-authored an article with doctoral candidate **Caroline Evans** for the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*.

## Gina Chowa



Chowa, winner of the prestigious Phillip and Ruth Hettleman award (see story on p. 27), delivered her Hettleman lecture on April 7, 2015, and spoke on “Rethinking Pathways for the Poor in Resource-limited Countries: Testing Integrated Interventions.”

Chowa and **Rebecca Brigham** presented at the 4th International Conference on Promoting Social Justice and Empowerment: Addressing Local and Global Challenges. The conference was organized by BPHE Society’s Center for Studies in Rural Development, Institute of Social Work and Research, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India.

Chowa and **Mat Despard** co-authored an article for *Journal of Consumer Affairs*.

## Gary Cuddeback



Cuddeback was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor.

Cuddeback is co-director, with **Barbara Smith**, of the Critical Time Intervention (CTI) program—a collaborative effort between the UNC School of Social Work and the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health. The program, which launched in 2012 as a pilot study in Orange and Chatham counties, expanded to several other North Carolina counties this year (see story on p. 14).

## Dean Duncan



Duncan’s grant-funded project was mentioned in a March 19, 2015, News & Observer story, “NC Wants to Identify Those Vulnerable to Traffickers.”

Duncan is leading a five-year, federally-funded initiative called Project NO REST, a collaborative effort focused on increasing awareness of sexual and labor trafficking among children and youth involved in the state’s child welfare system, especially those in foster care (see story on p. 12).

## Jodi Flick



Flick conducted multiple trainings statewide on suicide prevention, including on suicide and the military. She also trained law enforcement officers from three counties on “Intervention in Suicide” at their Crisis Intervention Training class; conducted a training on “Responding to Families and Communities Affected by Methamphetamine,” and on “Clinician Safety: Keeping Yourself and Clients Safe.”

Flick was featured in a story in the fall 2014 AHEC newsletter, “Jodi Flick: A True Passion for Teaching,” and presented at the 30th

Annual Substance Abuse Services State of the Art Conference on Nov. 6, 2014. She also presented at the 2015 North Carolina Suicide Prevention Summit, in Raleigh on May 12, 2015.

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## Mark Fraser



Fraser co-authored an article with doctoral candidates **Caroline Evans** and **Katie Cotter** in *Aggression and Violent Behavior* and an article with Research Associate Professor **Steve Day** and Research Assistant Professor **Rod Rose** in *Research on Social Work Practice*; he co-authored a separate article in the *Journal of Social Work*. He also co-authored chapters, including one with **Paul Lanier**, in "Social Policy for Children and Families: A Risk and Resilience Perspective," by SAGE Publications.

Fraser delivered the keynote address at a conference in Shanghai, themed "Visioning the Future of Families: Policy and Practice." The conference was held in November 2014 at East China University and hosted by the Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region. He also gave the keynote address at the 19th Annual Ph.D. Spring Symposium, at the School of Social Work at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

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## Marilyn Ghezzi



Ghezzi was promoted to clinical assistant professor. Ghezzi delivered the keynote address at the National Association of Social Workers-North Carolina Chapter's Clinical Social Work Institute on May 4, 2015, in Wrightsville Beach, speaking on, "DSM-5: Ethical Implications."

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## Melissa Godwin



Godwin was promoted to clinical assistant professor. Godwin helped organize a conference held March 4 in Greensboro, on "Pregnancy and Opioid Exposure: Improving Outcomes for Women, Infants, and Families." It drew professionals from across the state, including from the medical, behavioral health, child welfare and

justice fields.

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## Trenette Clark Goings



Goings co-authored articles in *Addictive Behaviors*, *Journal of Drug Issues* and *Vulnerable Children & Youth Studies*. She was interviewed on WCHL radio on the Sept. 20, 2014, "Carolina Connections" show, about her study that found discrimination harms mental health.

Articles on her study were also published in *Diverse Education* on Sept. 21, 2014; the *University Herald* on Sept. 22, 2014; the *International Business Times* on Sept. 16, 2014; and *HealthCanal.com* on Sept. 15, 2014.

Goings was the winner of the 2015 Society for Social Work and Research Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award (see story on p. 28).

She spoke at the Minority Postdoc Alliance luncheon on April 28, 2015.

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## Josh Hinson



Hinson's refugee and mental health wellness initiative was featured in a May 31, 2014, article in the *Durham Herald-Sun*, "UNC Students Help Ease Transition, Stress for Refugees." **Albert Thrower**, MSW '14, is also quoted; **Allison Hill**, MSW '15, dual degree student **Erin Magee** and former Associate Dean for Advancement **Mary Beth**

**Hernandez** are mentioned.

Hinson, who is also program director of UNC's Graduate Certificate in Global Transmigration, and **Laura Garlock**, MSW '15, attended the Immigrant Integration Summit in September 2014.

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## Matthew Howard



Howard was invited to present the Edith Harris Endowed Memorial Lecture at Wayne State University School of Social Work in November 2014. He addressed the topic, "Recent Developments in the Behavioral Addictions." Howard also presented a talk, "Contemporary Addictions Treatments," on Social Work Day at the

Durham VA Medical Center in April 2014. Howard was selected to give the Aaron Rosen lecture at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) meeting in New Orleans in January 2015.

Howard also co-authored a chapter in "Social Policy for Children and Families: A Risk and Resilience Perspective," by SAGE Publications.

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## Anne Jones



Jones presented in Calgary, Canada in June 2014, at the International Association for Social Work with Groups. She presented her paper entitled, "Where Are All the Men? Engaging and Retaining Low-Resourced Males in Groups." The UNC School of Social Work and the Social Work Department at N.C. State also jointly hosted the

2015 symposium in Chapel Hill.

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## Paul Lanier



Lanier presented at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 22nd Annual Colloquium, held June 11-14, 2014, in New Orleans. He spoke on, "Measuring Child Well-Being in a Sample of Maltreated Children" and "Child Abuse Prevention 101: Definitions, Current Research, and Practical Strategies."

Lanier also co-authored articles in: *The Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*; *Birth: Issues in Perinatal Care*; *The Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*; and *Maternal and Child Health Journal*.

Lanier was mentioned in a Sept. 9, 2014, Science Newline article on his study, "Poverty, not bias, explains racial/ethnic differences in child abuse," and he was mentioned in a press release on Newswise, "Fatherhood Research and Practice Network Awards \$350,000 to Four Projects to Evaluate Fatherhood Programs."

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## Melissa Lippold



Lippold had the co-authored article, "Adolescents' Daily Experiences with Parents and Stress: Physical Health Problems and Cortisol Levels," featured in a newsletter for the Society of Research on Adolescence. She also co-authored articles for *Couple and Family Psychology: Research and Practice*, *Prevention Science*, and *The Journal of Family Issues*.

Continued on p. 26

## Rebecca Macy



Macy was honored twice as a “Hometown Hero” with the Village Pride Award, given by WCHL radio on July 28, 2014, and April 7, 2015.

Macy’s work with Pitt County to address and prevent domestic violence was noted in the Sept. 23, 2014, WRAL-TV report, “Pitt Co. Receives Federal Grant to Fight Domestic Violence,” and in the Oct. 8, 2014, editorial “Preventing Domestic Violence,” in the Greenville Daily Reflector. Macy was also profiled in the Sept. 23, 2014, University Gazette in, “Macy Aims to End Domestic Violence with Community-based Research.” She was quoted in a Nov. 19, 2014, Daily Tar Heel article, “Human Trafficking in North Carolina: Slavery in Plain Sight,” and she was interviewed for “Enough is eNOugh,” a documentary produced by WRAL-TV that examined domestic violence. It aired statewide Dec. 18, 2014.

Macy joined the Strategic Advisory Board of Restore NYC, an anti-human trafficking organization in New York City.

Macy also moderated a campus panel discussion on April 16, 2015, that followed a screening of the movie “The Hunting Ground.”

## Sherry Mergner



Mergner assisted the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities in establishing two new programs: Social Smarts Summer Camp, and a parenting group called, Raising Special Kids. Social Smarts was a week-long day camp in July 2014, where campers learned to use their social thinking tools and were given strategies to self-regulate. The parenting group was held in February 2015 as an 8-week program for parents of children who have received a diagnosis of a developmental disability within the last two years.

Mergner also presented, “Let’s Talk About It! The Power of Promoting Disability Awareness,” at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities on May 13, 2015.

