

WINTER 2022/2023

action

The Magazine of the Mandel School

Disarming gun violence

The Begun Center tackles one of the nation's most vexing issues



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

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The Begun Center tackles one of the nation's most vexing issues



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Winter 2022/2023

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Cover by Getty Images

From the Dean



Dear Mandel School alumni and friends,

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects, the educational mission of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences is strong, and the quality of our students is outstanding. This semester, there are a few key updates I'd like to share with you.

Over the summer, First Year Cleveland, a city-wide initiative that aims to reduce infant deaths and racial inequities, transitioned from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine to the Mandel School. Its transition allows us to better support the effectiveness of this program by addressing the various aspects of structural racism that perpetuate higher infant deaths in Black families. Few schools of social work and nonprofit organizations lead such important city-wide initiatives. We are excited to work with our community, city, state and university partners to help more babies reach their first birthdays, and look forward to sharing more about this initiative in an upcoming issue of *action*.

Our beloved Claudia J. Coulton, the founding director of the Center on Urban Poverty, retired June 30 after more than four decades of dedicated and impactful service. She will continue to stay connected to the center as a consultant. If you would like to honor Dr. Coulton's dream to increase Community Practice for Social Change scholarships, you can make a gift today at giving.case.edu/msass.

This past spring, Adrienne Fletcher, our assistant dean of diversity and inclusion, took a leave of absence when she was appointed by the Ohio Supreme Court as its inaugural director of diversity, equity and inclusion. Her appointment elevates the broad reach and impact of social work in the judicial system. Dawn Ellis, grants and department administrator at the Begun Center, and Kim McFarlin, assistant dean of student services and career planning, are supporting this critical role during Dr. Fletcher's leave. (Learn more on p. 6.)

There are many other ways in which the Mandel School is rising and transforming. As a profession, we as social workers and nonprofit professionals affirm the dignity and worth of all persons, and there are important opportunities for us to help advance community-centered education, research and training across the broad number of communities with which we engage.

I look forward to connecting with you to hear your questions and ideas, and thank you for your volunteerism and support. I hope you enjoy the renewal that comes with the new year.

Best regards,

Dexter R. Voisin, PhD, LCSW
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Dean in Applied Social Sciences

Our school, **by the numbers**

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences is a research-driven school of social work and nonprofit management.

And the statistics are evidence of the school's strong standing as a top 10 social work school nationally. Take a look at the Mandel School's latest facts and figures.



AT A GLANCE

#9 school of social work in the U.S. and **#1** in Ohio (*U.S. News and World Report*)

9 multidisciplinary research and training centers, including **3** Centers of Excellence, covering a range of specialties

6 dual degrees, an option pursued by **10%** of on-campus master's students

4 of the top 100 most-cited social work scholars in the nation

2 of the top 2% most-cited researchers in the world from a list of **6 million** scientists

7 American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare fellows on our faculty

13:1 student-faculty ratio, one of the nation's lowest

12 average class size, not including field courses

10 endowed professorships, among the most of any school of social work in the nation

30,000+ volumes in the Harris Library, one of the few professional social work libraries in the U.S.

STUDENT SUCCESS

423 students enrolled (Fall 2022)
387 master's students, **36** PhD students

24 states represented among our on-campus student body
32 states where online students are enrolled

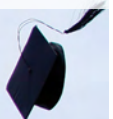
32% underrepresented minority students in the student body

11% of on-campus students in the Master of Social Work and Master of Nonprofit Organization programs are international students

100% of on-campus students received scholarship support last year

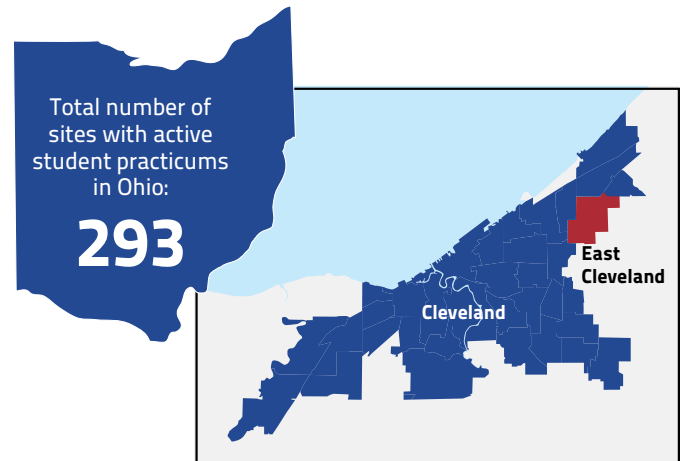
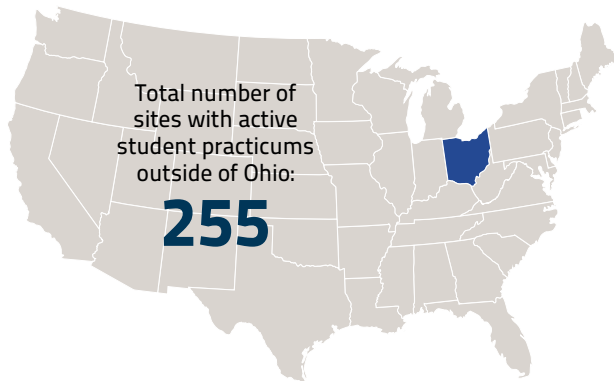
93% of recent grads employed or pursuing further education full time within six months of graduating

9,000+ alumni in all **50** states and **41** countries



CURRICULUM AND FIELD PRACTICUM WORK

109,810 hours of social work provided by MSW on-campus, intensive weekend and online students in **548 field practicums** at more than **1,000 partner organizations** throughout the United States—an economic value of **\$3.1 million**.



4.27 average student rating (out of 5) of faculty in end-of-semester evaluations

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

In Fiscal Year 2022, the research and training community brought in close to **\$18 million** in grant funding, up from \$15 million last year.

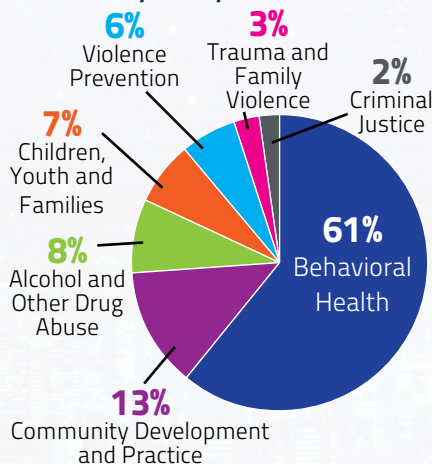
69% funding for training, program evaluation, technical assistance and consultation

31% funding for research

38% funding from federal sources

180 new and continuing awards

Percent of research and training awards by study area:



The top five funders are:

1. *Ohio Department of Mental Health
2. *Cuyahoga County
3. *City of Cleveland
4. Ohio Department of Medicaid
5. *Center for Families and Children

*Includes federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Leading in diversity, equity and inclusion

Mandel School faculty and staff selected for new roles

In April, **Adrienne Fletcher, PhD (SAS '05)**, assistant dean of diversity and inclusion at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, got the call of a lifetime: The Ohio Supreme Court asked her to be its inaugural director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

She happily accepted.

Former Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a statement that the court is "constantly evaluating itself to better meet our constitutional obligation to access and justice for all. Dr. Fletcher will be an asset to the court in reviewing our policies and practices, attracting a diverse workforce, retaining highly qualified employees and continuing to serve justice."

"Relationships and partnerships are at the heart of greater understanding," said Fletcher. "Diversity, equity and inclusion is where understanding gives way to access, impartiality and fairness."

While Fletcher's been away, two of her colleagues, **Dawn Ellis** and **Kimberly McFarlin (SAS '05, MNO '05)**, have been supporting this critical role during Fletcher's leave of absence from the Mandel School.

Ellis, who serves as the grants and department administrator for the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, helps facilitate



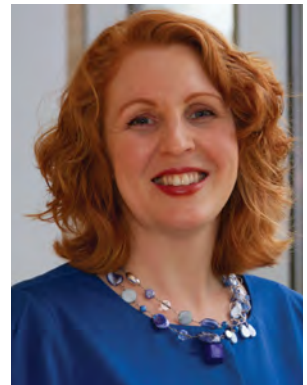
Fletcher

the university's Diversity 360 and Sustained Dialogue programs and is a member of various groups advancing diversity and inclusion on campus.

