

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

action

The Magazine of the Mandel School

100 YEARS
OF INNOVATION
IN SOCIAL WORK
EDUCATION



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

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Corrections from *action* Fall 2014/Winter 2015 issue
On Page 21, Juliana Garrett Sinclair (now known as Juliana G. Sinclair Sanholtz) should have had MNO 2013 listed after her name. On page 31, Ralph Beck, MSSA 1996, is pictured at the 2014 NASW National Conference, not the NASW Ohio Conference. We regret and apologize for these errors.

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all other inquiries to: MandelSchool@case.edu



Front cover: The cover illustration is an archival photo of a social work student from the 1950s that has been reimagined by Cleveland artist Mark Brabant. "I wanted to create an image that would embrace the past and the future, to convey how unique and innovative the Mandel School is," said Brabant.

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Inspiring Hope.
Shaping the Future.



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

Proud to Keep Building on 100 Years of Innovation

From the Dean



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I have been looking forward to this issue of *action* for a long time, for it opens our celebration of the centennial of the *School of Applied Social Sciences*. The school and its name have grown tremendously over the past 100 years. Over the next two years in this magazine, on our campus and in the community, we plan to celebrate the history of the school, its present place and our vision for the future.

The *School of Applied Social Sciences* at then Western Reserve University was started at the request of community leaders representing 18 social and civic organizations. These leaders were part of the strong progressive movement in Cleveland and saw the benefits of investing in services for all people in order to build a strong community. In the fall of 1914, the trustees authorized the establishment of a School of Social Science and Research. This early title illustrates the vision that the school would be engaged in both the teaching of social science theory and practice, and the creation of knowledge to support the development in these areas. While the plans for the new school were being developed by Dr. James E. Cutler, who would be named the first dean of the new school, an important development occurred.

In the summer of 1915, Abraham Flexner gave a major address at the National Conference of Charities and Correction titled, *Is Social Work A Profession?* Flexner presented the criteria for professional education that he had used in evaluating medical education in 1910. His review of medical education led to the closing of more than half of all medical schools in America. While kind in his remarks and grateful for the important work done by social workers, he concluded that current educational models did not meet the standards of professional education.

The critical evaluation of social work must have rocked those at Western Reserve University who were planning a new school in this field. It was in this context that Dr. Cutler presented a fully developed plan for a *School of Applied Social Sciences* in the fall of 1915. His plan was for a two-year graduate program of study consisting of both classroom lectures and carefully supervised field work. Dr. Cutler asserted that this "was the first professional graduate school for this type of work within an American university." (*Cutler & Davie*, p. 18, 1930). Importantly for critics of professional education in social work, the new school "occupied the same position in the organization of Western Reserve University as the

School of Medicine and the School of Law." (*Cutler & Davie*, p. 18, 1930). Agreeing to begin instruction in the fall of 1916, the trustees and faculty of Western Reserve University accepted the challenge posed by Flexner to create a model of professional social work education.

The degree name chosen by the new school, the Master of Science in Social Administration (MSSA), also was selected to set the school apart from schools that granted the Master of Social Work (MSW) and had been implicitly criticized by Flexner. The Master of Science designation was used by many other schools started in that era, showing the commitment of the new profession to rigorous training based on the social sciences.

Since the school's beginning, the faculty has strived to develop and revise curricula based on the latest theory and evidence-based practices. I joined the school in 2002 when the Ability-Based Learning Environment (ABLE) was first implemented. A competency-based model of social work education, the ABLE curricula stimulated discussion and the later adoption by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) of competency-based education.

The Mandel School and social work education have come a very long way in 100 years, making it easy to answer the question, "Is social work a profession?" However, at the core of the work we all do is still a commitment to help people lead good lives and to build stronger communities. I believe that we have justified the faith placed in us by our founders. With our colleagues across the nation, we have created vibrant professional educational programs that are transforming people's lives.

I trust that you will enjoy this issue of *action* as we celebrate not only our school but also the formation and growth of the great profession that we all share.

Grover C. Gilmore, PhD
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel
Dean in Applied Social Sciences

School News

Rick Steves Headlines Reunion 2014

On October 17-18, alumni and friends celebrated Reunion 2014. More than 120 people came to the opening event on Friday, October 17 with television travel expert Rick Steves, who gave a presentation about "World Travel and Social Justice."

Dean Gilmore answered the question of why Steves presented at a school of social work. "Rick Steves is more than a travel writer. He has a commitment to social justice, a commitment that is at the heart of our mission at the Mandel School. We strive to give our students the experience of working in communities both locally and internationally so that their eyes are opened," said Dean Gilmore.

One point Steves emphasized in his talk was the disparity in income levels he sees on his travels. "You can't help but realize half this planet is living on less than \$2 per day." He also commented on the importance of global travel. "The world is a beautiful place. If we travel, we can open up to the world and we can celebrate its diversity rather than being afraid of it." Steves' presentation was sponsored by International Partners in Mission (IPM).

Watch Rick Steves' talk and the Q&A after: bit.ly/RickStevesAtMandelSchool



Photos by Maria Sharron

Dean Gilmore with Rick Steves, who was thrilled to see "global reach" was the issue theme of Case Western Reserve University's *think* magazine.

Meet our New Alumni Board Members



Alumni Association Board President Dean Fazekas welcomed 10 new members to the alumni board. Pictured (left to right): **Dean Fazekas, MSSA 1991, Beth Glas, MNO 2011, Denise Gibson, MSSA 1978, Jamie Jones, MNO 2010, Kimberly Moss, MNO 2001, Jillian Rogers, MSSA 2014, Adriennie Hatten, MNO 1996, Stacy Simera, MSSA 1996, Carlier Myers, MNO 2003, MSSA 2013, Annette Iwamoto, MSSA 2012, and Dean Gilmore.** For a complete list of Alumni Board members, go to: msass.case.edu/alumni.



Dean Gilmore recognized all reunion alumni during the luncheon and each received a new degree pin. **Andrea Ware** (standing), **MSSA 1999**, celebrated her 15th reunion.



Celebrating their 50th reunion were (l-r) **Ellen Bishko, MSSA 1964**, **Myrtle Muntz, MSSA 1964**, and **Susan Schwarzwald, MSSA 1964**.



Leroy McCreary (left), **MSSA 1974**, and **Harvey Shankman, MSSA 1974**, commemorated their 40th reunion.

Save the Dates

HOME COMING & REUNION CELEBRATION MANDEL SCHOOL OCTOBER 9-10, 2015

Alumni Reunion Day is Saturday, October 10th

Reunite and reconnect at the festivities.
More details to come!

- ◆ **10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**
Mandel School Homecoming Parade
Watch & Networking Event
- ◆ **Noon – 2:00 p.m.**
Alumni Luncheon and Awards
Presentation (FREE for Classes 1965
or prior and Class of 2015)
- ◆ **2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**
Centennial Lecture Series
Police As First Social Responders:
Challenges and Opportunities in
Police-Community Relations (2 CEUs)

Recognizing Special Classes

During the Alumni Luncheon, tributes will be given to the classes of 1965, 1970, 1975, 1985, 1990 and 2005 celebrating 50th, 45th, 40th, 30th, 25th and 10th reunions.

All-New Alumni Awards

Nominate fellow alumni for a new Alumni Award! Use the nomination form on page 30 or go online to nominate a colleague or classmate.

Help Reunite Your Classmates

Become a class representative for one of the reunion classes listed above! Class representatives are listed on reunion communications to encourage classmates to join them at reunion events. Please contact Nada Di Franco at nada.difranco@case.edu or 216.368.2281 to learn more.