## Theresa Palmer



Palmer presented, “Microaggression: Keeping PACE with a Diverse Society,” on April 28, 2015, at an event hosted by PACE of the Triad in Greensboro; and “Microaggressions and Their Impact on Behavioral Health and Wellness,” on May 7, 2015, at an event hosted by the Center for Behavioral Health & Wellness at NC

A&T.

## Wanda Reives



Reives was quoted May 25, 2014, in an article in the Fayetteville Observer about 1980 MSW graduate and 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, **Mary Deyampert-McCall**.

Reives has assumed the role of director of the North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative.

## Jack Richman



Dean Richman was quoted in a May 19, 2014, Daily Tar Heel article, “UNC Sees Rise in Outside Offers to Expert Faculty.” Richman was also quoted in a story on alumnus **Bob Hensley’s** retirement, in the Daily Courier (Forest City, N.C.) on June 20, 2014; and was featured in an article in April 2015 on the University of North

Carolina’s home page website and in the UNC Gazette about the School of Social Work’s 95th anniversary.

Richman was also featured in “Project SIR: Dean Richman Talks Sensitive Information Protection,” a story and video on UNC’s Information Technology website.

## Cynthia Fraga Rizo



Rizo, **Rebecca Macy**, **Paul Lanier** and doctoral student **Jennifer O’Brien** presented, “Examining Parenting Quality and Dyad Interactions between Female CPS-and/or Court-Involved Partner Violence Survivors and their Young Children Using Observational Methods,” at the Innovations in Domestic and Sexual Violence

Research and Practice Conference on March 5, 2015, in Greensboro, N.C.

## Kathleen Rounds



Rounds published a chapter with doctoral student **Charity Sneed** in the 3rd edition of the “Handbook of Social Work Practice with Vulnerable and Resilient Populations.” She also co-authored a chapter with doctoral candidate **Will Hall** in “Social Policy for Children and Families: A Risk and Resilience Perspec-

tive.”

## Laurie Selz-Campbell



Selz-Campbell worked again with Golden Corral’s Camp Corral, a summer camp for children of wounded or fallen military service members.

Selz-Campbell and expressive therapists Hillary Rubesin and Courtney Powers, self-published a book, “Out of Line: Fearless Reflection, Fearless Expression.” The full-color, 48-page book showcases visual art, photography and poetry created by the group members and facilitators.

## Barbara Smith



Smith was quoted in an Aug. 17, 2014, Daily Tar Heel article, “UNC Researchers Find Genetic Link to Schizophrenia.” Smith was one of the panelists at a panel discussion on Oct. 6, 2014, that kicked off Mental Illness Awareness Week. “Stigma Free Carolina: Redefining Mental Health” was held at the Carolina Inn. The Daily

Tar Heel featured an article on the event, including a picture of School of Social Work faculty member **Tara Bohley**. Smith also had an op-ed published in the Oct. 21, 2014, News & Observer, “Money, Mental Health Care, Medicaid and What Works for NC.”

Smith was honored as a “Hometown Hero” with WCHL radio’s Village Pride Award on March 31, 2015. Smith was named the winner of the 2015 Robert E. Bryan Public Service Award from UNC. She was recognized for her work on “Critical Time Intervention: Local Pilot and Statewide Championing.” She was included in an April 7, 2015, UNC News story, “UNC Honors 15 Individuals and Groups for Public Service.” Smith was mentioned in an April 11, 2015, story in the Herald Sun, “UNC Honors Many for Public Service.”

## Kim Strom-Gottfried



Strom-Gottfried was quoted in an Oct. 22, 2014, Raleigh News & Observer and Charlotte Observer article, “UNC Chancellor Carol Folt, Administrators Meet with Faculty, Staff and Students.”

In January 2015, Strom-Gottfried presented a day-long session at Cherry Point NAS to staff from there and from Camp Lejeune on “Ethics and Domestic Violence.”

Strom-Gottfried moderated a Feb. 2, 2015, UNC panel discussion on “What We Need in the Next UNC President: A Faculty Conversation.”

## Mark Testa



Testa was invited to speak at a conference on July 28, 2014, hosted by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy in Washington, D.C. The conference focused on “Demonstrating How Low-Cost Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) Can Drive Effective Social Spending.” Testa is currently conducting a low-cost, RCT of the Safe Families for Children (SFC) program.

Testa, Assistant Professor **Susan Snyder**, doctoral candidate **Qi Wu** and others co-authored an article in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. Testa also co-authored two articles for the *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.

Testa was quoted in a Dec. 6, 2014, article by the Social Work Innovation Center, “Foster Care Innovation Initiative Charts a Different Path to Evidence.”

Testa and **Selena Childs** attended the first Advisory Board meeting of the Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation in Baltimore, Md., in March 2015.

Testa was featured in an April 30, 2015, TV news story, “FOX8 On Your Side Investigates the NC Foster Care System.”

## Marty Weems



Weems attended the Motivational Interviewing Network Training of Trainers (MINT) in Atlanta, Ga., in October and is now a member of MINT.

## Lisa de Saxe Zerden



Zerden assumed the role of associate dean for academic affairs on July 1, 2015.

Zerden co-authored an article with retired faculty member **Joanne Caye** in the *Journal of Social Work Education*, and co-authored separate articles in *Critical Social Work*, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, and *Journal of Evidence Informed Social Work*.

Zerden was invited to present “Cross Agency Orientation on Integrated Healthcare,” on March 24, 2015. The Alliance Behavioral HealthCare and a consortium of behavioral health providers in Durham sponsored the event.



## new books



Professor **Gary Bowen** co-edited “Military Families and War in the 21st Century: Comparative Perspectives,” published by Routledge.

The third edition of the textbook, “Social Policy for Children and Families: A Risk and Resilience Perspective,” co-edited by Professor **Mark Fraser**; and the second edition of the textbook “Propensity Score Analysis: Statistical Methods and Applications,” co-authored by Fraser, were published by Sage.

The second edition of Professor **Kim Strom-Gottfried**’s book, “Straight Talk about Professional Ethics,” was published by Lyceum Books.

## Chowa garners UNC’s Hettleman Prize

By Michelle Rogers

Associate Professor **Gina Chowa** is a winner of UNC’s prestigious 2014 Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty.

The Prize, which carries a \$5,000 stipend, recognizes the achievements of outstanding junior tenure-track faculty or recently tenured faculty.

Chowa is known as a rising star within the field of asset building because of her groundbreaking work in examining the effects of asset ownership on youth and families in resource-limited countries.

Chowa, who came to Carolina in 2008, has designed experiments and randomized controlled trials in four countries to test the impact of assets on a range of development outcomes for young people. One leader in the field said Chowa’s knowledge and experience in asset building was unparalleled within the field of social work.

“Dr. Chowa is truly a change-maker in international social work, and I have every expectation that she will continue along this exceptional path,” said School of Social Work Dean **Jack Richman**.



Gina Chowa, Ph.D.

# Carlton-LaNey named NASW Social Work Pioneer

By Michelle Rogers



Iris Carlton-LaNey, Ph.D.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Foundation has selected Professor **Iris Carlton-LaNey** as an NASW Social Work Pioneer.

NASW Pioneers are social workers who have explored new territories and built outposts for human services on many frontiers. Each has made an important contribution to the social work profession and to social policies through service, teaching, writing, research, program development, administration or

legislation.

Carlton-LaNey, Ph.D., has over 35 years of social work teaching experience, and has received a number of awards for her work. She has published over 70 articles and book chapters and has several books to her credit.

She will be honored at NASW's Annual Pioneer Program and Luncheon in October in Washington, D.C.

"This is a wonderful honor for Dr. Carlton-LaNey and also for our School," said Dean **Jack Richman**. "Thank you, Iris, for all you do for the School, our community and the profession."

# Goings wins national research achievement award

By Michelle Rogers



Trenette Clark Goings, Ph.D.

Associate Professor **Trenette Clark Goings**, Ph.D., is the winner of the 2015 Society for Social Work and Research Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award.

Goings' professional interests include the epidemiology, etiology, prevention, and consequences of adolescent drug use; health disparities; and developmental trajectories over the life-course.

Her current projects include a study on drug abuse in biracial youth, which received an \$829,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health last year. She is also working to raise drug prevention awareness among parents and children through an initiative she started called, "Chasing Dreams Not Drugs."