McFarlin serves as assistant dean of student services and career planning at the Mandel School and has collaborated with numerous university partners—including the Office for Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, the Office of Equity, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs—to provide programming for Mandel School students. She has presented on the value of internationally diverse and inclusive communities in Cleveland, and has completed certificates and training in sustained dialogue, diversity and inclusion, emotional intelligence and women in leadership.



Ellis



McFarlin

"Equity, diversity and inclusion are all of our responsibilities," said Mandel School Dean **Dexter Voisin, PhD**, "and we are deeply grateful to Dawn and Kim for their invaluable service and support to the Mandel School in this joint role. We look forward to all that Dr. Fletcher will accomplish during her time with the Supreme Court of Ohio."



"Relationships and partnerships are at the heart of greater understanding. Diversity, equity and inclusion is where understanding gives way to access, impartiality and fairness."

—Adrienne Fletcher, PhD, Ohio Supreme Court director of diversity, equity and inclusion



According to experts

Mandel School scholars address timely news topics

Faculty members at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences—renowned for their scholarship and expertise—are frequently sought by local, national and international media to address pressing societal issues. Here are just some of their many recent insights:

“ [As kids] disconnect from [academics], they might get more engaged in negative behaviors, delinquency behaviors, and those have consequences that tend to snowball. We know from things like high-quality early education, free pre-K services, home visits and support that early intervention helps families dealing with a variety of challenges.”



—**Rob Fischer**, associate professor and co-director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, to Cleveland's ABC affiliate on addressing illiteracy in children earlier

“ The source of [the Department of Justice] review has to be somebody credible, objective, transparent and accurate. ... It's going to be about what happened in those minutes when that misjudgment occurred.”



—**Edward Dabkowski**, research associate at the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, to CNN on the Department of Justice's review of the delayed police response during the Uvalde school shooting

“ These are people who were either troubled or emotionally dysregulated, or expressing homicidal threats, that had guns taken away. It's not that the laws don't work. It's that folks actually have to work with the system.”



—**Dean Dexter Voisin** to BBC News about the effectiveness of red flag laws in preventing gun violence

“ It's the attention [shootings] get or don't get that prompts the outpourings of support. I think it's the desensitization to these events that leads to people wanting to move on. ... [But] the support that people need over time is just as important as the support needed at the time of the crisis.”



—**Dan Flannery**, director of the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, to the Los Angeles Times on the proliferation of gun violence in the U.S.

“ From my perspective, if you don't really try to engage folks who have used violence or who have harmed others in a meaningful way, the problem will continue.”



—**Laura Voith**, associate professor, in Science News Explores on improving violence-prevention programs

“ It's really heartbreaking, it's gut wrenching, it's traumatic for everyone involved. We've seen an increase in family-based violence, and we've seen an increase in child abuse during [the pandemic].”

—**Dana Prince**, assistant professor, to Cleveland's NBC affiliate about the murder of a 4-year-old boy in foster care



Honors and appointments

Faculty, staff and students at the Mandel School recognized for recent achievements

Charnissa Boulware, a Master of Social Work student, received the 2022 Marie Haug Award at the Mandel School's annual Graduate Student Awards Ceremony for her exemplary performance in gerontological studies.

Nichole Cobb (CWR

'93; SAS '95), a doctoral student and founder of Cleveland-based behavioral health firm Kingdom Developers Consulting Inc., recently received the Methodology Workshop Scholarship from the Center for Research on Families at University of Massachusetts Amherst. This award, which was given to Cobb in recognition of her research on reduction of family dysfunction among individuals with borderline personality disorder, will contribute to her research on the psychopathology of personality disorders and neuroplasticity in patients.



Cobb

Marjorie Edguer (WRC '80; SAS '85; GRS '17, social

welfare), assistant professor, received a Nord Grant from CWRU's University Center for Innovative Teaching and Education for her project, Mindfulness Matters: Revisited. Nord Grants provide faculty members with opportunities to enhance teaching, develop innovative projects and advance student learning.



Edguer

Victor Groza, PhD, the Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies, was elected as a 2023 Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work

and Social Welfare, a distinguished honorific society of prominent scholars, top researchers and practitioners.



Groza

Tyrone C. Hamler,

a doctoral student, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from University of Cincinnati.



Hamler

Liat Johnson, a doctoral student, was one of four scholars chosen nationally for the Minority Fellowship Program from the Council on Social Work Education.



Johnson

Ann Nguyen, assistant professor, was selected to be a Cleveland Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Research Education Component (REC) Scholar.

The REC supports the scientific and career development of early career investigators through mentoring, programs and yearly support of \$40,000 for a research project for two years.



Nguyen

Nicole Parker, assistant director of field education, was named to the Lake-Geauga Fund of The Cleveland Foundation's advisory committee.



Parker

Dana Prince, PhD, and **Laura A. Voith, PhD**, were promoted from assistant professors to associate professors with tenure.



Prince



Voith

Fei Wang, a doctoral student, was one of five scholars from across the U.S. awarded a fellowship in the Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Scholar Program at University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center.



Wang

Take a break

Faculty member's card deck aims to address mental health concerns

In the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, it became abundantly clear to **Jennifer King, DSW**, that most people didn't have the basic knowledge to help them mentally cope with the related stress.

"I realized that what I know and understand about trauma, stress and healing was super relevant to all of us," said King, an assistant professor and co-director of the Center on Trauma and Adversity at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

King, who has a wide range of experiences working clinically with children, adolescents, families and adults, began to craft what would become the "Take A Break" micropractice deck, 28 cards of one- to three-minute exercises—based on the brain science of stress and healing—to soothe, settle or energize the body and mind.

One such exercise encourages the user to take a "jellyfish breath," easing into a comfortable position and keeping an image of a jellyfish in mind "as you allow your breath to flow into your chest, ribs, belly and back" while placing your hands on any body part as it rises and falls.

"Micropractices are about using the power of patterned, repetitive, rhythmic movement, bilateral stimulation, self-massage and mindfulness in small doses throughout the day," King said, adding that these exercises can help to build a more resilient stress-response system.

"I use these to start and finish my classes," she said. "My students want these strategies not only for their own self-care but to share with their clients."



King

King, who designed the Take A Break deck and its packaging, said the cards can be used anywhere—from the classroom to work or home—with others or alone.

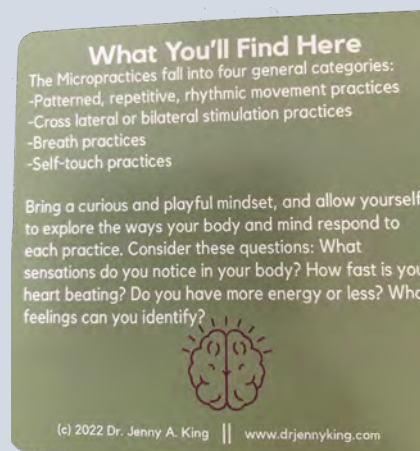
"It's about being mindful of the points in the day where you're feeling stressed," she said, "noticing where the spikes are and building in activity around those spikes."

—Colin McEwen



"It's about being mindful of the points in the day where you're feeling stressed."

—Jennifer King, assistant professor and co-director of the Center on Trauma and Adversity



Research roundup

Faculty and students at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences have been busy applying their skills as researchers and investigators in the expanding field of social work. Here are just a few of their recent contributions.

Demonstrating value

Sometimes it takes a deep dive into the details to show the true return on an investment. And that's just what **Amy T. Khare, PhD**, and **Alexandra Curley, PhD**, did in their most recent study.

Khare and Curley—both research assistant professors at the Mandel School's National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities—partnered with April Jackson, PhD, associate professor at University of Illinois-Chicago, on a study called "From the Ground Up: Housing as a Catalyst for Community-Driven Redevelopment of Chicago's Majority Black Woodlawn Neighborhood." Together, they examined the effects of a decade-plus investment by Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago.

POAH's community-revitalization effort brought Woodlawn residents a community center with employment and financial support resources, a sports and education center, and 1,000 new mixed-income apartments. It renovated foreclosed properties and built new homes on empty land. A new grocery store soon followed.