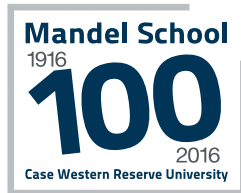
For details and to register:
msass.case.edu/alumni/reunion

Maria Sharron



Centennial Co-Chairs Kick Off Planning for Two-Year Celebration

Centennial celebrations are underway at the Mandel School, led by three volunteers who are passionate about the school's past, present and future.



Dean Gilmore asked (pictured, left to right) Associate Professor **Kathleen J. Farkas, PhD 1984**, Leonard W. Mayo Professor Emeritus of Family and Child Welfare **John Yankey** and alumna **Denise Gibson, MSSA 1978**, to serve as co-chairs of the Mandel School Centennial Planning Committee.

"Celebrating the school's 100th anniversary is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to commemorate an illustrious past and shape its bright future. Kathy, John and Denise have the expertise, vision and ongoing commitment to work with our volunteers and staff to create a memorable, meaningful Centennial celebration" said Dean Gilmore.

The co-chairs sought input and ideas from alumni, students, staff and faculty at brainstorming sessions in the spring. Using that feedback, they began pre-planning in earnest and organized monthly planning meetings.

The Mandel School Centennial kicks off this summer and will span two years, throughout the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, to commemorate the school being founded in 1915 and then the opening of its doors to 35 students in 1916.

For more details, visit msass.case.edu/Centennial

WANTED!

Do you have photos or stories from your time at the Mandel School (SASS/MSASS)? We'd love to include them in our historical compilations and future videos! Contact MandelCentennial@case.edu or 216.368.5141 to make arrangements for submission.

Inspiring Hope.
Shaping the Future.

Conversations in Philanthropy Addressed Sector's Role and Relevance

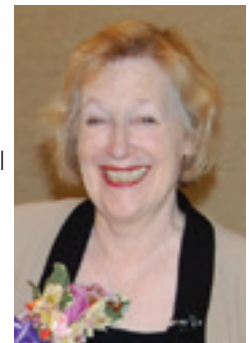
As home to the world's first community foundation and the precursor to the United Way movement, Cleveland claims a historic role in the philanthropic sector. But how has the landscape of the philanthropic sector changed in the past 100 years? What is its relevance to social change? And, what do practitioners bring to philanthropy?

Those were questions addressed at Conversations in Philanthropy, a spring series sponsored by the Master of Nonprofit Organizations (MNO) program with input from the Mandel School Visiting Committee. Each session was moderated by Robert L. Fischer, PhD, Director of the MNO program, and featured philanthropic experts discussing the state of philanthropy and its civic role, including alumni **Shilpa Kedar, MNO 2005**, of the Cleveland Foundation; **Christie Manning, MSSA 1997**, of St. Luke's Foundation; and **Jazmin Long, MSSA/MNO 2015**, of Global Cleveland.

Watch videos of each session: bit.ly/ConversationsInPhilanthropy

Stein Lecture Welcomed Ann Buchanan, PhD, from England

Ann Buchanan, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Social Work and Senior Research Associate at Oxford University in England, came to campus in March to deliver the biennial Herman D. Stein Lecture in International Social Welfare. Alumni, faculty and students gathered to hear about "Recurring Themes in the History of Social Work." Dr. Buchanan's talk lived up to the Stein Lecture's mission of stimulating lively discussion to inspire consideration of issues of community, compassion and democracy around the globe.



Maria Sharron

During her visit, Dr. Buchanan was also a guest on WCPN, Cleveland's National Public Radio station, along with M.C. "Terry" Hokenstad, PhD, Distinguished University Professor and Ralph S. and Dorothy P. Schmitt Professor. They discussed the evolving profession of social work and the Mandel School's pioneering role in the training of social workers.

Herman D. Stein, for whom the lecture is named, was dean of the Mandel School from 1964 to 1968 and is considered a luminary in American social work history.

Watch the 2015 Herman Stein Lecture: bit.ly/2015SteinLecture
Listen to the WCPN radio show: bit.ly/WCPNEvolvingSocialWork

Innovative Scholarship and Training Opportunities Expanded for Students

Child Welfare Fellows

The program provides leadership training for child welfare workers. Created in 2009 to increase the number of public child welfare employees with social work master's degrees, a new four-year, \$588,000 grant from the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute has helped the program expand to 10 counties in Northeast Ohio under the leadership of Victor K. Groza, PhD, the Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies.

"Becoming the recipient of the fellowship was life altering. Although I was a working professional, other financial responsibilities prevented me from considering graduate school. This scholarship eliminated that barrier and gave me the opportunity to grow and develop as a leader," said **Marquetese Betts, MSSA 2015**. To learn more, visit msass.case.edu/finaid/child-welfare-fellows.

Health Integration Training Expansion (HITE)

HITE aims to close the gap in behavioral health care services for at-risk children and transition-age young adults ages 18 to 25 while preparing social work master's students for careers in advanced clinical practice. Funded by a three-year, \$421,000 federal grant, HITE is directed by Associate Professor **David Hussey, MSSA 1979, PhD 1992**, and provides up to 30 second-year social work master's students with a training stipend and hands-on experience working beside doctors and nurses at health providers in Cleveland.

Doctoral Training Grant

The Mandel School was one of just five schools nationally to receive doctoral training grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Fellowships for University-Based Doctoral Candidates and Faculty for Research in Child Maltreatment. The two-year, \$200,000 grant will fund three studies of children ages 3 to 17 about why some thrive despite being abused and witnessing violence in the home. One is led by Assistant Professor Megan R. Holmes, PhD, and two are dissertations by doctoral candidates Julia Kobulsky and Susan Yoon, whom Dr. Holmes will mentor.

Early Intervention Related Service Training Program (EIRSTP)

EIRSTP is a collaborative project to provide speech-language pathology students and social work students at Case Western Reserve University with the professional skills to become certified early intervention service providers for young, at-risk children with disabilities and their families. Led by Gerald Mahoney, PhD, the Verna Houck Motto Professor of Families and Communities, EIRSTP addresses the significant shortages of qualified people to provide these services.

Learn more: bit.ly/WinterRandTNewsletter

Congressman (ret.) Louis Stokes' 90th Birthday Celebrated



The school gathered on February 23 to sing a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" to Congressman (ret.) Louis Stokes for his 90th birthday. A legend in the civil rights movement and a social justice pioneer, Stokes is a distinguished visiting professor on faculty at the Mandel School who regularly contributes to classroom discussions and lectures on social activism.

Faculty News

Lenore A. Kola Receives 2014 EBP Champion Award

The Center for Evidence-Based Practices awarded its 2014 EBP Champion Award to Lenore A. Kola, PhD, Emeritus Professor at the Mandel School and former Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at Case Western Reserve, in recognition of her unwavering commitment to implementing evidence-based practices and improving access to quality care in local communities. For 45 years, Dr. Kola has led national efforts in local communities to enhance services and quality of life for people who struggle with addictions and mental illness. She has acquired and administered more than \$16 million in grants from federal, state and county agencies and charitable foundations to educate and train countless numbers of social work students and licensed professionals about clinical innovations. Dr. Kola retired from teaching in 2014. She continues to serve as Co-Director of the Center for Evidence-Based Practices.

Zoe Breen Wood and John Yankey Receive Catholic Charities USA Medals

Catholic Charities USA presented Centennial Medals to John Yankey, PhD, Leonard W. Mayo Professor Emeritus of Family and Child Welfare, and **Zoe Breen Wood, PhD 2012**, Assistant Professor and Director of Educational Outcome Assessment, at the organization's annual awards banquet in October. The medals were given in recognition of their work providing leadership development for more than two decades to the organization's emerging nonprofit leaders.