"I am so proud of the work that Dr. Goings has been able to achieve and so early in her career," said Dean **Jack Richman**. "The Padgett Award represents national recognition for her research, external funding, teaching and service. She is a wonderful model for what it means to be a successful associate professor."

# School well-represented at annual social work research conference

By Michelle Rogers

The UNC School of Social Work was well-represented at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 19th Annual Conference, Jan. 14-18, in New Orleans.

This conference is the major place where social work researchers meet to share ideas and findings from research. It was formed, in part, to accelerate the contribution of social work to the evidence base for practice and, alternatively, to provide more rigorous information about the impact of public policies.

Conference presenters this year included faculty members **David Ansong, Sarah Bledsoe, Gary Bowen, Natasha Bowen, Gina Chowa, Trenette Clark Goings, Allison De Marco, Mat Despard, Dean Duncan, Mark Fraser, Matthew Howard, Anne Jones, Paul Lanier, Rebecca Macy, Sarah Marsh, Gary Nelson, Roderick Rose, Paul Smokowski, Susan Snyder, C. Joy Stewart, Amy Blank Wilson and Lisa Zerden**; doctoral students **Kanisha Coleman, Katie Cotter, Caroline Evans, Will Hall, Todd Jensen, Candace Killian-Farrell, Wen Li, Brianna Lombardi, Rainier Masa, Jennifer O'Brien, Jenna Tucker, Charity Sneed Watkins, Kevin White, Christopher Wretman, Qi Wu, Shiyu Wu and Angela You**; and MSW students **Justin Kretschmar, Cathy Nguyen and Hannah Welch**.



Matthew Howard, Ph.D.

Associate Professor **Trenette Clark Goings** was presented the prestigious 2015 Society for Social Work and Research Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award (see story above).

Faculty members **Natasha Bowen, Rebecca Macy, and Roderick Rose** were inducted into the 2015 Class of Fellows of the Society for Social Work and Research at an awards presentation, as were doctoral alumnae **Darcy Seibert** (Ph.D. '01) and **Patricia Kohl** (Ph.D. '06).

**Matthew Howard**, Frank A. Daniels Distinguished Professor for Human Services Policy Information, was selected to deliver this year's Aaron Rosen Lecture at the conference. "This is an amazing honor bestowed by SSWR and our social work academic colleagues," said Dean **Jack Richman**. "It denotes great respect and esteem for Matthew's work, and admiration for his positive impact on our profession."

# Nine honored with School of Social Work faculty and staff awards

By Michelle Rogers

Seven faculty members and two staff members were honored with 2015 UNC School of Social Work recognition awards. They were nominated by colleagues and students in the School of Social Work, and the awards were presented April 23 at the last faculty meeting of the academic year.

The awards program was established by the School in 2013 as a formal mechanism for recognizing the high quality work that is being done by faculty and staff. Winners receive a cash award, a personal plaque, and inclusion on a perpetual plaque located in the lobby of the School.

The recipients are:

- Former Professor **Natasha Bowen**, Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award
- Professor **Iris Carlton-LaNey**, Excellence in Teaching Award
- Research Professor **Dean Duncan**, Excellence in Research Award
- Professor **Mark Fraser**, Excellence in Doctoral Student Mentoring Award
- Computer Support Analyst **Vanessa Mitchell**, Excellence in Staff Performance Award
- Professor **Gary Nelson**, Excellence in Public Engagement Award
- Clinical Assistant Professor **Theresa Palmer**, Excellence in MSW Student Advising Award
- Clinical Assistant Professor **Jennifer Vaughn**, Excellence in School and University Service Award

The Faculty and Staff Awards Committee also recognized **Manuel Garcia**, director of the Computing and Information Technology Unit (CITU), with a Special Recognition Award.



Bowen



Carlton-LaNey



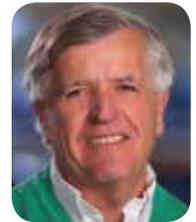
Duncan



Fraser



Mitchell



Nelson



Palmer



Vaughn



Garcia



Students, families, friends, faculty and staff celebrate at the MSW graduation reception in May

# Maeda Galinsky retires after 50 years of service

By Susan White

Professor **Maeda Galinsky** has been a scholar, researcher, teacher and mentor. She can now add one more title to the list: Retiree.

Galinsky, who has been referred to as the “grand dame of the School of Social Work,” officially announced her retirement this year after 50 years of service. A pioneer scholar for her work with groups and on intervention research, Galinsky is the School’s longest serving faculty member.

“When you look through the history of social work with groups... the impact that she’s had over the last half century has been considerable,” praised Dean **Jack M. Richman**, who has worked with Galinsky for 32 years. “It’s just amazing. She is an absolute gem.”

Friends, family, and colleagues agree and many gathered at the School of Social Work in early June to celebrate Galinsky’s historic career and her lasting influence on the field.

“At a time when academia has become much more about self-promotion, Maeda has talked about what’s important to students and how do we really prepare good social work practitioners and researchers,” said Professor Kathleen Rounds, who recalled meeting Galinsky 29 years ago during a job interview with the School. “Her contribution to making this School a strong and supportive community has been huge.”

Galinsky, 80, began her social work career in the 1950s, though her passion for helping others developed much earlier, she explained in an interview several years ago. “I’ve had a rebellious streak since I was little,” said Galinsky, who grew up in College Point, N.Y. “I would always talk to the person in trouble — someone whom you weren’t supposed to talk to.”

Her professional path began to take shape as an undergrad majoring in social relations at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Mass. While there, she served as a volunteer and then director of a program that enabled student volunteers to work with the mentally ill in a psychiatric hospital. From that experience, Galinsky said she knew she had to pursue social work. She went on to receive her MSW and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, where she also taught for a year.

Then, in 1965, her husband David was offered a position with UNC’s Department of Psychology. Soon after, Galinsky was hired as an assistant professor at UNC’s School of Social Work. She couldn’t imagine spending her life doing anything else, she told those gathered for her retirement party in June.

“I am grateful that I found social work as a career,” she said. “It has given me a deep satisfaction and a richness in my life. It has provided a feeling of connectedness to many people and to many issues that are important in the lives of all of us. It has sustained me not only because



Maeda Galinsky, MSW, Ph.D.

of what I have gotten to do but also because of the people with whom I have been involved—clients, students, mentors, colleagues.”

Galinsky’s influence on the field, especially on social work theory and practice with groups, is still felt today, her colleagues praised. Although she was trained as a researcher and practitioner, when she first arrived at UNC, Galinsky found a School that was much more focused on teaching the functional model of social work to students, including building relationships, casework, and working within agency requirements. Moreover, research was practically nonexistent; there was no structure in place to develop it or funding to support it.

But Galinsky and her then colleague, Janice Schopler, were undeterred and quickly began to pursue various pilot studies, most of which they paid for out of their own pockets. Over the following decades, their work and publishing flourished, as did Galinsky’s reputation for being a critical thinker who embraces every opportunity to “to argue about things and wrestle with ideas.”

“Maeda has an artistic and intellectual effervescence that’s constantly engaging and stimulating, always perspicacious and self-effacing,” said Tate Distinguished Professor **Mark Fraser**, who has co-authored and co-edited numerous journal articles, journals, book chapters, books and other presentations with Galinsky. “(She has) been both the heart and the head of so many of our research projects.”

Galinsky’s colleagues—many of whom were her students—also recalled the scholar’s compassion and genuine interest in others. Her youthful spirit and wry sense of humor remain infectious, and her advocacy for others, especially students, still influences their own teaching today, some said.

“Maeda is the kind of faculty member who gets to know her students,” said **Marilyn Ghezzi**, a clinical assistant professor and former student of Galinsky’s. “She knows you as a person. She was a true mentor—my cheerleader, my champion for my career. But the thing that I really took away (from her) and strive with my own students, is to really know them as people, and then I tailor the academic work to what those students really care about.”

For the last several years, as the School celebrated its 90th anniversary and as of this year, it’s 95th, Galinsky has assured students, faculty and staff that she will continue to be a presence at Tate-Turner-Kuralt. After all, she still maintains an office in the building and remains eager to publish and edit.

“So as many of you who know me are probably wondering, ‘Is she really leaving?’” Galinsky playfully teased those attending her retirement party. “The truth is – it’s not quite goodbye.” Farewells are difficult, especially when she has loved working for so

long for such a “remarkable place,” Galinsky added.