The results? The study revealed that POAH's investment:

- Attracted more than \$410 million in federal, state and local funding;
- Raised incomes for low- and median-incomes households;
- Increased racial diversity;
- Decreased crime rates; and
- Increased the rate of home ownership.



Khare

What's more, Khare, Curley and Jackson wrote in their report, the investment helped create stronger partnerships, garnered public and private investments, increased and preserved housing, created new amenities for the community, improved transit development and made higher-quality resources more available to all residents.



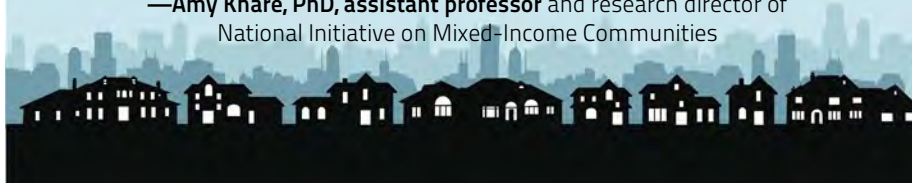
Curley

Woodlawn, said Khare—who is also the research director at the National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities—"is a unique example since it illuminates how community reinvestment in majority-Black spaces can produce meaningful change that benefits existing residents.

"There is hope for racially equitable development."

"[It's] a unique example since it illuminates how community reinvestment in majority-Black spaces can produce meaningful change that benefits existing residents."

—Amy Khare, PhD, assistant professor and research director of National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities





Studying health disparities

Keeping up with routine healthcare appointments can be a challenge, but people who face potential discrimination at the doctor's office may find it even more difficult to access the basic healthcare they need.

Transgender and gender diverse populations experience more health disparities than the lesbian, gay, bisexual and cisgender heterosexual population, according to a recent study conducted in part by **Braveheart Gillani**, a doctoral student at the Mandel School.



Gillani

"Fear of misgendering, inability to pay, lack of provider knowledge about transgender issues and incongruity with current name and gender were the most common causes for avoiding healthcare," the authors of the study wrote. "For the most part, respondents report that these factors cause distress."

Published in the *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health*, Gillani's study also provides a series of recommendations for preventive health screenings based upon an individual's organs, rather than their gender identity.

PUBLISHED COLLABORATION

Mark Chupp, PhD (GRS '03, social welfare),

associate professor and founding director of the Community Innovation Network,

Adrianne Fletcher, PhD (SAS '05),

assistant dean of diversity and inclusion at the Mandel School, and **James**

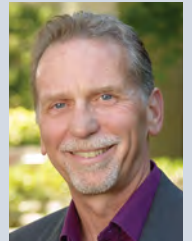
Grauly (CAS '10),

program manager at the Community Innovation Network, co-published an article in *The Journal of Community Practice*.

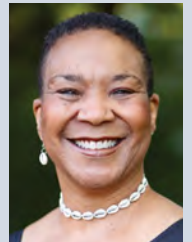
In "Toward authentic university-community engagement," the team proposed a model of authentic university-community engagement that

builds reciprocity and trust among members of the community and university, and increases their capacity to collaboratively problem-solve.

To learn more about Chupp's community engagement efforts, see p. 30.



Chupp



Fletcher



Grauly





Disarming gun violence

The Begun Center tackles one
of the nation's most vexing issues

BY SUSAN VALERIAN

Most days, **Dan Flannery, PhD**, takes an objective, evidence-based approach to reducing gun violence. That's his job as director of the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

But when he received a recent middle-of-the-night phone call from his daughter in California, the topic turned personal. Her boyfriend, she explained through sobs, had been shot and killed when a bar fight turned tragic. He didn't know what to tell her, he recalled, or how to explain why it happened. But he knows it's a scenario playing out more frequently all over the United States.



"It's not just the highly publicized mass shootings, but the everyday gun violence that's going on," Flannery said. "All of us are impacted by this."

The Begun Center, founded in 2000 with the support of the Semi J. and Ruth W. Begun Foundation, has focused on violence prevention for more than two decades, with Flannery as its director since 2011. Gun violence has been one of the more vexing areas



Flannery

of focus, in part because comprehensive and central access to key data is still lacking—and the politics around the issue are challenging. But with the Begun Center's expertise, credibility and strong partnerships in Cleveland, Northeast Ohio and beyond, they've made progress.

"Dan and his team have been highly successful not only generating a level of research, but a level of impact with training, policy, talking to the media, policing and working with government officials," said Mandel School Dean **Dexter Voisin, PhD**, whose own research has examined how structural, racial and interpersonal violence impacts health behaviors and outcomes in minority populations. "There are very few centers across the country that are doing this breadth of work."

Founding funder

The center's ability to secure funding is key to its progress. Last fiscal year (July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022), the center generated more than \$12 million in external funding and grants, which was up about \$3 million from the year before. The Begun Foundation, founded by Semi and Ruth Begun, has continued its support since the center's founding.

"Ruth was very passionate about quantitative analysis," said Allan Steinhardt, president of the Begun Foundation, and Ruth's nephew. "She would always be pushing evidence-based research. No better place to be looking at violence prevention evidence-based practice than the Begun Center."

Laws and politics have been strong barriers to gathering comprehensive data and applying it to create better policies and community initiatives, Flannery said. Earlier this year, there was some progress: President Joe Biden signed into law the

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first major federal gun safety legislation in decades. It's a step forward, but Flannery said it fails to address two important restrictions needed to truly reduce gun violence and mass shootings: required background checks on all gun purchases, even for gun shows and private sales, and a ban on assault-style weapons, high-capacity ammunition clips and bump stocks—products that modify single-trigger guns to fire like machine guns. Flannery and other scholars made this argument in the Coalition of National Researchers' Violence Prevention Plan, an eight-point plan of needed changes to reduce gun violence.

But it's more than just bans and background checks, according to Flannery. Preventing gun violence also requires research, which, until 2019, was prohibited at the nation's leading public health institutions—the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—by the Dickey Amendment.

"We're way behind where we should be with gun violence research," Flannery said. "Though many restrictions [on research] have recently been lifted, there are still strong political guardrails around this issue."

A public health perspective

In the late 20th century, motor vehicle deaths decreased dramatically thanks to a public health effort undertaken by the federal government. Legislation, safety bureaus, research and monitoring efforts led to commonplace safety measures such as seat belts, airbags and guardrails. This public health approach, Flannery said, is the most effective way to reduce gun violence, too.

"We know those are things that can work if we had evidence to demonstrate their effectiveness," he said.

A GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEM IN THE U.S.

Mass shootings like the one in Uvalde, Texas, in which a gunman killed 19 elementary school students and two teachers, often grab the headlines and rattle parents. But statistics show it's not just mass shootings that reflect the growing problem of gun violence.

- ▶ Nearly **53 people** are killed with a gun every day
- ▶ **75% increase** in gun deaths over the last decade
- ▶ **More than half** of gun deaths are suicides
- ▶ **#1 cause** of death in children and teenagers
- ▶ Active shooter incidents **increased 900%** between 2000–2019

Data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Federal Bureau of Investigation

That evidence is being unearthed by the Begun Center's monitoring and research.

Begun Center Research Data Manager **Ryan McMaster** has been making headway into gun research in the city of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Working with the Cleveland Department of Public Health and other partners, he's pulling together various gun-related data to analyze.



McMaster

"We're just trying to tell the story from an objective standpoint with the data," McMaster said. "That's a very important first step."

He said this entails plotting where the gun violence occurs. This might not reveal surprising conclusions at first blush, he said, but it can help inform how to better address it. He likens it to how opioid research—which he also does—has helped identify the most impacted populations, so resources and money can be targeted there.

"With gun crime, I think the response should be very similar," he said. "You need to know where and who this is affecting and start creating plans to address it. The data really solidifies who [is impacted] and where the problems are the greatest."

'Make fewer victims in the world'

As a former special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), **Ed Dabkowski** has stood in too many classrooms talking to kids who knew someone who had been shot and killed, or who had regularly heard gunshots near their homes. He said that drove him to focus on how to "make fewer victims in the world," not just lock people up.