Maria Sharron

Mark I. Singer Inducted as 2014 Fellow of AASWSW

Mark I. Singer, MSSA 1979, PhD 1983, Leonard W. Mayo Professor in Family and Child Welfare and Deputy Director of the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, was inducted into the American



Dean Gilmore and **Mark I. Singer, MSSA 1979, PhD 1983**, at the AASWSW Fellows induction ceremony in Tampa, Florida.

Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (AASWSW). The AASWSW is an honorific society of distinguished scholars and practitioners dedicated to achieving excellence in the field of social work and social welfare through high-impact work that advances social good. AASWSW Fellow **Claudia J. Coulton, PhD 1978**, Lillian F. Harris Professor of Urban Research and Social Change and Co-Director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, presented the guest lecture, "Stepping Up to Harness Big Data for Social Good," at the October induction ceremony.

Sarah S. Andrews Wins Ohio School Social Work Award

Sarah S. Andrews, MSSA 1991, Senior Instructor and Director of the School Social Work program at the Mandel School, won the 2015 Ohio School Social Work Association (OSSWA) Friend of School Social Work award at the organization's annual conference. **Gwendolyn Howard, MSSA 2006**, from St. Marten de Porres High School and



Sarah S. Andrews, MSSA 1991 (left) is presented with the OSSWA Friend of School Social Work Award by **Gwendolyn Howard, MSSA 2006**.

a field supervisor for the Mandel School, presented the award to Andrews. Her award-winning counterpart was another alumna, **Rachel Meffe, MSSA 2007**, who won the 2015 OSSWA Ohio School Social Worker of the Year award (see page 26).

Francisca García-Cobián Richter Joins Faculty

Francisca G.-C. Richter, PhD, joined the faculty as Research Assistant Professor and Senior Research Associate at the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development. A native of Peru, Dr. Richter is an economist and statistician who previously served as a research economist in community development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. She had also taught economics at Cleveland State University and has published research on a variety of community development and social policy issues.



Maria Sharron

M.C. "Terry" Hokenstad Leads Collaboration with Age-Friendly City of Cleveland



Steve Zorc

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated Cleveland an Age-Friendly City. Cleveland has also joined the Global Network of Age Friendly Cities (GNAFC), part of a growing global movement of cities and communities that are striving to better meet the needs of older residents. The actions are the result of a collaboration between the Cleveland Department of Aging and the Mandel School, led by M.C. "Terry" Hokenstad, PhD, Distinguished University Professor and the Ralph S. and Dorothy P. Schmitt Professor. Dr. Hokenstad is chairing an advisory council that will meet regularly to guide the assessment and planning. Dr. Hokenstad has also been in the news, contributing as a panelist to a Cleveland National Public Radio show on aging baby boomers and interviewed for an *Inside Business* magazine article on the encore careers of postretirement adults.

David E. Biegel Appointed to International Quality Assessment Committee

David E. Biegel, PhD, Henry L. Zucker Professor of Social Work Practice and chair of the doctoral program, was appointed to a six-person quality assessment committee to evaluate all 11 of Israel's social work and human services university and college-based degree programs. The committee includes senior scholars and leaders in social work who travelled to Israel in March to conduct site visits. They will then prepare a final report to the Israeli Council of Higher Education's Quality Assessment Division, which appointed the committee members.

David B. Miller in *Who's Who in Black Cleveland*

David B. Miller, PhD, Associate Professor, is included in the 8th edition of *Who's Who in Black Cleveland* for significant contributions to the city of Cleveland. Dr. Miller is also President of South Euclid (Ohio) City Council and in January organized a visit to campus by newly-elected Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish, where he met with students and faculty.



Steve Zorc

On the Bookshelf

Adopting Older Children Offers Guide to Parents

Victor K. Groza, PhD, Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies, co-authored a new book published in October, *Adopting Older Children: A Practice Guide to Adopting and Parenting Children over Age Four* (New Horizon Press). The book provides a realistic outlook about considerations in adopting or having already adopted an older child, and also dispels many misconceptions. "We see that families struggle when they are not adequately prepared for the adoptive experience with an older child," said Dr. Groza.



Strengthening Communities with Neighborhood Data Provides Roadmap for Policymakers and Researchers

Claudia J. Coulton, PhD 1978, Distinguished University Professor and Lillian F. Harris Professor of Urban Social Research, has co-authored a new book, *Strengthening Communities with Neighborhood Data*, published in November by the Urban Institute with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. It documents how government and nonprofit institutions have used information about neighborhood conditions to change local and community governance. The book is available in hard copy or as a free e-book that can be downloaded at urban.org/StrengtheningCommunities.



Research News

Poverty Center Helps Launch Nation's First County-Level Pay for Success Program

In December, the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development joined partner organizations to launch the nation's first county-level Pay for Success (PFS) program. The launch was featured at a conference hosted by the White House's Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation and attended by David Crampton, PhD, Associate Professor and Associate Director of the Poverty Center, and Francisca Richter, PhD, Research Assistant Professor and Senior Research Associate at the center.

"Through a rigorous evaluation, we plan to demonstrate that we can do more with less and respond to the dual challenges of growing social problems and shrinking government resources."

David Crampton, PhD, Associate Professor and Associate Director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development

Cuyahoga County launched its PFS program, called Partnering for Family Success, to reconnect foster children in the greater Cleveland area with caregivers in stable, affordable housing. It is the first PFS project in the combined areas of homelessness and child welfare.

Pay for Success is an innovative funding model that drives government resources toward social programs that provide results to the people who need them most, enabling governments to draw greater resources by tapping private investments for the upfront costs of programs. If the program is successful in delivering services that improve the lives of the people it serves, then government repays those who made the original investment. This model ensures that taxpayer dollars are being spent only on programs that deliver results.

Through Cuyahoga County's PFS program, 135 families will receive intensive 12 to 15 month treatment from Front-Line Service over five years to reduce the length of stay in out-of-home foster care placement for children whose families are homeless.

The Poverty Center is the independent evaluator who will be measuring the outcomes of the county's PFS program. The center performed the preliminary analyses to identify the initiative's target population using its Integrated Data System—a tool that integrates individual-level data from multiple administrative agencies on an ongoing basis, highlighting the overlap between the homeless and child welfare systems.

For more news and research information, visit povertycenter.case.edu

Mixed-Income Community Evaluation Offers Best Practices for Future Developments

Mark Joseph, PhD, Associate Professor and Director of the National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities at the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, and Robert L. Fisher, PhD, Research Associate Professor and Co-Director of the center, have completed the final phase of a mixed-methods evaluation in the Cascade Village mixed-income housing development located in Akron, Ohio.

The final phase of the evaluation included a neighborhood study and a series of action briefs that translated key lessons learned from previous reports, along with best practices in mixed-income developments to serve as a resource to other mixed-income developments implementing the Community Life model, which uses stable housing as a platform for residents and neighborhoods to achieve success.

With the assistance of Poverty Center staff **April Urban, MSSA 2008**, and **Taryn Gress, MSSA 2011**, doctoral students Michael Salwiesz, Seungjong Cho and Smaranda Ene, and master's students Emily Miller and Nina Holzer, interviews were conducted with residents and stakeholders, and administrative data were analyzed, to understand the housing development's relationship with and impact on the surrounding neighborhood and broader community.