“It has been the right place for me in terms of my career and in terms of people—the incredible staff, students and colleagues—all of whom have enriched my intellectual, professional and personal being,” she said. “This place has allowed me to be a thinker and a doer, a teacher and a learner, a loner and a groupie. The School has provided me with resources and encouragement and support and love.”



Galinsky, sitting on the table, with her students, 1971



## Two receive 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards

By Mary Beth Hernandez

Each year at graduation, the School of Social Work presents the Distinguished Alumni Award as our way of honoring alumni who embody social work values and carry our mission of service into the world. Alumni can be nominated by peers, faculty members, fellow alumni or students and are chosen by a committee.

This year the School presented two distinguished alumni awards: **Easter Maynard, MSW '97**; and **Michael Newton-Ward, MSW '84**.

Easter Maynard has devoted herself to serving children and military families. She is currently the director of community investment for IMC, parent company of Golden Corral Corporation. In this role, Maynard directs IMC's corporate foundation, which is focused on high quality literacy and educational opportunities for children in North Carolina. Four years ago, she helped establish Camp Corral, a free camp experience for children of wounded, disabled or fallen service members. Thanks to a unique partnership with Golden Corral restaurants, Camp Corral has grown to serve 3,200 children a year in camps throughout the United States.

Maynard now serves as the board chair of Camp Corral and also serves on the boards of the Methodist Home for Children, Triangle Community Foundation, the N.C. Network of Grantmakers, the N.C. Early Childhood Foundation and the UNC School of Social Work.



Easter Maynard, MSW '97



Michael Newton-Ward, MSW '84

Maynard and her husband, John Parker, have three children ages 11, 8 and 7. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening, and performing at nursing homes with her choral group.

Michael Newton-Ward holds both an MSW degree and an MPH ('86). He is "Tar Heel born and bred" and was raised in the mountains near Morganton. Since graduation, Newton-Ward has devoted his life to public service on behalf of North Carolinians, having been employed at the N.C. Department of Health and Human Resources from 1986 to 2015. This has included roles as a training consultant, public health program consultant, social marketing consultant and social media manager. Newton-Ward was instrumental in bringing the use of social media as a public health strategy to the N.C. Division of Public Health. He retired from his position as the social media manager at DHHS in June.

His nominator also noted his contribution to scholarship. Over the course of his career, he has written or co-written three peer-reviewed articles, five invited journal articles and abstracts, 22 institutional publications, seven editorial reviews and eight book chapters, and has presented at numerous professional conferences.

# HONOR ROLL OF *Giving*

The School of Social Work thanks the many alumni, friends, foundations and corporations who made financial contributions as gifts or grants for sponsored research between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. Thanks to your generous support, our School has become one of the best in the country. We produce leaders in social work education, research, direct practice and community service. Your generosity enhances everything we do. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the listing below. If an error or omission has occurred, please accept our apology and notify Dana Caudill at Dana\_Caudill@unc.edu or (919) 962-6462.

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 Sandra Greene Niegelsky  
 Leon Stanley Niegelsky Jr.  
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 Foundation  
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 Marilyn Jacobs Preyer  
 Reveas Foundation  
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 Samuel Thomas Reeves  
 Clay Schossow  
 Joel Thomas Sutherland  
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 Triangle Community Foundation  
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 H. Allen Curran  
 Susan Benbow Dawson  
 Stephen Robert Dawson  
 Christopher Rowland Edwards  
 Dara Kristin Garner-Edwards

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 Carroll Butts Heins  
 Daniel Carter Hudgins  
 Donna Irving Lambeth  
 Thomas Willis Lambeth  
 J. Mark Leggett  
 Lee Croom Leggett  
 Marilyn Pace Maxwell  
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Darrell Wayne Goss  
James Grandstaff  
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Gurganus-Wechsler Revocable Trust  
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Eugenia Lanier Ivy  
Heather Jahnes  
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Gary Grove Koch  
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Steven Mark Kurzer  
Jane Smith Kurzer  
Edward Anthony Lake  
Carl Edward Lancaster  
Patricia Donovan Larson  
Henry Lau  
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Jennifer Woods Parker  
Reynolds Vanstory Parker  
Jim Watkins Phillips  
Eva Margaret Powell  
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Leon Sky Rodgers Jr.  
Lorene Williams Rogers  
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Jeffrey Scott Smith  
Susan DiCenzo Springle  
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 Narviar Cathcart Barker  
 Faith Barnes  
 Charles Haywood Bateman Jr.  
 Anne Bell  
 Liza Gellerstedt Berggartt  
 David Allen Berggartt  
 Ann Elizabeth Berry  
 Stephanie Eddy Berry  
 Sonia P. Bettez  
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 Robert Durning Field  
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 Charles David Fieselman  
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 Stephanie Naylor Francis  
 Joan Ellen Gallimore  
 Anne Louise Garren  
 Alfreda Paschall Gee  
 Carol Green Gellerstedt  
 Lawrence Love Gellerstedt III  
 Juliana Geren  
 Richard Binner Gerrish Sr.  
 Dorene Sue Goodfriend  
 Holly Elizabeth Goodman  
 Michele Thompson Gore  
 Patricia Wells Graham  
 Linda Ann Graney  
 Marshall Guilbert Gravely  
 Francie Demby Gravely  
 Genora Harris Greene  
 Robert Eugene Gringle  
 Monica Ann Hadley  
 Helen Louise Halleck  
 Evelyn Hardy

Leslie Michelle Hardy  
 Catherine E. Hargrove  
 Chiquila Turner Hargrove  
 Carolyn Kirkman Harmon  
 Alan Wilson Harper  
 Martha Burchett Hart  
 Charrise Brenee Hart  
 Robert P. Hartsell Jr.  
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 Virginia Bardolph Haskett  
 Trudi Heinrich Hatch  
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 R. Kent Haywood  
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 Beverly Raney Hester  
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 Jan Wood Hoagland  
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 Lee Strickland Johnson  
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 Lee Sandler Kern  
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 Susan Swing Kleckley  
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Valerie Robertson Lanier  
Constance Lazakis  
Caroline Brawley Levi  
Joy Copeland Lineback  
Gerald Wayne Lineberger  
Garnett William Link Jr.  
Marilyn Flynn Link  
Mary Frances Linker  
William A. Lofquist  
Anne Gerth Logan\*  
Thomas Harvey Logan  
Merle Kay Longenecker  
Shaun Timothy Love  
Linda Schaefer Lucas  
Angela M. Macdonald  
Julie Greenleaf Magenheim  
Bridget Laura Mahoney  
Richard Thomas Marchetti  
Susan J. Marchetti  
Dorothy Parker Marks  
Betsy Coffey Massey  
Camilla Lacy McCleskey  
Virginia Scoville McClure  
Albert Bonner McClure Jr.  
Caroline Paige Mclean  
Lura Deaton McMurray  
S. D. McWhorter  
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Alice Fergus Mitchell  
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Felicitas Brigitte Noeller  
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Amelia Gibson Ollis  
G. Michael Orndoff  
Mary Owens  
Mary Elizabeth Page  
Mary Matthews Park  
Mary Jo Ellis Parnell  
W. Christopher Parnell  
Donna Senna Parrish  
Brenda Lea Pearson  
M. Noel Pellish  
Spencer Samuel Perkins  
Lauren Beasley Perkins  
Peter Allen Perlman  
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Patricia Scott Rickenbaker  
Suzette Marie Roach  
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Kecia McNeely Robinson  
Isaac Alphonso Robinson  
Sandra Knight Rodriguez  
Robert Neal Rodriguez  
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Teresa Ellen Valliere  
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Anitra Peten Walker  
Roberta Miller Wallace  
Taylor Whitfield Warren  
Savanah Banta Warren  
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Ulaine Rita Washington  
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Kenie Marlowe Wrenn  
Xcel Energy Foundation  
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Geoffrey Craig Zeger  
Ronni Zuckerman

\* deceased

*Thank You*



# Alumni update

## 1960s

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**Nancy Martin**, MSW '69, was profiled in the Nov. 24, 2014, Hickory Record, in an article entitled, "A Lengthy Career Helping: More Than 30 Years of Social Work Provides Memories, Lessons."