Dabkowski

"Nobody wants to stand in front of a class of 15-years-olds and watch half the class raise their hand because they hear gunfire in their neighborhoods," he said.

Dabkowski, who is now a research associate at the Begun Center, said finding direct funding for gun violence research is

a challenge. That's why he and his colleagues get creative and smart about using access to other data to inform their gun violence work.

"The great thing about Begun is that it's got so many different partners—police, hospitals, foundations—so it's got a lot of visibility through different data to ask: How are firearms fitting in? What kind of firearms data would this source have? Who's got what piece of this puzzle?" Dabkowski said.

Strong partnerships

These partnerships exist thanks to the respected and widely known expertise of the center's researchers, and the collaborative and sustained effort to engage the community.

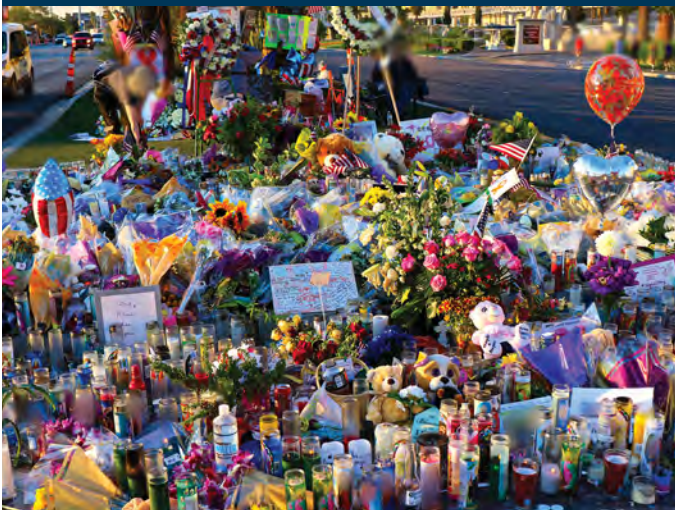
For example, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office—specifically the Crime Strategies Unit and Crime Gun Intelligence Center—and the Begun Center are partnered on a grant from the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance to prevent and respond to violent crime.

Using strategies such as social-network analysis and risk-terrain modeling, Begun Center researchers identify patterns of gun violence in high-crime areas and among repeat offenders.

"You have to ask," Dabkowski explained, "what does data tell us [about] how to address this problem?" So they share and apply that data with the prosecutor's office to interrupt the cycle of gun violence and, hopefully, increase the successful prosecution of violent offenders.

As director of the Partnership for a Safer Cleveland, a nonprofit that works to advance innovations in data-driven policing and other safety initiatives, Mike Walker works closely with Flannery and the Begun Center on identifying an effective, comprehensive approach to reduce violent crime in the city.

READ the Coalition of National Researchers' Violence Prevention Plan at bit.ly/CNRVP-8-point-plan.



WHAT'S IN THE BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT?

Signed into law by President Biden on June 25, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act includes:

- Expanded background checks for individuals purchasing firearms who are under the age of 21;
- \$11 billion for mental health services;
- Firearm purchase restrictions for individuals who have been convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor or felony in dating relationships;
- \$750 million for state grants to implement crisis intervention order programs, also referred to as red-flag laws, that would allow authorities to confiscate firearms from individuals who have been determined by a court to be a significant danger to themselves or others; and
- \$2 billion for community-based violence prevention initiatives.

"You need to have a very trustworthy group of scientists who work to understand things, and we're very fortunate to have that in Cleveland with the Begun Center," Walker said. "They're invaluable."

Greg White, a former U.S. attorney and federal magistrate, worked closely with the Begun Center for many years and describes it as a valuable resource. In his role overseeing the settlement between the City of Cleveland and the U.S. Department of Justice over police use-of-force, White said the Begun Center was critical in assisting the city with data analysis and developing evidence-based practices to address the problems.

Working toward a national model

While addressing issues close to home is critical, Dean Voisin is confident the center's work can also make a broader impact—and Begun Center researchers have already done so by raising public awareness of myriad, complex issues surrounding gun violence. In just the last year, they have been sought for their insights by dozens of regional and national media outlets, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *CNN*, *ABC News* and *Huffington Post*.

So Voisin is looking to the Begun Center to continue to elevate its profile as a national leader in violence prevention.

"I'd like for them to find a way to capture their success and share it with other centers throughout the country," he said. "Gun violence isn't a local issue. It's a national issue."

And for Flannery, it's also deeply personal. "This affects all of us—if not now, then eventually," he said.

"The issue of gun violence is not going away."

C-suite alumni manage sea changes

Nonprofit execs apply their Mandel School education to pivot, redesign and rethink their organizations

BY MARK OPREA

For two decades after its creation in 1989, Case Western Reserve University's Master of Nonprofit Organizations (MNO) ran as a competitive, tailored program for training nonprofit professionals, many of whom climbed the ladders of Cleveland's workforce. Then, in May 2011, the program was put on pause. After 20-plus years, the MNO needed an overhaul to better prepare students for the world of nonprofit work.

A year later, **Robert Fischer, PhD**, associate professor at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, decided he was the person who could help revamp the program for a successful future. He and a committee fine-tuned its 15-course curriculum, curtailed the credit hours from 60 to 39 and obtained accreditation from the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council. By the following summer the MNO program enrollment had doubled.

“So, it’s in a kind of second life, if you will,” said Fischer, who is also chair of the program.

The MNO program’s “second life” has cultivated nonprofit leaders for one of the most daunting periods faced by the industry. From March to May of 2020, 1.6 million nonprofit employees—one out of every 13 workers—saw their jobs eliminated, according to the National Council of Nonprofits. With fewer resources and more demand on nonprofits, it will be years before they fully rebound.

So how to keep the ship steady? Alumni of the MNO program who occupy C-suite positions across Cleveland say specific skills garnered from their classes at the Mandel School—from “Strategic Planning” to “Leadership Dialogue”—have enabled their organizations to ride COVID-19’s tumultuous wave.

“What we try to do is teach students to understand all the parts of the organization that have to work well,” Fischer said. “So that if there’s any hiccup in any one of them, they’re not worried about closing their doors.”

‘True to who we are’

Marcella Brown (MNO ‘07) had a fundraising gig for Cleveland’s City Club when she began itching to return to school.



Fischer



Brown

She had taken workshops to hone her skills in nonprofits but, three years out of college, she yearned for academic formality.

“I really became curious about how our corporate sponsorships came about,” Brown recalled. “Finally, I was just like, ‘Alright, I should just do a deep dive into this.’”

After earning her MNO, Brown’s interest in social services grew. She joined the board of the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation, where, in 2011, she became executive director.

Today, at the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Brown is vice president of development and communications.. She helps raise federal funds for the post-COVID-19 demand for affordable housing and youth emergency services.

Her Mandel School education, she said, keeps her clarity sharp—especially in the realm of financial ethics.

“Like how to position our gift acceptance policies in a way that is true to who we are,” Brown

said. “What our values are. Not chasing money or mission creep—I make sound decisions because of [my education].”

A for-profit for nonprofits

In any given year, the government disperses, on average, \$750 billion that will, through a variety of funnels, trickle down to regional nonprofit organizations that rely on its funding.

Adam Roth (SAS ‘98, MNO ‘98) makes managing that money as efficient as possible.

Though he worked in nonprofits early in his career, in 2009, Roth was chewing on an idea for the for-profit realm. He knew that, out of this \$750 billion, 40% of it was absorbed by administrative duties. And, in the process, an average 6% is lost to the nonprofit.

PARADIGM SHIFT

Dennis Young, PhD, visiting professor emeritus at the Mandel School, has long taught MNO students to navigate turbulent times at nonprofit organizations, helping launch the MNO program in 1988 and leading it until 1996.

In his new book, *Resilience and the Management of Nonprofit Organizations*, Young wrote that the pandemic requires nonprofit executives to shift their thinking.

"We need a new way of thinking about nonprofit management," said Young. "Without a narrow focus on efficiency and frugality and with greater emphasis on viability and sustainability so they can get through times of unanticipated and potentially catastrophic challenges."



Young

Roth had an answer for this problem: Amplifund.

It's been 13 years since Roth began this startup in a one-bedroom apartment. Now, Amplifund employs 85 people and helps roughly 350 nonprofits—and countless government grantees—better track federal grant monies with management software, saving his clients time and money.