For more news and research information, visit nimc.case.edu

Begun Center Finds Ohio's Diversion Program Effective in Helping Juvenile Offenders with Mental Health Disorders

Researchers from the Dr. Semi J. and Ruth W. Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education evaluated Ohio's Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) initiative in 11 counties. The researchers found the program benefits most young offenders who are diverted from detention centers to community-based agencies to treat mental health issues, drug problems or both.

Jeffrey M. Kretschmar, PhD, Research Assistant Professor from the Begun Center, is lead author of the article, "Diverting Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth with Behavioral Health Issues from Detention: Preliminary Findings from Ohio's Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) Initiative," which appeared in *Criminal Justice Policy Review*.

Dr. Kretschmar collaborated on the study with Begun Center researchers Fredrick Butcher, PhD, Research Associate; Daniel J. Flannery, PhD, Director; and **Mark I. Singer, MSSA 1979, PhD 1983**, Deputy Director. The research was funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

For more news and research information, visit begun.case.edu

\$2.5 Million Federal Grant Launches Next Phase of 20-Year Study

Studying the Effects of Prenatal Cocaine Exposure in Emerging Adulthood

Since 1994, researchers at the Mandel School have studied children prenatally exposed to cocaine and their mothers to track the children's development from birth through adolescence. With a new four-year, \$2.5 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), those children—now young adults—enter the next phase of the long-term Project Newborn study.

"In this new study, we will have an opportunity to understand the challenges Project Newborn participants have as adults," said **Sonia Minnes, PhD 1998**, Associate Professor, who is leading the study.

Dr. Minnes and her team of researchers will begin examining how the effects of early cocaine exposure—which, for many of the subjects, resulted in drug use and anti-social behavior as adolescents—may have shifted as they've entered their 20s. The new study will focus on three areas: substance abuse, anti-social behaviors and adaptive functioning (educational attainment, vocational status and quality of relationships). Researchers will also examine the long-term effects of elevated levels of lead, iron deficiencies and living with non-relatives.

They will revisit 359 participants from the original Project Newborn study initiated by Lynn T. Singer, PhD, Case Western Reserve University's Deputy Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Pediatrics at the School of Medicine. Of that total, 183 were prenatally exposed to cocaine, while 176 were not. The two groups have been compared at various stages from the age of 6 months when the study began to the age of 17 to measure the possible effects of pre-birth cocaine exposure on child development.

Dr. Minnes said prenatal cocaine exposure results in subtle yet significant neurological deficits, even when controlling for a vast array of variables that often accompany maternal cocaine use, including poverty, poor prenatal care, alcohol and tobacco use, and poor parenting.

"When the babies were first born, we saw lower birth weights, head circumference and birth lengths, but we also



Maria Sharon

saw some early issues with visual recognition and attention. We still continue to see visual perceptual disturbances and language problems," Dr. Minnes told *The Plain Dealer* in a February front-page story in the newspaper.

The study has found that as they grew older, cocaine-exposed children had behavior problems at home and school. They also reported more substance use and were less able to plan ahead, organize and monitor their thinking and behavior. In the study's next phase, researchers hope to learn whether, as young

adults, the participants have been able to overcome some of those challenges, how they're doing in work, school and relationships, and if they've moved into more severe drug-use disorders.

Center for Evidence-Based Practices Supports \$4.8 Million Grant to Expand Individualized Mental Health and Addiction Services

The Center for Evidence-Based Practices is one of several training and technical assistance partners working with the Ohio Department Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) to support a project to modernize, enhance and increase the availability and quality of individual placement and support (IPS) services for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. OhioMHAS was recently awarded the Transforming Lives Through Supported Employment federal grant for \$4.8 million over five years to implement the project.

For more details about this initiative and the center's training (including a series in trauma-informed care and a series promoting housing stability), visit centerforebp.case.edu.

Capital Campaign

\$1 Million Commitment Creates Albert and Beverly Higley Research Commons

Mildred Schuch Higley, MSSA 1922,

was one of the first students at the new School of Applied Social Sciences when she enrolled in 1920. Her grandchildren are building on a long history of engagement between three generations of the Higley family and the Mandel School with a \$1 million commitment to the Building Renovation Fund from The Higley Fund of the Cleveland Foundation. The gift will create collaborative research and education spaces on the second and third floors that will be known as the Albert and Beverly Higley Research Commons as part of the \$9.2 million building renovation project.

Announced in February at a special celebration, the commitment is The Higley Fund's largest single contribution in its history. The Higley Fund, a

supporting organization of the Cleveland Foundation, has contributed more than \$272,000 in scholarships and youth-focused research grants at the Mandel School.

The Higley Fund was originally established in 1994 by Beverly and Albert M. Higley Jr. and embodies the philanthropic spirit of three generations of the Higley family. Two of their children, Bruce G. Higley and Sharon

Higley Watts, represent the next generation as members of The Higley Fund board.

"Our connection to Case Western Reserve University began nearly a century ago," said Bruce Higley, Chairman of The Albert M. Higley Co. and President of The Higley Fund. "This commitment to the Mandel School reflects that legacy, as well as our belief that quality spaces can have

a transformative effect on what happens inside them."

The Albert M. Higley Co. produces an average of \$175 million in construction projects each year and has built many Case Western Reserve projects, including the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Community Studies Center. Albert Higley, Jr., became chairman and CEO of the company in 1971 and launched The Higley Fund through the Cleveland Foundation 23 years later. Beverly Higley was intimately involved with the fund for many years.

"We at Case Western Reserve and the Mandel School are deeply humbled by this new gift, and dedicated to proving the family's confidence in our work well founded," said Case Western Reserve President Barbara R. Snyder.

"This gift ensures the next generation of Mandel students will thrive in an environment focused on collaborative learning and innovative research that strengthens the compassionate care provided in Greater Cleveland and beyond," said Sharon Higley Watts, First Vice President of The Higley Fund.



Cleveland Foundation

Beverly and Albert M. Higley



Maria Sharon

Bruce G. Higley and Sharon Higley Watts surrounded by Higley Scholarship recipients.



Higley Family Archives

Mildred Schuch Higley, MSSA 1922

Campaign Success? Yes— Because of Our Volunteers!

Thanks to generous alumni, friends and dedicated volunteers, the fund-raising goal of \$9.2 million for the Mandel School building renovation project is within close reach. Our Wallbreaking event on June 29 kicked off the start of construction, and it would not have been possible without the individuals who've worked tirelessly to make this dream a reality.

Our campaign co-chairs, **Marcia Levine, MSSA 1966**, and **Margie Wheeler, MSSA 1970**, are the pillars of the undertaking that will help usher the Mandel School into the future and far beyond with technology upgrades, classroom improvements, space adjustments and additions benefitting students and alumni.

Together, they believed in personal responsibility to the community and set their goals based on that premise. To ensure the Mandel School would remain a top-ranked school of social work and nonprofit education in the country, they made presentations to potential supporters; visited with major donors; researched and wrote funding proposals; and provided their own resources, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the cause. As they pushed the boundaries, their hands-on work secured vital support for the campaign.

This unstoppable duo headed up the campaign committee, comprised of alumni, emeriti faculty and longtime friends of the school:

Jasmine Chandler, MSSA 2009
Jane Daroff, MSSA 1985
Beth Embrescia, MSSA 1994
vic gelb
Bill Ginn
Dianne Hunt, MSSA 1967
Richard Jones, MSSA 1975,
PhD 1981
Lenore A. Kola, PhD
Susan LaPine, MNO 1997
Holley Martens, MSSA 2007
Dick Michel
Gayle Noble, MSSA 1988
John Yankey, PhD

As this team of volunteers is edging the campaign closer to the finish line, the ever-so-true Margaret Meade quote is appropriate, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Words cannot express the appreciation felt by the entire Mandel School for the efforts of the campaign co-chairs and committee.