## 1970s

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**William Crawford**, MSW '77, had an op-ed published in the Aug. 17, 2014, Fayetteville Observer, "Medicaid Denial is Attack on Poor in North Carolina." Crawford also had items of prose and photography published in this year's edition of the *Phoenix*, the literary magazine of Pfeiffer College; one of his photos was selected for the magazine's cover. A 1966 graduate of Pfeiffer, Crawford is a social worker, writer, and photographer living in Winston-Salem.



**Bob Hensley**, MSW '72, retired on June 30, 2014, from the N.C. Department of Social Services after almost 44 years of service. His days with DSS took him from Rutherford to Polk County as the DSS director then to Cleveland County as an assistant director and eventually to work for the state DSS. Hensley was featured in a profile story on his retirement in the Daily Courier on June 20, 2014.

## 1980s

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**Annie McCullough Chavis**, Ed.D, MSW '87, a professor in the Department of Social Work at Fayetteville State University (FSU), was named a 2015 recipient University of North Carolina Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was honored at FSU's 148th Spring Commencement in May and received a \$12,500 stipend and a bronze medallion. In addition to her teaching duties at FSU, Chavis is actively involved in the university and community. Her research interests include culturally competent pioneering work concerning genograms as well as African American families, family social work practice, cultural competency in social work practice, school social work, and African American teaching.

**Lisa Hooks Cook**, MSW '89, retired on Aug. 1, 2014, after 31 years service to the State of North Carolina, concluding a career in child protective services, juvenile justice and education. She began a new full-time position on July 21, 2014, as an MSW care manager with AccessCare, one of 14 networks in Community Care of North Carolina. This is the first social work position in the Foothills B region. Social work is an emerging profession in the Medicaid case management services offered through AccessCare.

**Julia Gaskell**, MSW/MPH '85, retired on June 12, 2014. Gaskell plans to spend time in Colorado where the summers are cooler. She also intends to spend lots of time with her two young grandsons in Burl-

ington, Vermont. Gaskell spent almost 20 years as the social worker at Phillips Middle School in Chapel Hill. Before that, she spent nine years at Duke, seven in Pediatric Oncology and two with the Duke Cancer Patient Support Program.

**Libbie Hough**, MSW '84, was honored on Aug. 7, 2014, as a "Home-town Hero" for her service to the community, with a Village Pride Award from WCHL radio in Chapel Hill.

## 1990s

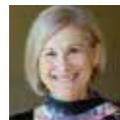
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**Bobby Cagle**, MSW '98, was appointed by the governor of Georgia in June 2014 as the new interim director of the Division of Children and Family Services. Cagle has served as commissioner of the state's Department of Early Care and Learning since 2011. Before that, he was with DFCS for about five years, first as the family services director and then as director of legislative and external affairs. In 2015, Cagle also was named as one of 83 "Notable Georgians" by Georgia Trend magazine. Notable Georgians are those who are having a substantial impact on the state. The honor was bestowed upon all recipients at a luncheon at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in downtown Atlanta. Cagle serves on the UNC School of Social Work's Board of Advisors and was a 2014 recipient of the School's Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Debbie Granick**, MSW/MPH '96, was quoted in an Oct. 20, 2014, News & Observer article, "The Hardest Year of Parenting."

**Scott Janssen**, MSW '93, spoke nationally and published widely on issues related to social work practice with clients at the end of life. He is an editorial advisor for and frequent contributor to the magazine *Social Work Today*, and he recently published his first novel, *Light Keepers*, an adventure set along the North Carolina coast in the aftermath of the Civil War.



**Sasha Loring**, MSW '92, published a new book, "Relief: Release Stress and Harmful Habits and Awaken Your Best Self." Relief provides a new and multifaceted approach to help people take control of their own mental and physical health and is aimed at those who are stressed, anxious or suffering from chronic health conditions.



**Lori Messinger**, MSW '96, Ph.D. '99, was named associate vice chancellor for external programs (AVCEP) at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The AVCEP is a member of Academic Affairs' senior staff, providing leadership, management, and support to an array of programs, offices, and partnerships that connect the talent and resources of the university to the interests and needs of the broader community. In this position, Messinger serves "as the point of contact for issues related to off-campus academic engagements" and collaborates "with numerous on- and off-campus partners." Messinger has been a professor and director of the School of Social Work at UNC-Wilmington since 2011.

**Michael Pesce**, MSW '94, became the program manager for the Winston Salem/Forsyth County Schools Department of School Social Work on Oct. 1, 2014. This is his 14th year with WS/FCS as a school social worker.

**Sally Scholle**, MSW '96, authored the chapter "Learning From a Multi-cultural Garden," which was published in an environmental education book, "Connecting Children to Nature: Ideas and Activities for Parents and Educators," by Wood 'N Barnes Publishing. Scholle is a school social worker for Chatham County Schools.

**Jim Seney**, MSW '98, is the program manager for the VA (Veterans Affairs) Homeless Program in central and western Massachusetts and was interviewed on a locally produced PBS program in October 2014 on veteran homelessness and housing.

**Jennifer Shrewsbury**, MSW '93, was named a recipient of the 2014 Governors Award for Excellence in Public Service. Shrewsbury is a clinical social work supervisor, DMH/DD/SAS, with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services at Central Regional Hospital in Butler.



**Sharon Holmes Thomas**, MSW '98, and husband Montez welcomed a daughter on Aug. 25, 2014. Gia Mackenzie Thomas weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz., and measured 21 1/4 inches. Gia joins her 4-year-old big brother Samuel. Thomas is the assistant dean for recruitment, admissions and financial aid at the UNC School of Social Work.



**Barbara Whitley**, MSW '90, executive director for the Stanly County (N.C.) Partnership for Children, retired on June 30, 2014. She was involved with the partnership for over 20 years, serving as executive director for the past 12. The Stanly County Partnership for Children is a nonprofit agency serving children birth to five years old. She plans to spend the summer enjoying her grandchildren, helping with her new grandbaby and traveling to the beach. Whitley was featured in a profile story on her retirement in *The Weekly Post* on June 28.

## 2000s



**Tara Chandler**, MSW '06, was highlighted in the February 2015 issue of *NASW News* in the "Social Work in the Public Eye" feature for being quoted in an online article by ABC-News 13 in Asheville, about selfies becoming a social media phenomenon.



**Devon Corpus**, MSW '01, helped organize the 2014 successful Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) International Annual Conference, on Oct. 13-15 in Monterey, Calif. CIT is a collaboration between law enforcement and behavioral health to help mentally ill consumers get the appropriate help that they need when in a crisis situation. More than 900 attended, with 100 different workshops to choose from. Corpus is the crisis team supervisor with the Monterey County Behavioral Health Bureau.

**Thomas Crea**, Ph.D. '07, and **Sabrina Sullenberger**, Ph.D. '03, were named in a blog post entitled, "The 30 Most Influential Social Workers Alive Today."

**Johanna Greeson**, Ph.D. '09, an assistant professor in the School of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, had an article published in the Jan. 8, 2015, *Chronicle of Social Change*, "Leveraging The Power of Caring Adults in the Lives of Foster Youth: How Relationships Can Change Lives."



**Eileen Hannan Ferrell**, MSW '03, was named the first executive director of Strowd Roses, Inc. Since its inception in 2001, this charitable foundation has awarded more than \$4.5 million through more than 700 grants to

nonprofit organizations that benefit the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community. Ferrell has devoted her career to area nonprofits. She has served Americorps VISTA, Volunteers for Youth, Inc., Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina and the Carolina Center for Public Service. Prior to joining Strowd Roses, Ferrell worked at the Institute for Nonprofit Research, Education and Engagement at N.C. State University. There, she was interim director of operations, program coordinator, and advisor and instructor for the minor in Nonprofit Studies.



**Elisa Chinn Gary**, MSW '00/JD '99, was elected Clerk of Superior Court in Mecklenburg County in November 2014. She and her husband and two sons live in Charlotte. Prior to her election, Gary served as the administrator of the Juvenile and Family Courts for 13 years.

**Gordon Miller**, MSW '09, was recognized in the Aug. 15, 2014, *Burlington Times-News* for his service in child welfare.

**Melissa Brandt Nelson**, MSW '07, welcomed daughter Emily Lynn Nelson on Jan. 29, 2015. Nelson serves on the School's Alumni Council.