Managing 350 nonprofit clients, Roth said, requires a for-profit attitude.

"When you take a look at different perspectives in school, the nonprofit experience is one that is, well, very entrepreneurial," Roth said regarding his time in the program. "Now, you're not an entrepreneur, and you're not risking your own capital. But you're entrepreneurial in your *thinking*."

Funding Cleveland arts—with fewer funds

Jill Paulsen (MNO '04) never thought she would spend the last two decades working in Cleveland's vast world of nonprofits.

But Paulsen, a Minnesota native, enrolled in the MNO program after working alongside theater actors at the Minnesota AIDS project. And then, in 2009, she got a chance to work with Dave Abbott at the Gund Foundation, an institution with the sole purpose of contributing to human well-being and the progress of society.

"The only reason I applied for that job," Paulsen recalled with a laugh, "is because career services at the Mandel Center let me know about it."

Paulsen is now executive director of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC), an arts funding and advocacy organization that doles out about \$13 million in grants



Roth



Paulson

per year to 300-plus nonprofits across the county. She's in charge at a tough time: CAC's funding has dropped, Paulsen said, to about \$7 million since she joined the organization in 2011.

To navigate this challenge, Paulsen said she calls up the lessons from her Mandel School mentors, Robert Fischer and the late **Steve Minter (SAS '63)**—former CEO of the Cleveland Foundation and a Case Western Reserve University Trailblazer Award recipient, given to pioneering alumni of color—to see the forest for the trees.

"I've had to pick my head up and think a little less about details, and more four steps ahead," she said. "That's been the biggest pivot: thinking at a level that makes sure CAC keeps moving forward. Thinking long term."

Tough decisions

As CEO of Eliza Bryant Village, the oldest continually operating Black-founded long-term care facility in the United States, **Danny Williams (MNO '04)** knows what it means to lead an organization.



Williams

And like his fellow nonprofit leaders in Cleveland, Williams is steering Eliza Bryant through tough waters: This past summer, due to lack of staffing, skyrocketing operating costs and other factors, Eliza Bryant was forced to close its 99-bed nursing home.

While the rest of Eliza Bryant Village is still open and providing outreach programs and healthcare services to elderly members of Cleveland's Black community, Williams is drawing on his time at the Mandel School to determine what's next for the nonprofit. He plans to revise Eliza's funding model, attract new support and find new ways to manage board engagement.

"Grappling with those gray areas you often find yourself in, and trying to figure out: What can we do? What should we do?" he said. "It's rare that I go through a week at Eliza where I don't think back on that ethical grounding I got from the program."



MANDEL SCHOOL'S MNO PROGRAM, BY THE NUMBERS

30+ years
in the making

39-credit hour
program

Can be completed full time in
1 year

61 students
enrolled this year

588 alumni
of the program working
around the world

1 of 12
graduate
programs
in the U.S. in nonprofit
management accredited
by the Nonprofit Academic
Centers Council

Much to celebrate

University holds first 'normal' commencement in two years

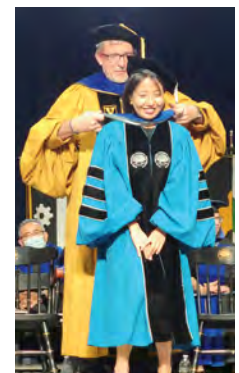
On a beautiful weekend in May, family members and friends gathered for the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences' first indoor commencement ceremony since 2019.

On Sunday, May 15, Dean **Dexter Voisin, PhD**, delivered opening remarks at The Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center, where graduating students received their Master of Social Work and Master of Nonprofit Organization diplomas. **Justin Johnson (SAS '22)** and **Gabriela Leskur (SAS '22)** addressed their classmates from the stage, and Justice **Melody J. Stewart, PhD (GRS '08, social welfare)**, the first Black woman elected to the Ohio Supreme Court, delivered the keynote address.

In her remarks, Stewart shared song lyrics from her favorite musician, Pat Metheny: "From this place / I must proceed / Trust in love / Trust, be my lead." She encouraged the Class of 2022 to follow that guidance, reminding them to be good public servants and to help people along the way.

Later that afternoon, Charles E. Rozek, PhD, vice provost and dean of the School of Graduate Studies, opened the graduate school ceremony—where doctoral students receive their diplomas—at the Veale Convocation, Recreation and Athletic Center. The Arol Shack Dissertation Award was presented to **Kylie Evans (GRS '22, social welfare)** and students **Tyrone Hamler** and **Fei Wang** for their outstanding doctoral work. By the end of the ceremony, all students graduating with their PhDs in social welfare walked across the stage to receive their hoods and diplomas.

The Mandel School topped off the day's celebrations with a reception for its graduates in the school's Noble Commons.



Honoring students and faculty

In May, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences recognized the following outstanding faculty members and students with annual awards during the commencement ceremony.

MANDEL SCHOOL AWARDS

Irene Sogg Gross Award

Ariana Wilin (SAS '22)

Sylvia and John A. Yankey Community Service Award

Gabriela Leskur (SAS '22)

Norma C. and Albert I. Geller Student Award

Tara Daniel (SAS '22)

Dean's Award for Outstanding Student Achievement

Hind Salih (SAS '22)

Arol Schack Dissertation Award for Outstanding Social Welfare Doctoral Students

Kylie Evans, PhD

(GRS '22, social welfare)

Tyrone Hamler

Fei Wang

Outstanding Field Instructor Award

Alan Hejduk (SAS '06)

JOHN A. YANKEY OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS

Fei Wang

J. Richard Romaniuk, PhD (SAS '99)

Jennifer Madden, PhD
(CWR '93; MNO '95; GRS '15,
management)

DEAN'S DISCRETIONARY AWARDS

Distinguished Service Award

Bridget Wiles (SAS '11)

Grace Longwell Coyle Award

Nancy S. Wadsworth, PhD
(SAS '70; GRS '06, social welfare)

Herman D. Stein Distinguished Social Work Educator Award

M.C. "Terry" Hokenstad Jr., PhD

Advocate for Human Rights Award

Celia Williamson, PhD (SAS '94)

Advocate for Social Justice and Leadership Development Award

Melody J. Stewart, PhD, JD
(GRS '08, social welfare)

2022 CWRU GRADUATE AWARDS

Diekhoff Award Nominee

Megan R. Holmes, PhD

Ruth Barber Moon Award

Sarah Balsler

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Research Award

Meagan Ray-Novak

Cheryl Ross Appline

Social Justice Research Fellowships

Tyrone Hamler

HyunJune Lee

Gabriela Leskur (SAS '22)

Marie Haug Award

Charnissa Boulware

Meet the Mandel School's Office of Institutional Advancement team

At Case Western Reserve University's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, we aim to unleash powerful learning, inspire innovation and advance leadership in social work and nonprofit management. The Mandel School continues to grow, thrive and foster change leaders, thanks to the partnership, generosity and steadfast commitment of our cherished alumni and friends.

We truly appreciate the many ways you provide support through your time, talent and treasure. Your support transforms lives, and for this we are truly grateful.

As the associate dean of development and external relations, I am proud to share with you that our team is growing! We were delighted to welcome four new members to our team this fall. We are here to help you realize your philanthropic goals and support the Mandel School, and welcome your call at any time. I look forward to hearing your perspectives and suggestions as we advance the mission and vision of the school!

—Anne Marie Kollander



Anne Marie Kollander (WRC '84)

Associate Dean of Development and
External Relations
amk119@case.edu | 216.368.2311

Anne Marie joined the Mandel School in 2019 after almost 20 years as a for-profit business owner and nonprofit professional. An alumna of Case Western Reserve University, Anne Marie is honored and proud to be of service to the passionate and purpose-driven alumni and friends of the Mandel School.



Nada G. DiFranco (MNO '08)

Senior Director, Alumni and Donor Relations
ngd2@case.edu | 216.368.2281

Nada has worked for Case Western Reserve University for 21 years—12 at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing and nine at the Mandel School, where she feels rewarded to collaborate with and assist alumni and donors.