Steve Zorc

Building Upon the Evolution of Social Change

"We're addressing the social challenge of concentrated poverty," explained Mark L. Joseph, PhD, to an audience of alumni, friends, students and staff gathered in the third-floor atrium on October 7.

As Director of the National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities, the Associate Professor was one of the faculty speakers at a Building Upon the Evolution of Social Change event. It was one of four such gatherings held in October and November to illuminate the transformational research at the school and the anticipated transformation of the school's main building during its upcoming renovation.

Visiting Committee members were an important part of the process, personally inviting many attendees, hosting several of the events and fostering discussion among the guests. In addition to mixed-income communities, research topics addressed included the innovative Pay for Success social service funding model by Associate Professor David Crampton, PhD; the holistic training approach of the Center for Evidence-Based Practices by **Patrick Boyle, MSSA 1989**; harnessing big data for social good by **Claudia J. Coulton, PhD 1978**, Distinguished Professor and Lillian F. Harris Professor of Urban Research & Social Change; the Police-Assisted Referral (PAR) program by **Mark I. Singer, MSSA 1979, PhD 1983**, Leonard W. Mayo Professor in Family and Child Welfare; and, the research of Elizabeth M. Tracy, PhD, Grace Longwell Coyle Professor of Social Work, about how women in recovery manage personal networks.



Dan Milner

Margie Wheeler, MSSA 1970, Dean Gilmore and **Marcia Levine, MSSA 1966**

\$750,000 Martens Gift Challenges Fellow Donors and Honors Mentors



Maria Sharron

Holley Fowler Martens, MSSA 2007, and her husband Rob wanted to make a substantial gift to the Mandel School Building Renovation Fund while also honoring two people who have been tremendous influences in Holley's social work journey. They were able to accomplish both with their commitment of \$750,000.

The first \$150,000 was used for a matching gift challenge, with the Martens matching every contribution dollar for dollar up to \$150,000 (see sidebar on p. 13). The remaining \$600,000 has been designated to honor Assistant Professor **Zoe Breen Wood, PhD 2012**, who was director of field placement when Holley was in school, and Holley's mentor, **John Lisys, MSSA 1977**, Executive Director of the Shaker Heights Youth Center in Shaker Heights, Ohio. A new suite that will contain the field placement, student services and academic affairs departments will be named for Dr. Wood. A new active-learning classroom will be named for Lisys.

Asked about the decision to honor her adviser, Holley said she and Rob wanted to pay tribute to Dr. Wood

and the entire faculty, while recognizing the importance of the field placement program. "Field placement was such a transformative experience. Zoe's support and encouragement were great. She also taught an impactful class and her feedback was empowering," said Holley.

The decision to honor Lisys was also easy, she explained. "John embodies social work. He is committed to his employees, his agency and colleagues, offering guidance, support and advocacy. His national presence and work in the substance abuse and addiction field is inspiring and commendable."

Holley joined the Mandel School Visiting Committee in 2010. When she wanted to step up her involvement, she and Rob volunteered to be on the building renovation committee. They participated in interviewing architects and other contractors to help ensure all voices were heard in the planning process and that the renovation included sustainable components.

Because the current building was built before laptop computers and tablets, cell phones or email, the Martens wanted the learning envi-

ronment to meet current and future needs.

"The Mandel School is an outstanding school and it deserves an exceptional setting for learning and collaboration," said Rob. "The school produces a major impact on society. It should have a building worthy of its place on campus and as a top 10 social work school."

Holley came to the Mandel School in 2004 after deciding to pursue a master's degree in social work, once her youngest child was in kindergarten. Holley spent her last semester of field placement at the Shaker Heights Youth Center, where she was hired full time after graduating. There, she was licensed as a school social worker, serving approximately 900 middle-school students in Shaker Heights for several years before opting to use her social work skills in grantmaking for a family foundation.

For Dr. Wood, the naming of a new suite in her honor came as a total surprise, albeit a pleasant one. "I hear nice things from students, but this? I was stunned and overwhelmed, and grateful. It's humbling to be recognized," she said.

Dr. Wood said that Holley was a "dream student," an eager learner, concerned about social justice and very professional in her approach. "We are fortunate that we have many students like that," she added.

Dean Gilmore praised the Martens for their continuing support of the school. "The involvement, commitment and contributions of time and talent provided by Holley and Rob have meant so much to the school and its future. They are humble and passionate about supporting important causes to truly help fulfill our mission of education, research and service to ultimately achieve social justice locally, nationally and internationally," he said.



\$150K 

**Build
the Change
Matching Gift
Challenge**

Double the impact of your donation to the Building Renovation Fund and donate to the Matching Gift Challenge: msass.case.edu/BuildTheChange

Holley Fowler Martens, MSSA 2007, and her husband Rob Martens pledged \$150,000 to match contributions to the Building Renovation Fund. During the “Build the Change” Matching Gift Challenge, the couple is matching every contribution dollar for dollar, up to \$150,000, to help reach the \$9.2 million building renovation fundraising goal.

To date, \$118,719 has been raised toward the \$150,000 goal for the Matching Gift Challenge. This includes donations ranging from \$10 to \$10,000 from supporters and alumni from the classes of 1944 through 2015. When the Martens learned of this tremendous response, they extended their Matching Gift Challenge until Reunion 2015 on October 10, to ensure even more alumni and friends will have their donations matched dollar-for-dollar.

Building Renovation Update: A Major Transformation for the Student Experience

As the remainder of the fundraising continues, initial construction of the building renovation project has begun and will be in full swing by mid-summer. The building will continue to be used by students and staff during construction, with steps taken to minimize its impact on operations. The renovation timeline:

- Fall 2015: Academic affairs, student services and field education suites are completed and work on the new first-floor location of the library begins
- Winter 2016: Admissions moves to new space on the second floor and the dean’s suite moves to the first floor
- Spring 2016: Construction begins on research commons and, after the school year ends, every classroom
- August 2016: Project completion



Latosha Tyler, MSSA/MPH 2015, Believes in the Power of Paying it Forward

Latosha Tyler, MSSA/MPH 2015, is not one to take no for an answer, especially when it comes to education. She also believes in giving back, which is why she became a donor to the Mandel School Annual Fund.



Maria Sharron

During her undergraduate studies, she ran into financial problems that would have sent her home had it not been for her perseverance. Latosha made it her business to develop relationships with faculty and staff who might have information on grants and scholarships. She used every possible resource available to her to continue her education. She graduated from Spelman College in 2010. That’s when her mother, Christine Tyler, got the idea that there were other students experiencing similar challenges of funding their education. Together, they founded The Rise Foundation in Chicago. Christine’s vision is to one day see every family who comes through their program become empowered by their own success and know that they too can rise against all odds.

A Century of In



Dean Margaret Johnson stands in front of the original school building. It was during Dean Johnson's tenure that the PhD program was founded.

The Nation's First University-Affiliated Professional Graduate School of Social Work School Turns 100

By Brad Hauber

U.S. News & World Report ranks the Mandel School among the top 10 graduate schools for social work in the United States. By taking a look back at major milestones over the past 100 years, it's clear that innovation in education has always been at the heart of the school since its founding in 1915—building social work's knowledge base to bridge the gap between the classroom and communities in which social workers practice.