**Kimberly Pfirrmann-Powell**, MSW '08, served in the Peace Corps after graduating. She and her husband moved to sub-Saharan Africa and lived for two years in a small village in Benin. She worked closely with the "county" level social worker there and started an apprenticeship program for orphan girls, advocating for infants whose mothers had died, training-the-trainer with mothers in a rural village, and encouraging girls to stay in school. Upon returning to the States, the couple went to work for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Recently, Pfirrmann-Powell transitioned to the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, where she works on projects dealing with international labor standards, which was her capstone project seven years ago (comparing labor standards between the U.S., Bangladesh and Sweden).



**Meredith C. F. Powers**, MSW '03, presented a poster at the International Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development in Melbourne, Australia, July 2014. Her topic was, "Ecologically Conscious Social Work: Professional Socialization of Social Workers Responding to the Environmental Crisis." Powers is a doctoral candidate at the University of South Carolina College of Social Work. She is working on her dissertation on "green" social workers. She is also working with individual faculty and field instructors to see how they can infuse ecological consciousness into the curriculum. Powers taught the Ecological Justice elective course at the college in the spring semester.



**Paige Black Rosemond**, MSW '04, was promoted on Jan. 7, 2015, to associate director of child welfare for the State of Colorado. After practicing child welfare in North Carolina for 14 years, she relocated to Colorado in 2011 and continued her work in child welfare both at the county and state levels. Colorado uses a state-supervised, county-administered system in the provision of child welfare. In her new position, Rosemond oversees child protection, permanency, youth, licensing and monitoring, and prevention services.

**Katie Rossini**, MSW '02, was appointed on July 1, 2014, by the Board of Education to be the student leadership coordinator for Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. In this new role, she coordinates activities related to students by providing advice, counsel and support to their elected student government organizations and assuring that students may exercise their rights and responsibilities as provided

*Continued on p. 38*

by policy. She coordinates the advertising, applications and selection process for the Maryland Legislature Student Page Program and the Emerging Student Leaders Program, as well as other countywide leadership programs. Rossini is also working on her doctorate in Entrepreneurial Leadership in Education at Johns Hopkins University.



**Sophia Smith**, Ph.D. '07, MSW '01, was named the director of the Duke Cancer Survivorship Center. Smith was formerly a research scientist at the Duke Clinical Research Institute and is currently an associate professor with the Duke University School of Nursing. Moving forward, Smith will continue to serve in her faculty role with the School of Nursing in addition to her new role.



**Michelle Turner**, MSW '03, and husband Derek Owen, welcomed daughter Astrid Finely Owen, on Sept. 6. She weighed 8.5 lbs. Astrid joins her big sister Skylar. Turner is employed by the VA in a community-based outpatient clinic as a mental health therapist in Raleigh. She is also a member and past president of the UNC School of Social Work alumni council.

## 2010s

**Erin Bergstrom**, MSW '14, was featured in a Sept. 9, 2014, Daily Tar Heel article, "Get to know four UNC startups."

**Benjamin Bradley**, MSW '10, joined Dartmouth College (Hanover, N.H.) as a survivor advocate on Aug. 1, 2014. In this position, he will help survivors of sexual assault navigate the various reporting options and provide them with information on available resources.



**Joseph Bridges**, MSW '13, of Collierville, Tenn., is a founding member with his wife Karyn of an organization called, The Forsaken Children, a Christian ministry that advocates for Ethiopia's children and families. They and their three children are moving to Ethiopia to work with the organization's Ethiopian team at the end of this year. Joe Bridges will transition into the role of field director, to help the Ethiopian team with its foster care and adoption ministry.

**Alex Collins**, MSW/MPH '12, co-authored an article on how social workers helped prevent the spread of Ebola and addressed its wide-ranging social impacts.



**Laurie Graham**, MSW '11, was honored on Aug. 8, 2014, as a "Hometown Hero" with a Village Pride Award from WCHL radio in Chapel Hill. Graham, the former program director at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, is enrolled in the doctoral program at the UNC School of Social Work.

**Ron Hunt**, MSW '14, was promoted to Wilson County's assistant county manager. While a student, he was a Bost Award recipient and a Child Welfare Education Collaborative Leadership Scholar.

**Libby Hunter**, MSW '12, left Easter Seals MST and is now working at UNC Counseling and Psychological Services as a referral coordinator/therapist.



**Karon Johnson**, MSW '14, LCSW, and **Deborah Hughes**, MSW '14, were guest speakers at the School of Social Work's "Before, During and After the Interview" career workshop for MSW students on Jan. 26, 2015.



**Jessie Katz**, MSW '12, was quoted in New York Magazine in an Aug. 15, 2014, article about Robin Williams and the connection between Parkinson's disease and depression.

**Elizabeth Kunreuther**, MSW '13, had a letter to the editor published in the New York Times on Sept. 1., 2014, on leveling the college playing field.



**Sarah Marsh**, MSW '12, and husband Noah welcomed their first child, Audrey Elaine, on Dec. 14, 2014. She arrived at 7:24 a.m. and weighed 6 lbs. Marsh is employed at UNC's School of Social Work, doing program evaluation and community capacity building. She and Noah also own and operate Food FWD, a food-waste diversion company.

**Kirsten Nyrop**, Ph.D. '10, has joined UNC's hematology/oncology faculty as a research assistant professor. Her key responsibilities are with the Geriatric Oncology Program and the Director of Geriatric Oncology, working with Hyman B. Muss, M.D., writing and submitting federal and foundation grant and contract proposals, managing the implementation of grants and contracts, writing abstracts and journal manuscripts, and supporting other members of the Geriatric Oncology Program in career development. Nyrop is interested in intervention and implementation research, focused on preserving function and quality of life in older cancer patients.



**Ijeoma Nwabuzor Ogbonnaya**, Ph.D. '12, joined the faculty of San Diego State University's School of Social Work as an assistant professor.



**Tiffany Washington**, Ph.D. '13, was quoted in an article in the Sept./Oct. 2014 issue of Social Work Today magazine, "Nephrology social work: Caring for the emotional needs of dialysis patients."



**Julie Yoselle Wolfson**, MSW '13, joined the staff of the Fountain House College Re-Entry Program in New York City. Aimed at students who have suspended their education due to a mental health crisis, the program prepares participants to successfully pursue their educational goals and lead healthy, fulfilling lives. It is the only community-based program of its kind to target young adults, ages 18-30, and bridge the gap between clinical mental health services and educational institutions.



**Charles “Chuck” Taylor Grubb**, 67, MSW '73, of Reading, Pa., died unexpectedly on Oct. 27, 2014. Grubb earned his MSW and his Ph.D. in Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was an active member of his community and served as a member of a number of committees and boards of directors, and was on the Durham City Council from 1989-93. He worked extensively in the public health field and strived to leave behind a better world than the one in which he was born into.

**John Toby Hoffler, Sr.**, 69, MSW '97, of Folkston, Ga., passed away at his home on July 8, 2014. Hoffler proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps and the Navy. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans Association and the Khegan Association and was a longtime member of the UNC School of Social Work's Alumni Council.



**Michelle Suyen Costello Howard**, MSW '98, of Vienna, Va., died on May 2, 2015, at age 40. She is survived by her husband Daniel and children Nate and Allie. Howard was born in Seoul, Korea, and spent her childhood in Virginia. She was an LCSW for many years and worked for the Center for Adoption Services and Education and Korea Homeland Tours. Later, she was a preschool teacher at Wesley Preschool in Vienna.



**Peter Richard Kramer**, MSW '87, died peacefully at his farm in Hillsborough on Dec. 7, 2014, following a three-year journey with esophageal cancer. He began his career in mental health at John Umstead Hospital in Butner and as executive director of Hassle House in Durham. After graduating from the UNC School of Social Work, he served the remainder of his career with OPC Mental Health (now Cardinal Innovations) as a counselor. He retired in 2011 and continued a private practice and stayed active as a volunteer. Kramer won numerous awards, most notable among them the UNC Diversity Award in 2010 and the Pauli Murray Award in 2011.

**Garry G. Neal**, MSW '67, died at his home on Cape Cod on Oct. 1, 2014, with family at his side. He was 76. Neal was a clinical social worker and the director for Catholic Social Services on Cape Cod. He was also a clinical social worker at Cape Cod Hospital. He had worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as the Blackstone Valley Youth Guidance Center.

## In Memoriam



**Sue Smith Applewhite**, MSW '62, of Jacksonville, N.C., 88, died surrounded by family on Sept. 26, 2014. She began her career as a social worker in Smithfield. In 1950, she began working in the Onslow County Department of Social Services until her retirement as director in 1988.