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Alumni News

Together again

Alumni gather to celebrate homecoming and reunion

Continued from page 21



Katie Buzard

Senior Director of Development
keb164@case.edu |
216.368.5986

A proponent of higher education, Katie joined the Mandel School in September after nearly 15 years at Kent State University. Katie is inspired by the incredible loyalty shown by alumni, friends and faculty of the Mandel School.



Stephanie Fadorsen

Development Manager
sxf488@case.edu |
216.368.0113

Stephanie worked for seven years in donor records at the Cleveland Museum of Art before joining the Mandel School in May. She enjoys supporting the advancement team and the extraordinary students who, like our cherished alumni, will change the world.



Gabby Misch

Manager of Special Events
gxm360@case.edu |
216.368.4204

Gabby joined the Mandel School in August after working at University of Akron in alumni engagement and at Downtown Akron Partnership in programming and events. In her work, Gabby has realized the importance of giving back and how much she loves to be involved.



Ashley M. Presutto

Director of Annual and Special Giving
amp382@case.edu |
216.368.1193

Ashley joined the Mandel School in October with 15 years of professional development experience at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland and Cleveland State University's law school. Ashley enjoys supporting the Mandel School community by enhancing donors' annual and special gifts and providing them with a sense of fulfillment as they support the next generation of change leaders.

In October, Case Western Reserve University's Homecoming and Reunion Weekend kicked off with Blue Bash, a new opening night celebration. Alumni, students, families and friends gathered on Freiberger Field to reminisce, eat, entertain, play games and enjoy fireworks.

Throughout the four-day celebration, members of the campus community heard from President Eric W. Kaler about key university priorities, enjoyed a pregame party before the Spartan football team took on—and defeated—St. Vincent College, and had the chance to take part in more than 100 other events.

On Friday, the university hosted a luncheon in the Tinkham Veale University Center ballroom. Later that evening, Dean **Dexter Voisin, PhD**, delivered remarks at the Alumni Celebration in the Noble Commons Lobby, then presented the 2022 Mandel School Alumni Association award winners (see them on p. 31).

The festivities wrapped up the following day with the Grace Longwell Coyle Lecture featuring **Jackie Lowe-Stevenson (SAS '78)**, as well as reunion lunch gatherings held both in person and virtually.



Dean Voisin welcomes alumni and guests to the Alumni Celebration during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.





Alumni Association award winners pose with Dean Dexter Voisin (fourth from left). Winners, from left: Héctor Luis Díaz, LaToya G. Logan, Philip D. Tavill, Dean Voisin, Aviva Lauren Vincent and Patrick E. Boyle.



Mandel School alumni Robin Cain (left) and Jeffrey Hamilton (right) returned for their 25th reunion.



(From left) Spartie stands with the 2022 homecoming court: Jerry Ukwela, Paola Giammattei and Grayson Holt.



Mandel School alumni attended continuing education program during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.



Jackie Lowe-Stevenson delivered the Grace Longwell Coyle Lecture.

Barrier breaker

An alumna's trailblazing path in social work

Growing up in predominantly white Reading, Pennsylvania, in the 1930s and '40s, **Geneva B. Johnson (SAS '57)** was used to standing out from her peers.

She was one of 21 Black students in a high school class of 800, and the only Black student throughout her time at Albright College in Reading—as well as the first Black woman to graduate from the institution.

When she finished school and began to pursue her dream of working with the YWCA, Johnson was shocked to learn that her best opportunities were in the segregated southern United States.

During the Great Migration of the early to mid-20th century, approximately 6 million Black Americans fled oppression in the South. And although they escaped Jim Crow laws by moving to the North, they were still met with housing and job discrimination from white community members who rejected integration.

Johnson, whose family left South Carolina soon after she was born, had only experienced this sort of semi-integrated life in the Northeast, and had no knowledge of how Black people in the South lived; she was surprised to find that many all-Black neighborhoods flourished economically and culturally within segregation.

"It was an explosive experience," said Johnson, who took a job at Houston's Black YWCA in 1951. "It was incredible to witness the accomplishments of Black folks within their own communities—it was unlike anything I'd seen before."



Courtesy of Geneva Bolton Johnson

Geneva Bolton Johnson

Her new role led her to one of the most influential people in her career: **Esther Test (SAS '38)**, a professor at what is now Case Western Reserve University's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.



Esther Test

With Test's encouragement and scholarship assistance through the YWCA, Johnson made her way back

north to Case Western Reserve, where she earned her master's degree—the first in her family to do so.

It turns out that wouldn't be her last "first." Johnson broke barriers as the first woman to become senior vice president of United Way of America—an organization that previously refused to hire her because of her race—and the first Black person and woman to serve as president and CEO of Family Service America Inc. and Families International, offering counseling, advocacy services and educational programs.

Her career-long accomplishments brought Johnson into high demand as a board member for nonprofits, for-profit corporations and institutions of higher learning, and earned her several distinctions at Case Western Reserve University, including the President's Award for Distinguished Alumni and the honor of being the convocation speaker in 1998; the 2021 Grace Longwell Coyle Award, named for the pioneering scholar who positioned the Mandel School as the nation's leading resource in group work theory; and the 2022 Trailblazer Award, which will be commemorated with her painted portrait commissioned and displayed at the Mandel School."

Reflecting on her long, pathbreaking career, she remarked: "As a social worker, you have so much more to contribute than people expect. Your influence is great because you're bringing a voice that is not normally heard."

—Carey Skinner Moss

Class notes

Reported to the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences School from Feb. 1 through Sept. 30, 2022.

Joan Southgate (SAS '54), civil rights activist and founder of Restore Cleveland Hope, a nonprofit that retells, promotes and celebrates Cleveland's Underground Railroad history, was honored with an MLK Community Service Award during the Cleveland Orchestra's 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Concert Program on June 4.



Patrick Boyle, PhD (SAS '89; GRS '16, social welfare), published the article, "An observational comparison of Functional

Assertive Community Treatment and Assertive Community Treatment in the Netherlands and the U.S." in *BMC Psychiatry* in June.

Kathi Overmier Gant (SAS '90) retired in May after three decades at the Mandel School, during which time she was a student, social worker and field faculty advisor.

Eugenia Cash-Kirkland (SAS '92), a member of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County as well as the Mandel School's Dean's Visiting Committee, received the 2021 National Association of Social Workers Ohio Lifetime Achievement Award for Region 3 (Cleveland).

Marsha A. Mockabee (CERT '94), president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, received a YWCA Woman of Achievement Award in May. The award is presented to Northeast Ohio women who have achieved extraordinary accomplishments

through career success, community service, leadership, mentoring and dedication to YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

Leo P. Hyland (MNO '95) is now president of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio.

Rory Rubin (SAS '96) launched SI Container Builds, a company in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, that uses recycled shipping containers to create affordable, accessible housing and outdoor spaces.

Katherine Marks Cooks (SAS '98), from Behavioral Health Network in western Massachusetts, has been serving as a moderator for discussions after film screenings of Ken Burns' film, *Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness*.

Celeste Terry (SAS '03) and **Cecil Lipscomb (CERT '04)** were featured in a *Cleveland Magazine* article, "Creating Collaborations in Cleveland," for their work with the United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland.

Tricia L. Kuivinen (MNO '05), adjunct faculty member at the Mandel School, began a new role as executive director of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cuyahoga County, a local foster youth advocacy organization.

India Pierce Lee (SAS '05), senior vice president of programs at the Cleveland Foundation, is also now the director of organizational transition for First Year Cleveland.



LaToya Logan (SAS '06), founder and CEO of Project LIFT Behavioral Health Services, received the 2021 National Association of Social Workers

Ohio Social Worker of the Year Award for Region 3 (Cleveland).



Alesha Washington (MNO '07), former director for Vibrant Neighborhoods and Inclusive Economy at the George Gund Foundation in Cleveland, was

selected to be the president and CEO of the Seattle Foundation in Washington.

Eric L. Dicken (MNO '09) began a new role as director in Cleveland Clinic's Chief of Staff Office and was recently elected to a three-year term as a board member of the Protocol & Diplomacy International - Protocol Officers Association.

Kelli Cary (SAS '11), vice president of programming for RAHAB Ministries, a nonprofit organization that supports victims of human trafficking, received the 2021 National Association of Social Workers Ohio Social Worker of the Year Award for Region 8 (Canton and Northcentral Ohio).