Grover "Cleve" Gilmore, PhD, became dean of the Mandel School in 2002 and quickly immersed himself in the school's rich legacy. "When I joined the school, I knew that I would be working with leading scholars committed to high-quality education programs. It was in reading the two histories of the school and in talking with alumni and community members that I came to a fuller understanding of the long history of innovation

novation in Social Work Education

in education that has characterized the school. Indeed, it is a legacy that demands a lot from the current faculty. I am proud to say that they meet the challenge," said Dean Gilmore.

Innovative from the Beginning

"Representing the will and wishes of 18 philanthropic organizations of Cleveland, we respectfully submit the following [petition] for consideration. For at least 10 years, there has been a growing conviction among the various public welfare workers that there was in Cleveland a need and an opportunity for a school to teach sociologic sciences..."

These words were part of a petition drawn up in 1913 that was presented to the trustees of Western Reserve University, forerunner of Case Western Reserve University, to incorporate "The School of Social Science and Research." The trustees appointed a committee to investigate the proposal. While studying the proposal, a depression struck Cleveland in 1914. The demand for assistance among Clevelanders was so large, charitable organizations began running out of funds. In this climate, support for a new school within the university began to grow. On October 24, 1914, the board of trustees authorized the establishment of a new school of social work.

After more than a year of planning, the board of trustees voted on December 4, 1915, to establish the School of Applied Social Sciences—as

the Mandel School was called then—and to appoint James E. Cutler, PhD, as its first dean.

By this action, they established the first university-affiliated professional graduate school of social work in the United States.

Early Innovation in Social Work Teaching

The new School of Applied Social Sciences began its first academic year (1916-17) with a general faculty of 21, a total budget of just over \$9,000 and 35 students who each paid \$125 in annual tuition. The program consisted of both classroom lectures and carefully supervised field work. These early beginnings laid the foundation for a history of continual innovation in social work education. Following are just some of the major highlights that mark this century of being a pioneering school in a pioneering field.

Innovation: Group Work (1923)

In 1923, the school established the nation's first university training course in group service. However, it wasn't until social work pioneer Grace Longwell Coyle joined the school's faculty in 1934 that the group work specialization really gained steam.

When Dr. Coyle came to the school in 1934, psychodynamic and person-oriented interventions were very much in vogue. Her work put a focus on the role of groups and the social environment in socialization and human



Mandel School Archives

Grace Longwell Coyle (1892-1962) made a profound impact on the development and practice of group work. Her books were landmark contributions to the field and she is listed among the National Association of Social Workers' Social Work Pioneers.

development. She advocated for the use of groups to promote social goals and community change, and she was committed to ensuring group work was part of social work professional education.

Dr. Coyle's groundbreaking book, *Studies in Group Behavior*, was published in 1937. The book was widely read in both social work and sociology, and helped establish the structure for group work in the United States. The book was based on a collection of detailed case records from student group fieldwork. The



John B. Turner, MSSA 1948, DSW 1959, confers with faculty. He was dean from 1968 to 1973, during a period of rapid growth in the social work field.

groups were mostly socialization groups for immigrants and women in the garment industry.

Based on her research, she viewed three functions of these groups: 1) develop social attitudes and the ability to adjust to others (a "school in human relationships" as she called it); 2) broaden knowledge and acquire new skills, starting as social work still does today with strengths in already acquired skills and then building on those skills; and, 3) gain training and experience in community living and active participation in community affairs.

"Grace Coyle took group work beyond just a place for people to get together. She saw it as a place where people could learn how to work with one another and as a place for skill training," said Elizabeth M. Tracy, PhD, Grace Longwell Coyle Professor in Social Work and Associate Dean for Research and Training. "Her most innovative work looked at how social environments impacted people's development and then the reciprocal relationship, how people could influence their social environment to work for community change. And that's the true social work perspective of the person and the environment. We help people make changes, but we also want to make sure the environment they are in supports those changes. It was revolutionary work at the time."

Innovation: Doctoral Program (1952)

Doctoral programs in social work were few and far between in 1952. The school was among the first five schools of social work in the country to establish a doctoral program in social welfare. The doctoral program was designed to educate students to be future leaders of the profession and to encourage them to make original contributions in the social work field by creating knowledge and disseminating it. The first Doctor of Social Work degree was awarded in 1956.

"The doctoral curriculum was innovative when it was developed in 1952. There were advanced courses in research, social welfare planning, policy and administration. A unique feature of the program was the requirement to take social sciences courses from other areas of the university," said David E. Biegel, PhD, Henry L. Zucker Professor of Social Work Practice and Chair of the Mandel School's doctoral program.

In 1989, the school identified a need for more social work educators at schools around the country to receive doctoral education, in response to the rapid growth of undergraduate social work programs in the 1970s

and 1980s. This led to introducing the first-of-its-kind part-time summer study doctoral program for social work.

"Since 1952, the Mandel School's commitment to having a top doctoral program has endured and has widespread impact, as 70 percent of our PhD graduates go on to teach and do research in schools of social work and 30 percent work in research centers or are leaders in human service organizations," said Dr. Biegel.

Innovation: Alcohol and Other Drug Addictions Specialization (1976)

Influencing change takes time, as Lenore A. Kola, PhD, Emeritus Professor, knows all too well. Dean M.C. "Terry" Hokenstad, PhD, called her in 1975 about a faculty position to teach substance abuse courses, except she wasn't really interested in a teaching job. She was working for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in its division of alcoholism and wanted to return to Cleveland to work with the state health department. But, she agreed to an interview.

Thirty-nine years later, Dr. Kola retired as an Associate Professor, having established a highly-regarded

A Century of Innovation



From 1916 to 1951, SASS was known as the "School of Little Houses," when classes were held in these buildings on campus.

curriculum specialization in alcohol and other drugs (AODA) in 1976 and having received more than \$16 million during that time in federal, state and local foundation grants for training thousands of social work students, licensed professionals and faculty members.

In the early 1970s, very few schools of any kind were interested in teaching about substance abuse. The school had developed a seminar in substance abuse taught by community practitioners, but there were no formal courses. Dean Hokenstad recognized a need to better prepare students in the area of alcohol abuse and alcoholism. The school applied for and received federal funding to establish a social work training program. Dean Hokenstad then hired Dr. Kola, who helped the school become the first social work school to develop an AODA specialization, focusing on interventions at both the micro and macro levels. She also developed a federally-funded AODA research training program for the school's doctoral program in 1977.

Over the years, Dr. Kola and others helped the school remain at the forefront of substance abuse treatment. In the early 1990s, she worked with more than 30 other social work

educators to expand work begun under the federally-funded Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Faculty Development program. The group created an ATOD "section." The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) granted the ATOD section official status and appointed Dr. Kola to serve as the first chair of the new section.

In the late 1990s, the Woodruff Foundation in Cleveland asked Dr. Kola to create a training program around integrated dual disorder treatment for community practitioners. This led to a fellowship training program for students funded by the then Ohio Department of Mental Health. They in turn requested that the school and the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine develop the Substance Abuse Coordinating Center of Excellence in 1999, which later became the Center for Evidence-Based Practices. Dr. Kola retired from teaching in 2014, but continues to serve as Co-Director of the center with Robert Ronis, MD, Director of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine.

"The Mandel School has helped develop and advance the skills of thousands of social workers and chemical-dependency counselors who

now hold key positions in treating substance abuse and dual disorders," said Dr. Kola. "We've been able to attract a lot of attention and funding, and influence change over the years because each initiative seems to build on previous initiatives, and we've had nearly 40 years of progress. We've been in it for the long haul from the beginning."

Innovation: Intensive Weekend Master's Program (1985)

Until 1985, accessibility to a master's degree in social work for older, employed social workers was fairly limited. The school and other social work schools offered part-time programs for employed social workers, but with little consideration of employment experience and status of the participants. The students were simply folded into regular programming.