During that time, she served as president of the Directors Association and president of NCSSA. Her accomplishments were numerous and their effects will be felt in the community and state for many years to come.

**Sarah Young Austin**, MSW '64, age 88, of Winston-Salem, died on March 5, 2015. Austin worked for 43 years at Family Services, Inc., the last 10 years as the president, in Winston-Salem. While there, she improved the lives of hundreds of families, battered women and poor children. She was also a long-time member of the UNC School of Social Work's Board of Advisors.

**Linda Blackwell Benner**, MSW '84, 56, of Franklinton, N.C., died on Oct. 11, 2014, at WakeMed North in Raleigh.



**Sally Davis Comer**, MSW '89, of Raleigh, 68, died peacefully at home on Sept. 24, 2014. She became a licensed clinical social worker in 1991 and after years of private practice, earned her Ph.D. in social work from Smith College in 2012. She collaborated internationally

on her research findings and was an adjunct professor at both UNC-CH and ECU Schools of Social Work. She was director of the Psychotherapy Training Program at Psychoanalytic Education Center of the Carolinas from 2009-13. Well-known and respected in her profession, she was active in the N.C. Society for Clinical Social Work for over 20 years. Although she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2000, Comer never allowed her illness to define her.

## Subscribe to our newsletter

If you aren't receiving *E-Contact*, the School's monthly alumni newsletter, you're missing important news and events. Subscribe via the newsletter sign-up box at [ssw.unc.edu/contact](http://ssw.unc.edu/contact).

# Clinical Lecture Series offers valuable continuing education opportunities

By Michelle Rogers

The UNC School of Social Work's Clinical Lecture Series offers lectures on mental health topics to enhance the clinical curriculum for students, and continuing education for graduates and practitioners. It also aims to foster and strengthen relationships among students, faculty, and the wider clinical community.

## Chapel Hill series

Now in its 11th year, the Chapel Hill clinical lectures are held monthly on Mondays from noon-2 p.m. in the School's auditorium, beginning in September. Registration and a catered meet-and-greet reception open at 11:15 in the lobby. The 2015-16 dates and working titles are:

- Sept. 21 – “I Don't See Them in my Practice': The Ethics of Serving Refugee and Immigrant Survivors of Torture and Trauma,” Josh Hinson, LCSW, LCAS and Laura Garlock, MSW
  - Oct. 26 – “Singing the Blues: Honoring Emotional Experience Through Mindfulness-based Treatment of Depression,” Noga Zerubavel, Ph.D.
  - Nov. 16 – “Insight and Change Through Behavioral Analysis,” Eric Gadol, Ph.D.
  - Jan. 25 – “Hidden No More: Moving from Shame to Whole-hearted Living,” Kate Thieda, LPC, NCC
  - Feb. 8 – “Hoarding Disorder: The Diagnosis They Never Taught You in Graduate School,” Annette Perot, Ph.D.
  - March 7 – “Healing Complex Trauma,” Michael Lambert, Ph.D.
  - April 11 – “The Ethics of Inclusion,” Michelle Johnson, LCSW
- See [cls.unc.edu](http://cls.unc.edu) for descriptions of each lecture, and to view video from previous presentations.

If you have questions, or would like to be added to the CLS email list, contact **Deborah Barrett** at [dbarrett@email.unc.edu](mailto:dbarrett@email.unc.edu).

## Winston-Salem series

Now in its fourth year, the School's Winston-Salem 3-Year MSW Program hosts a Clinical Lecture Series in Winston-Salem. Their successful partnership with Northwest AHEC will continue this year, to meet the needs of professionals in the Triad and surrounding area.

The School and Northwest AHEC have scheduled four lectures for the 2015-16 academic year. All are on a Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Northwest AHEC, and registration will be required.

- Sept. 16 – “Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy: Transforming relationships from Distress to Secure Bonds,” Lorrie Brubacher, MEd, LMFT
- Nov. 4 – “The Human Rights and Ethical Issues of Involuntary Commitment,” Tara Bohley, MPA, LMFT
- Jan. 27 – “Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Substance Use Disorders,” Marty Weems, LCSW, LCAS
- March 30 – “Mindfulness Based Interventions with Clients,” Angela Q. Cowell, LCSW, LMFT

A description of each lecture is available at [cls.unc.edu](http://cls.unc.edu). If you have questions, contact **Theresa Palmer** at [palmermt@email.unc.edu](mailto:palmermt@email.unc.edu).



## Clinical Lecture Institutes

This series, now in its second year, offers day-long and multi-day training in evidence-based practice. Each Institute is held at the UNC School of Social Work in Chapel Hill and focuses on providing theoretical grounding and practical skills through a combination of didactic, experiential, and hands-on practices. The upcoming trainings are:

- Sept. 18 and 25 – “Dialectical Behavioral Therapy,” Kristi Webb, PsyD (Introduction to DBT Approach, Sept. 18; and DBT Skills Workshop, Sept. 25)
- Oct. 16 – “Changing the Anxious Mind, Rapidly: An Advanced Training,” Reid Wilson, Ph.D.
- Jan. 25 – “Mindfulness for Personal and Professional Practice,” Jeff Brantley, M.D.
- Spring 2016, dates TBA – “Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT),” Rhonda Merwin, Ph.D.

For more information, see [cls.unc.edu](http://cls.unc.edu).

## “Focus on Family and Disability” series

The Family Support Program at the UNC School of Social Work is hosting the second year of its seminar series in conjunction with the Clinical Lecture Series. Lectures begin at noon.

- Sept. 15, 2015 – “Infant and Young Child Mental Health – Supporting the Well-being of Young Children and their Families,” Gary Ander and Betty Rintoul.
- Oct. 13, 2015 – “The Changing Landscape of North Carolina's Mental Health System,” Mary Hooper and Sean Schreiber.
- Nov. 10, 2015 – “Emerging Evidence-based Issues in Children's Mental Health,” Walt Caison, Ph.D.
- Jan. 12, 2016 – “Healthy Children, Healthy Families: Supporting Well-being and Resilience in the Context of Transitions,” Kate Gallagher, Ph.D..
- Feb. 9, 2016 – “Post-Secondary Options: Education, Employment and Independent Living for Transition to Adulthood,” panel discussion.
- March 8, 2016 – “Supporting Families to Improve Outcomes for Children – Building Family Resilience,” panel discussion.
- April 12, 2016 – “Addressing the Needs of Dually Diagnosed Transitional Age Youth and their Families,” Lisa Zerden, Ph.D., and Anne Jones, Ph.D.

If you have questions, contact **Barbara Leach** at [leach@email.unc.edu](mailto:leach@email.unc.edu) or 919-966-0396.

Register online at [cls.unc.edu](http://cls.unc.edu)

# Outstanding Doctoral Student named

By Michelle Rogers



Caroline Robertson Evans, Ph.D. '15

**C**aroline (Carey) Robertson Evans, Ph.D. '15, is the recipient of this year's Outstanding Doctoral Student Award.

Evans received a B.S. in Psychology from Trinity College, and an MSW from Smith College. She entered our doctoral program in 2011.

Evans' research is focused on bullying and victimization, and she is a fellow with the North Carolina Academic Center for Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention.

"She is vigorously leading the way in examining unique risk factors connected to bystander behavior, and her ultimate career goals include pilot testing anti-bullying interventions," Paul Smokowski, chair of her dissertation committee, wrote in her nomination.

During her tenure as a doctoral student, Carey authored 22 journal articles, including one with Associate Professor Mimi Chapman that was featured as a spotlight article by the American Psychological Association Journals Program. "This level of accomplishment is more typical of an assistant professor than a doctoral student," said **Sheryl Zimmerman**, associate dean for doctoral education.

Evans is also known for being supportive of her fellow doctoral students, and generously giving of herself and her time.

A faculty member wrote in their nomination letter, "Carey is a remarkably accomplished student, and she is the most able leader I've ever seen at this level. She is one of the most capable students with whom I have worked."

Zimmerman presented Evans her award in May at the doctoral program graduation reception.

# Website promotes doctoral candidates

By Michelle Rogers



**A** new website launched by the UNC School of Social Work is helping promote its doctoral candidates entering the job market.

The site features each candidate's biography, CV (academic résumé), and contact information. It is also searchable by categories of research interests, such as child

welfare, social policy or global issues.