Selena Marshall, PhD (SAS '13), a contracts officer at University of Pittsburgh, co-authored the article "Community Violence and

Class notes, continued

Mental Health," which was published in *The Encyclopedia of Macro Social Work* by National Association of Social Workers and Oxford University Press.

Megan Kyea (SAS '16), specialty services counselor at Stella Maris Inc., an addiction treatment center, was honored with the Mental Health Provider Award at the National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater Cleveland Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in May.

Samia Mansour (SAS '17) is the stories developer and consultant for *Our Stories: Intersectionality in Cleveland's Jewish Community*, an online project by jHUB Cleveland that was also exhibited at the Mandel Jewish Community Center last spring.



Marie Zickefoose (MNO '18) joined Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb's (LAW '18, MGT '18) cabinet in March as press secretary.



E. Kwame Botchway (SAS '19), curator for Global Shapers Cleveland Hub—a network of young Clevelanders driving dialogue, action and change—a

member of the Mandel School Alumni Association Board, was interviewed for Global Cleveland's "Landed: Stories of Newcomers" podcast. Botchway was also one of 50 young leaders from across the world named to the Davos50 delegation to uplift youth voices at the 2022 World Economic Forum in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

Grace Chu (SAS '20) was accepted into the University of Illinois at Chicago's Master of Urban Planning and Policy

program, and enrolled as a full-time student this fall.

Bailey Fullwiler (SAS '20), statewide mental health first aid program manager for Mental Health America of Ohio, received the 2021 National Association of Social Workers Ohio Emerging Leader Award for Region 5 (Columbus and Southeast Ohio).



Claire Levin (MNO '20), the senior executive specialist at Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a nonprofit workforce development

organization that serves teens and young adults living in under-resourced areas in Northeast Ohio, was named one of "20 in Their Twenties" by *Crain's Cleveland Business*.



Mirna Martinez (SAS '20), director of Case Western Reserve University's Latinx Alumni Association, was interviewed by *CALÓ News* about

being a queer Oaxacan, first-generation American, bilingual therapist at Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing and Trauma Therapy Center in Burbank, California.

Andriel Ugbomeh (SAS '20), founder and CEO of Healing Without Limits Counseling and Consulting, LLC, in Columbus, Ohio, is a federal contractor for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration coordinating engagement for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding drug overdose topics.



Lexy Lattimore (SAS '21) is executive director of the Chelmsford Center for the Arts in Massachusetts.

Allison Steiner (SAS '21) oversees the neurocognitive services lab, which houses the neurofeedback and neuroimaging department, at Caron Treatment Centers in Florida.

Ibukunoluwa Ode-Martins (SAS '22) is a research and policy fellow with Cleveland City Council, where she researches pertinent legislation and policy issues, provides briefings and reports to council committees, and plans and observes committee hearings.



Kyle Thompson (SAS '22) joined The Center for Community Solutions, an Ohio-based nonpartisan think tank with expertise in health,

social and economic issues, as a policy assistant. Based in the Columbus office, he supports statewide policy work and the Greater Cleveland American Rescue Plan Coalition, which works to ensure that Greater Cleveland makes an equitable recovery from the pandemic by using federal funding streams.

In memoriam

Death notices reported to the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences from March 1 through Sept. 30, 2022.

Rosalyn Guttenberg Gladstein (SAS '47), of Brookline, Massachusetts, died Jan. 27. During her career, Gladstein worked at The South Shore Child Guidance Center and in New York hospitals. Her passion for learning and improving the world made her viewed by many as a career pioneer and role model for women. Gladstein left a legacy by providing support for the lactation room in the renovated Mandel School.

Elaine M. Zwick Sensiper (SAS '49), of Deerfield, Illinois, died April 5. After earning her Master of Science in Social Administration, Sensiper joined Hecht House, a social work agency in Boston, and later worked for Los Angeles Community College District. She volunteered as a Girl Scout leader, a docent in the Los Angeles Natural History Museum and with other organizations.

Rosamond "Roz" Ainger Baldwin (SAS '51), of Bantam, Connecticut, died Oct. 29, 2021. She was a medical social worker at University Hospitals in Cleveland, and volunteered throughout her life by teaching children with learning disabilities and visiting hospice patients.

Mark B. Ianni (ADL '50, SAS '51), of Westlake, Ohio, died March 6. Ianni served in the United States Army in occupied Japan before earning two degrees at Case Western Reserve University. He later became a successful salesman and member of the Million Dollar Round Table for Prudential Insurance.

Nancy Stern Loeb Jacobs (SAS '53), of Hudson, Ohio, died April 28. After graduating from what is now Case Western Reserve, she earned a PhD in early childhood education at Kent State University. Jacobs' long career in social work included teaching preschool, serving as director of the Mandel Jewish Community Center preschool and managing programs at Jewish Day Nursery. She concluded her career by teaching early childhood education at University of Akron.

Beverly Joan Manthey Kent (SAS '59), of Kenmore, Washington, died Aug. 1. Kent began a long career in reproductive healthcare when she volunteered for Planned Parenthood in Kenmore in 1981. She eventually would become regional administrator, overseeing three clinics and making security enhancements during the ongoing battle for reproductive freedom and abortion access.

Philip Starr (SAS '59), of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, died June 19, 2021. Throughout his career, he was assistant director of social work research at Family Services of Connecticut, director of social services at the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, executive director of Southeast Lancaster Health Center (now Union Community Care) and director of Jewish Family Services of Lancaster. Starr received the Mandel School's Professional Achievement Award in 2016, and was inducted into the Hall of Achievement during the school's centennial celebration.

Marilyn Remmers Driscoll (SAS '60), of Montgomery, Alabama, died July 21. After earning her master's degree, she worked for Eastern State Psychiatric Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, as the director of recreation. She later served as a social worker at Jackson Hospital in Montgomery, and then Mid-South Home Health Agency before retiring.

David L. Alexander (SAS '63), of Nashville, Tennessee, died Dec. 16, 2021, just nine days after his wife, **Janet Lee Canary Alexander (SAS '63)**, died. David was a social worker for many years with United Way of Greater Nashville before ending his career with the Tennessee Department of Education. Janet served as a lay eucharistic minister at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville.

Eva L. Delancy Beard (SAS '67), of Ashland, Ohio, died Jan. 25. During her career as a licensed social worker, she worked in a variety of clinical and social service settings as a program coordinator, outreach worker, family therapist and intake worker at organizations such as Richland Company Children Services, the Battered Women's Shelter in Fairfax County, Virginia, as well as Firelands Medical Health Center and Firelands Community Hospital in Sandusky, Ohio. Beard received the Mandel School's Professional Achievement Award in 2016, and was inducted into the Hall of Achievement during the school's centennial celebration.

Ellen Traynor Purnell (SAS '68), of McMurray, Pennsylvania, died May 11. She worked in kidney dialysis for Fresenius Medical Care in Washington County for more than 30 years.

In memoriam, continued

Leonard C. Simmons (SAS '68), of Columbia, Maryland, died Jan. 13. He earned a PhD in social work and held a wide range of social work and mental health positions including clinician, professor, administrator, planner and evaluator. Simmons worked for the City of Baltimore, the State of Maryland as well as the federal government.

Kenneth Jue (SAS '69), of Keene, New Hampshire, died May 23. He worked at Monadnock Family Services for 33 years, retiring as CEO in 2011. He developed InShape, a program that works to increase life expectancy among those battling mental health issues by focusing on exercise, nutrition and community engagement. He was recognized as a leader in mental healthcare at local, national and international levels.

Russell D. Nelson (SAS '69), of Napa, California, died Aug. 29. He was a psychiatric social worker at Napa State Hospital for 23 years, eventually becoming a program director and clinical director.

Beth Pearl Boyer (SAS '72), of Springboro, Ohio, died June 2. She spent her 40-year career at Applewood Centers in Cleveland as a private adoption specialist.

Douglas G. Lee (SAS '72), of Swanton, Ohio, died Sept. 19. During his career, Lee focused his work on foster children, starting at the Jones Home for Children in Cleveland, then Berea Children's Home. He was co-director of the Achievement Place for Girls. In partnership with his wife, Sylvia, who was also a social worker, Lee developed a group home program in Swanton and incorporated the Ohio Teaching-Family Association, where he served as the executive director.