As more agencies were expressing a need for their bachelor-level employees to receive graduate education without leaving their jobs, the school responded to the changing demands by developing the first intensive weekend program for employed social workers, basing it on an adult-learning model.

"The weekend format and adult-learning model were unique in social work education. Suddenly, a master's degree was much more

in Social Work Education



Kathleen, J. Farkas, PhD 1984, Associate Professor

accessible for working adults. Plus, students could return to their jobs on Monday and immediately apply theory to practice,” said Gerald Strom, Director of the Intensive Weekend Program.

In 2009, the Child Welfare Fellows program was introduced as a component of the Intensive Weekend Program. Directed by Victor K. Groza, PhD, Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies, the program received more than \$1.1 million of funding from the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute with matching funds provided by the Mandel School. The Child Welfare Fellows program was designed to increase the number of public child welfare employees with social work master’s degrees in 10 counties in Northeast Ohio by providing substantial scholarships and the ability to maintain full-time employment.

Innovation: Ability-Based Learning Environment (2002)

Today, a social work education environment designed around defined abilities and learning outcomes is nothing new or revolutionary. But in the early 1990s, outcome-based learning was not being used in social work education. In 1993, the Mandel School began a planning process that led to a new mission and a commitment to community-based practice and assessment/ability-based social work education.

To truly understand what a Mandel School graduate should know, value



David E. Biegel, PhD, Henry L. Zucker Professor of Social Work Practice

and be able to do, a task force held stakeholder focus groups with alumni, faculty, consumers, community agencies and other groups, identifying 369 outcomes from which eight core abilities emerged. The school began designing its curriculum around those eight core learning outcomes or abilities. But an important question remained: How would faculty and students themselves know that they had actually developed those abilities through the curriculum?

In 1996, the school convened a National Advisory Panel on Assessment in Social Work Education. The national advisory panel continued to meet for two more years and the school took a leadership role in publishing its outcomes, developing curriculum to achieve the outcomes and designing assessment strategies to determine the extent to which the outcomes were met. After analyzing and tweaking the program and then launching a pilot project to determine how best to use the eight abilities in classroom and field education, the Ability-Based Learning Environment (ABLE) was officially launched in 2002, linking outcomes, curriculum and assessment in a continuous loop.

The goal was to help each student become a self-directed social work professional committed to lifelong learning and to integrating evidence-based knowledge and skills into ethical practice.



Gerald A. Strom, PhD, Senior Instructor

“ABLE set new standards for professional social work education. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) established standards for outcome-based education for all accredited social work programs in its 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS). These 10 competencies had direct linkages to our eight abilities,” said **Zoe Breen Wood, PhD 2012**, Assistant Professor and Director of Educational Outcome Assessment. Dr. Wood was also part of the team that developed ABLE.

The Mandel School now uses data on both the abilities and the CSWE outcomes to continuously assess and strengthen its curriculum. “The outcome of ABLE has been more collaboration with students. Ability-based learning means we can concentrate on what each student needs to learn and develop, and how we can help them do that, not just teaching what the instructor knows. Students strengthen their ability to assess and direct their own learning in graduate education and beyond.”

Innovation: Web-Based Technology Added to Teaching of Social Work Practice (2011)

As the use of distance learning grew in social work education and educational outcomes were found to be comparable between actual classrooms and virtual classrooms, the

A Century of Innovation



Zoe Breen Wood, PhD 2012, Assistant Professor and Director of Educational Outcome Assessment



Elizabeth M. Tracy, PhD, Grace Longwell Coyle Professor in Social Work and Associate Dean for Research and Training



Lenore A. Kola, PhD, Emeritus Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Evidence-Based Practices

Mandel School introduced computer-based virtual reality to develop practice skills. The first application was developed by Associate Professor **Kathleen J. Farkas, PhD 1984**, Dr. Wood and Assistant Professor Amy Blank Wilson, PhD. It introduced a simulated home environment using avatars to depict home visits, developed in the Second Life 3-D social network.

"The avatars allow users to inhabit the virtual world and interact via their own graphical self representations. In the case of the virtual home environment, students can practice making home visits in a safe environment using role playing while interacting with another student or faculty member who acts as the client," explained Dr. Farkas, Chair of the Direct Practice Concentration.

Avatars are just one piece of technology being used at the school. Other technology, such as Google Apps for Education that enable entire-class collaboration and video conferencing, is another way to engage students in more active learning. "To think critically about when and how students use what they learn, they have to be more actively engaged in the material. There is so much technology out there and the sky is the limit on how it can be used to facilitate more

engaged learning and to save time and resources," said Dr. Wood.

Dr. Tracy combines lectures enhanced with technologies to draw students into the learning experience. "Since most students bring their laptops to class, it just makes sense to actively use this technology during class time in ways beyond taking notes," she said.

Assistant Professor Megan R. Holmes, PhD, uses a flipped classroom format, in which instruction that previously occurred in the classroom is now accessed at home through videos, while classroom time is reserved primarily for working through problems and active learning.

With the renovation of its main building, the Mandel School will be incorporating active-learning classrooms that provide several large computer screens for students to use, software to collaborate in small groups and share their work with the class, movable furniture and multiple writing surfaces.

Innovation: Online MSSA Program Launched (2013)

The Mandel School launched a 100-percent online format of its Master of Science in Social Administration (MSSA) degree in 2013, with the same academic standards and

faculty as the on-campus MSSA program. The online program uses new technology and new teaching methods to make an MSSA degree accessible to anyone around the globe.

"We reach a whole new group of people who bring new perspectives and geographic diversity to our school. Accessibility is very important for our online students, who are often in full-time jobs and can learn on their own schedule," said Dr. Tracy, one of the many full-time faculty members who teach online courses.

The online program draws from the traditional MSSA program and vice versa, while also offering some additional benefits. "Developing our online program has helped us refine our courses, both online and in the classroom, and make them better aligned with required CSWE practice," said Dr. Tracy. "While we don't have traditional face-to-face contact, we can provide almost immediate feedback on their work, which makes it easier to reach them at teachable moments."

"Taking on the challenge of online education is yet the latest example of the willingness of the faculty to meet the students where they are with high-quality, innovative programs. This faculty of scholars always has teaching as their number-one priority," said Dean Gilmore.



Maria Sharron

Student Rebecca Davis meets with Assistant Director of Financial Aid Matt Colver to discuss her loan repayment plan through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

Out of the Red

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Makes Debt More Manageable for Alumni

Second-year Mandel School student Rebecca Davis will graduate this summer with her Master of Science in Social Administration degree—and with a mountain of student loan debt. As a full-time student and single mother raising a teenage son, Davis had to take out multiple loans to pay for undergraduate and graduate education.

“I was extremely nervous about having to take out so many loans. I assumed that I would be paying them off for the rest of my life,” she said.

That was until she learned about the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, which was implemented to help lift the burden of tuition costs for students and alumni in public service majors and jobs. The PSLF program discharges any remaining federal direct loan debt after 10 years of full-time employment

in public service and after 120 qualifying loan payments are made on eligible federal direct loans. (See sidebar for more details.)

Davis first learned about the PSLF program through an email from Matt Colver, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at the Mandel School. She then attended a financial aid workshop that Colver taught to learn more.

“Everyone with student loan debt needs to have a strategy on how to repay that debt,” advises Colver. “PSLF should be a big part of that strategy for anyone working in public service for the government or nonprofits because it offers a way to pay off student loans in as little as 10 years—provided you can commit to 10 years of public service. It can help relieve much of the financial stress that comes with paying back loans.”