Having a tangible product to market our doctoral students to potential employers is something that **Sheryl Zimmerman**, associate dean for doctoral education, says is beneficial to the students as well as the program. "When reviewing the site, you'll quickly recognize that our students truly are stellar," she said.

Visit the website at [socialworkphd.web.unc.edu](http://socialworkphd.web.unc.edu), and please share with your networks.

# Filmmaker joins Board of Advisors

By Michelle Rogers



Ellen Barnard

**C**arolina alumna **Ellen Barnard**, executive producer at Tomorrow Pictures in Atlanta, has joined the School of Social Work's Board of Advisors.

Barnard runs the 15-year-old production company with her business partner, making projects that have been recognized by film festivals from London to San Francisco. The firm has worked for giants like Coca-Cola and Chevy, with many small businesses, with resorts like The Venetian in Las Vegas, and with government organizations such as the Veteran's Administration. They do a lot of projects with healthcare clients, with schools of public health, universities, children's hospitals, and nonprofits in the United States and abroad. They produce TV commercials and a weekly TV series in Atlanta about restaurants and chefs. Their latest documentary is about a counter sit-in in 1961, and is running on PBS stations across the country.

In Atlanta, she has served on the board of the Special Olympics of Georgia, worked as a volunteer with Project Open Hand (like Meals on Wheels), and sponsored Earth Share of Georgia with production and media services.

Barnard is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill with a B.A. in History ('88), and Emory University with an M.A. in Social and Cultural History.

Currently, 50 professionals serve on the School's Board of Advisors, which meets twice a year. The board works with the School to enhance the perception of the social work profession and to promote the stature of the School.

# School launches Satir Clinical Program

By Michelle Rogers



Virginia Satir

**T**he UNC School of Social Work launched a course and a training program on the Satir Growth Model this year.

The Satir method is based on the teachings of the late Virginia Satir, a social worker and "pioneer of family therapy."

A course was offered to MSW students during the spring semester, and a seven-day intensive training open to all professionals was held at the School in July. The School is also conducting research to evaluate the efficacy of the Satir method.

This initiative was made possible by a \$100,000 private donation. For more information, visit the Satir Clinical Program website at [satir.web.unc.edu](http://satir.web.unc.edu).

# Student's experience establishing a school in Africa leads to social work study

By Susan White



Julia Tarr

**J**ulia Tarr has followed a few paths in her life many have questioned. But for Tarr, a first-year student in the School of Social Work's Triangle Distance Education Program, and a **Melvarene Johnson Adair Scholar**, each step taken has been more about "staying true" to herself than answering the doubts or fears of others.

After all, consider the following: As a human studies undergrad at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, Tarr worked long hours at various odd jobs just so she could raise

enough money to travel to Guinea to study drumming, music and culture. Once there, she fell so in love with traditional West African dance, she decided to form a dance company in the United States to teach the art. Then there was the time Tarr jumped at the chance to start an elementary school in Guinea to help educate refugee children from Sierra Leone.

"I know it didn't make a lot of sense to other people," Tarr said of her work abroad from late 1998 through 2006. "And yet, it was the only thing that made sense to me. That's the only way I know how to explain it. It was an all-consuming interest."

So was helping others in need—a fact made clear the day her future husband, Jeremy, who was also studying in Guinea, stumbled upon a group of children on the front porch of a shack studying English. All refugees from Sierra Leone's brutal civil war, the children were practicing pronunciations for their teacher.

The couple felt an immediate connection to the makeshift school and began volunteering. But they quickly realized they needed to do more and shifted their efforts toward raising money for a more permanent structure for the students.

Over seven years, the couple developed a nonprofit foundation and helped raise thousands of dollars for what would become Sabu International School. Donations supported building rent, teacher training, student tuition, salaries, books and other supplies. The school quickly grew from a little more than a dozen students to over 100 children in kindergarten through sixth grades.

"We even developed a curriculum in French and English so that the students who graduated could matriculate into Guinean schools, where they spoke French," she said.

According to the school's current website, Sabu International eventually grew from one classroom to a K-12 school spread across two buildings "with 470 eager students, 20 staff members, and a group of involved parents." Sabu still serves refugees from Sierra Leone, as well as children from Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Gambia, Liberia, and Nigeria.

Although no longer actively involved with the school, Tarr remains proud of her role in its development and success.

"My interest today is very different than 10 years ago," she said. "My own experience starting a family really has inspired me to work with women. There are many challenges that can occur during that time of life that can have ramifications long into the future for both the parents and the children. That phase of life has captured my interest for my future work as a social worker."

Since enrolling in the social work program, Tarr has learned to recognize how much of her own privilege enabled her to work in Guinea. At the same time, she remains grateful for the experience as well as the micro and macro lessons learned in developing a school and nonprofit from scratch. That earlier work provided the professional direction she needed, she said.

"Despite some difficulties and the winding road it took us down, I arrived here and feel like I'm right where I'm supposed to be."

# Reeves family gives additional \$250,000 to doctoral program

By Michelle Rogers

**A**n annual donation to the UNC School of Social Work is helping to attract and retain top graduate students.

Over the last six years, Sam and Betsy Reeves of Fresno Beach, California, have contributed over \$1.25 million to the University to support social work doctoral students.

The doctoral program admits between four and six new students annually and has a total enrollment of about 30. Prior to receiving this annual gift, it was challenging to recruit the top applicants because UNC was not able to guarantee them continued financial support. The ability to offer multi-year funding at a competitive level significantly enhances UNC's program.



Betsy and Sam Reeves

This year's gift enables the School of Social Work to offer four doctoral students two years of financial support. The fellowships cover the cost of in-state tuition, health insurance and a nine-month academic stipend. Faculty grants will help fund years three and four. In exchange, students assist with teaching and research, and develop their related skills in these activities.

A 1956 alumnus of Carolina, Reeves is the owner of Pinnacle Trading in Fresno. In 2007, the couple donated \$1 million to the UNC School of Social Work to establish the

Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professorship and the Armfield-Reeves Innovations Fund.

## From the Alumni President

**I**t is my honor to serve as your Alumni Council President and I have lots to share in this article, so get comfy!

First, I want to acknowledge that this has been quite a challenging year in North Carolina and across the country. There are so many issues that social workers have taken the lead on, including challenging the status quo, speaking out about injustices, assisting those who grieve not only the loss of their dignity, but of their loved ones, and in some cases their freedom and basic rights.

As I consider the role of social workers, I am humbled to be among these dedicated professionals who continue to affect change in any capacity in which they are found. We have the great opportunity to serve as workers, volunteers, advocates and business leaders, while also being able to speak out on behalf of those whose voices sometimes are overlooked. This is such a privilege and one I hope each and every one of you will give thought to as you consider your role(s) and how one person can have a significantly positive impact on the world.

I would also like to encourage open hearts and consideration of others' points of view. For example, acknowledging that you're "right" doesn't have to be right for someone else and that doesn't make him or her an enemy, or even wrong. Let's hold fast to the values of self-determination, both personally and professionally, and keep in mind the social work value of unconditional positive regard. I say this to you not as an expert on the subject but as one who has had to struggle with these things at times and seen recently how a failure to do so can have unintended consequences.

It is with love for the School of Social Work that I wish that the next 95 years will be even more impactful than the past 95. I truly believe UNC-SSW is a great institution with outstanding leadership, faculty, staff, volunteers and students. It is my prayer that the legacy each of us leave will be a positive reflection of those who have come before us in service to our fellow man.

Now, on to the bittersweet! **Mary Beth Hernandez**, who has been an *excellent* associate dean for advancement, Alumni Council advisor, professor and friend, is leaving the School after 15 years. On behalf of the Alumni Council, I would like to wish her all the best and thank her for her diligent and wonderful work. She has been the backbone of the Council and her years of service are cherished. We are all sad to see her go but know that as she moves forward as the CEO of Camp Corral, she will carry on her extraordinary work of service to others.

Finally, let me extend a very sincere thank you to **all** of you who have shared your gifts, talents, attitudes of service and compassion with the community at large and the School of Social Work as well. Please also consider donating financially. While you can make a general donation, I encourage you to find one of the School's many funds (scholarship, social justice, etc.) that speaks to your passion and donate to that. No gift is too small, and each one is valuable.

Thank you for reading,

*Ebon Freeman-James, MSW, LCSW '02*



Ebon Freeman-James,  
MSW '02, LCSW

## 2014-15 Alumni Council

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