Janet Cupolo Schrott (SAS '74), of Bay Village, Ohio, died April 11. She worked for Lorain County Children Services as a supervisor of quality assurance.

Rhonda M. Walker (SAS '74), of Fairlawn, Ohio, died March 10.

Sister Alicia Alvarado (SAS '76), of Akron, Ohio, died Sept. 17. After earning her master's degree, Alvarado served as Hispanic program coordinator for the Cleveland Diocese, associate director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Toledo, director of the Catholic Hispanic Center and director of the Los Caminantes project in St. Louis. Alvarado received many awards throughout her life, including the Individual Award for Justice and Peace by the Cleveland Commission on Catholic Community Action, the Community Relations Award from the Hispanic Business Association in Ohio and the Madrina Award (Godmother of the Community).

Teresann Weller Davis (SAS '78), of Cortland, Ohio, died Feb. 13. She worked at Valley Counseling for more than 35 years, and later retired from Specialty Care Counseling. She was also the past president of the Trumbull County Rape Crisis Team, and fostered 12 children over the years.

Karen Ann Mocker Dabson (SAS '80), of Durham, North Carolina, died Sept. 21. She spent her early career in social work in Ohio. Later, she became a leader in community and economic development with Enterprise Development Corp. in Athens, Ohio; the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland in Cincinnati; and the U.S. Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Jacqueline Edwards Jones (SAS '81), of Selma, North Carolina, died June 7.

LaVerne "Bunny" M. Jones (SAS '81), of Canton, Ohio, died March 30. For over a decade, she worked for the nonprofit CommQuest Services (formerly Community Services) as a clinical social worker, helping clients with mental health and addiction.

John Frederick Wagner (SAS '82), of Solon, Ohio, died Jan. 31, 2022. As a licensed independent chemical dependency counselor and social worker, he was the clinical director of chemical dependency at New Directions Adolescent Program in Cleveland and maintained an independent practice.

Willmetta DeVenne Brown (SAS '84), of Chugiak, Alaska, died April 11. After earning her master's degree at Case Western Reserve, Brown worked for Catholic Social Services for many years.

Ellen Stitt (CERT '89), of Apalachicola, Florida, died May 28. She became a mystery writer, and her latest novel, *Death in Bright Colors*, awaits publication.

Virginia Lee Mallery Dougan (SAS '90), of Canton, Ohio, died May 24. She spent her career working in mental health social work, recently working with Psychology Consultants Inc.

Lucille Hawkins (SAS '90), of Greenville, Ohio, died Dec. 25, 2021. She was a mental health therapist and a licensed social worker who worked for the Community Counseling Center for 20 years before retiring in 2012.

Pamela Howell-Beach (SAS '90), of Maumee, Ohio, died in July. She was executive director, and then president, of the Toledo Community

Foundation, where she increased the foundation's assets from approximately \$20 million to nearly \$100 million by the time she left in 2003. She then became CEO of the Stranahan Foundation, where she sought partnerships with the Bezos Foundation, the Gates Foundation and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, and became a national leader in early childhood funding.

Nancy Parker Petrov (SAS '90), of Novelty, Ohio, died Aug. 29. She was a social worker for many years at Cleveland Clinic.

Joan M. Klein (SAS '97), of Erie, Pennsylvania, died Jan. 8. She was first an occupational therapist and then a social worker in a variety of clinical settings, helping children, adults and their families.

Katherine Sims (SAS '99), of Cleveland, died Jan. 20, 2022. She was a chemical dependency counselor for 12 years for the City of Cleveland before retiring in 2011.

Tiffany Bossin (SAS '01), of Lyndhurst, Ohio, died Feb. 28. She was a social worker for Cuyahoga County for many years.

Val Jean (Webb) Randle (SAS '01), of Melbourne, Florida, died May 19. She was a member of the North American Council on Adoptable Children, National Association of Social Workers, East Cleveland Kiwanis Organization, Domestic Violence Task Force and East Cleveland Collaborative for Family to Family.

Scott Edward Kemp (SAS '15), of Massillon, Ohio, died April 30. He worked for Summit County Children's Services for 12 years, the last seven of which he served as supervisor.



Certificate Programs

Case Western Reserve University's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences now offers certificates in the following areas:

- Data Sciences for Social Impact
- Gerontology
- Global Health
- Nonprofit Management
- Trauma-Informed Practice

The newly added Certificate in Trauma-Informed Practice allows alumni to apply previous coursework toward completion. In less than one year, you'll gain evidence-based skills for effective trauma intervention by learning to identify symptoms and disorders, and preparing yourself to lead in direct or community practice-focused positions in healthcare, schools and community mental health agencies.

Our weekend and evening format is specifically designed for working professionals, allowing you to pursue your passion to affect change without disrupting your career.

Learn more at case.edu/socialwork/academics/certificates.

Bridge builder

Across CWRU and Cleveland, Mark Chupp forges community by tackling racial injustice

In early May 2020, **Mark Chupp, PhD (GRS '03, social welfare)**, an associate professor in the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, was named co-director of Case Western Reserve's Social Justice Institute (SJI), a university-wide effort that aims to identify causes and consequences of—and possible solutions for—systemic injustice.

As the founding director of the Mandel School's Community Innovation Network (CIN)—a research, training and consulting center devoted to engaging communities in societal change—Chupp looked forward to taking on this new role.

But just a few weeks later, George Floyd was murdered by police in Minneapolis.

The world changed overnight, as a national uprising for racial justice started to take shape in real time. From that moment, Chupp knew the work of the SJI would be more important than ever, and that cultivating the community to pursue racial justice would be essential.

*Action spoke** with Chupp about the SJI and CIN—and how they build bridges that can transform conflict into progress.

You became co-director of the SJI—with the School of Law's Ayesha Bell Hardaway—at a pivotal period in history.

It was an amazing convergence of timing. We did a lot of work that year examining how we at Case Western Reserve have been complicit in institutional racism. Hundreds of faculty and staff participated in



Chupp

activities around that, a number of significant changes were made, and more are in the works. Professor Hardaway's expertise in policing, and the intersection of race and the law, has elevated the work of the SJI as well.

And work continues with CIN. How is it especially relevant today?

We believe there is a more inclusive way to live together as a society, so we build capacity and facilitate processes to build community across differences. We create connections in ways that garner trust and name the power of privilege and the history of disinvestment in neighborhoods of color. We bring diverse groups together, facilitate dialogue and work to transform conflict. The challenges we face as a society are even more difficult to overcome as people go into their corners and no longer engage

one another. Before we formed CIN, we had been training people in community engagement for years. We created CIN to expand the work and build an infrastructure of support for organizations and communities engaged in social change work.

How has your work progressed with Dean Dexter Voisin at the helm of the school?

Dean Voisin recognizes that community engagement is a major thrust for the Mandel School and has led the school in thinking about how we can more fully align the work of faculty and research centers as a whole school effort. The Mandel School is on the forefront of community engagement on behalf of the university, and he is actively working to make more visible the leadership role CIN and our research centers have been playing.

**Conversation has been edited for length.*

CONGRATULATIONS

to the Alumni Association award winners

During Homecoming and Reunion Weekend in October, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences recognized the 2022 Alumni Association award winners and Hall of Achievement inductees.

Missed the event?
Watch the recording at
bit.ly/Mandel_Homecoming_2022.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Patrick E. Boyle, PhD
(SAS '89; GRS '16, social welfare)
Private Practice, Milton, Delaware



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Héctor Luis Díaz, PhD
(SAS '81)
*Director, New Mexico State University
School of Social Work*



NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Philip D. Tavill
(SAS '96, MNO '96)
*Chief Executive Officer, Children First Inc.,
Sarasota, Florida*



LOUIS STOKES COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARD

LaToya G. Logan (SAS '06)
*Founder and CEO, Project LIFT Behavioral Health
Services, Cleveland*



EARLY CAREER SUCCESS AWARD

Aviva Lauren Vincent, PhD
(GRS '19, social welfare)
*Assistant Teaching Professor,
Falk School, Syracuse University*



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- Designate the Mandel School as the recipient beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or other qualified plan when it ends.

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