Colver emphasized that the loan forgiveness program is not just for current students, but can also benefit alumni because payments made after October 1, 2007, qualify toward the 120 payment requirement. "The program is retro-active. Alumni working in public service and making payments on their federal student loans already qualify," said Colver.

Marissa Williams, MSSA 2012, is one alumna who is taking advantage of the PSLF program. She learned about the loan forgiveness program while working as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Cleveland. Williams knew that she would be committing herself to public service after graduation. She also knew that she would leave school with a high student loan balance. "The program has proven to be a fantastic way to manage the cost of an education at one of the best schools in the country," she said.

Williams most recently served as the Community Planning Coordinator for the Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, which is a community development corporation in Warren, Ohio. She left that position in mid-June after being selected as The George Gund Foundation Fellow for 2015-2017 from a nationwide pool of applicants. As a fellow, she will work inside the Cleveland-based foundation for two years.

In addition to her federal student loan debt being forgiven after 120 payments, Williams is able to afford her 10 years of monthly payments through an income-driven repayment plan. She

pays a manageable monthly amount based on her salary. "On an income-based repayment plan, it would take a very long time to finish paying my loans. With the PSLF program, I will be done before I'm 35," said Williams.

Colver said some individual states offer loan forgiveness programs and there is a national forgiveness program for clinical social workers employed in rural areas, but the PSLF program is the broadest reaching of them all. Because many students and alumni don't know about the program, Colver is working to spread the word. He conducts financial aid workshops several times a year on campus and is also available for both students and alumni for one-on-one counseling about managing student loan debt.

"We've received great feedback from students and alumni about the PSLF program because they can see a light at the end of the tunnel," said Colver. "They can see there is life beyond student loan debt."

Alumni and students are encouraged to contact Matt Colver at matthew.colver@case.edu or 216.368.1108 for financial aid advice and to learn more about how the PSLF program could apply to their individual circumstances.

Resources for Student Loan Forgiveness

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) is a program for federal student loan borrowers who work in many types of public service jobs, including in government and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. After making 120 qualifying monthly loan payments and 10 years of eligible employment, remaining debt is forgiven. During those 10 years (which don't have to be consecutive), the income-based repayment plan can help keep loan payments affordable. The PSLF program covers federal Stafford, Grad PLUS or consolidation loans, as long as they are in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Borrowers with FFEL loans must switch to the direct loan program to be eligible for loan forgiveness in the program. Visit studentaid.ed.gov/publicservice for more details.

National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program

This program recruits health professionals to work in selected "health professional shortage areas." In return, loan repayment, a competitive salaried position and some tax advantages are provided. Additional details are at nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

NASW website (socialworkers.org) provides a list of state programs for loan repayment to its members on the loan forgiveness homepage.



Dean Gilmore greets the crowd of alumni and students.

Advice From Alumni

"Be true to yourself, be optimistic and stay positively connected to community."

Yolanda Armstrong, MSSA 1994
President and Chief Executive Officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland

"Go the extra mile so you become indispensable. Build relationships and be visible on boards and committees. Write well and speak well."

Maureen Dee, MSSA 1978
Executive Director of Treatment, Prevention and Recovery Programs, Catholic Charities Corporation

"Keep an open mind to new opportunities and a positive attitude, and surround yourself with people who do the same."

Rebecca Kodysh, MNO 2005
Executive Director of Community Impact, The Cleveland Indians

Creating Career Connections

Annual networking event brings students and alumni together

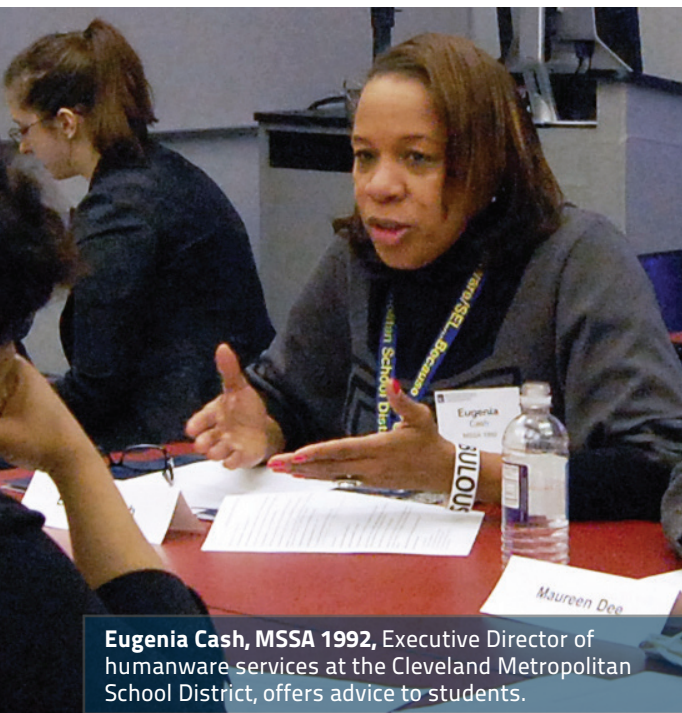
Despite freezing cold temperatures and blizzard-like conditions, more than 60 alumni and students braved the elements to attend the annual Career Connections event at the school on the evening of February 4. The event was presented by the Mandel School Alumni Association Board.

Students, alumni participants and alumni board members shared dinner and had a chance to meet one another before the organized networking sessions began. In a new format for the event, students moved between tables of alumni for speed networking.

Event co-chairs and alumni board members **Jasmine Chandler, MSSA 2009**, and **Kimberly Moss, MNO 2001**, kicked off the evening with a warm welcome. Tom Matthews, Executive Director of the Case Western Reserve University Career Center, introduced students and alumni to the services the center offers and then provided resume advice throughout the event.

Dean Gilmore also greeted attendees and stressed the importance of networking. "We have connections all over, with alumni in all 50 states and 41 countries. The networking you do tonight is important, but so is the networking you do for the rest of your life."

Once speed networking began, students spent 10 minutes at each table before moving to the next table. **Stacy Simera, MSSA 1996**, who is in direct practice at Gary Robinson and Associates, lives more than an hour drive from campus, but said she wanted to be part of the event to meet her future colleagues and offer advice. Student Chelsea Tobias asked Simera how high she should shoot when



Eugenia Cash, MSSA 1992, Executive Director of humanware services at the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, offers advice to students.



Students networked with **Glenda Kupersmith, MSSA 1993**, President, Northern Ohio Clinical Social Work Society, and **Carlier Myers, MNO 2003, MSSA 2013**, Associate Director, Office of the Registrar, Case Western Reserve University.

looking for a job. “You can shoot high because you have the MSSA after your name,” Simera responded.

Paula Atwood, MSSA 1973, Vice President of Staffing and Special Projects at behavioral health agency Beech Brook, discussed the importance of work/life balance with a group of students at her table. “We go into social work not for the money, but because we believe we can help. The challenge is leaving your day without taking home some of the ills we see. You have to find a way to cope and relax so you can continue to help,” she said.

Carlier Myers, MNO 2003, MSSA 2013, shared similar advice. “You have to have someone outside your job to talk to, especially if you’re in environments that are traumatic.”

As Associate Director in the Case Western Reserve Office of the Registrar, Myers encouraged students to be open to many kinds of opportunities. “The great thing about social work, you can go in a new direction. It’s all right to do something different than the traditional social work role. My degrees opened different doors for me,” she added. She also encouraged students to take advantage of opportunities to serve on committees and work with colleagues to make strong connections within the community. “When you help solve problems, the

bridges you build become that much stronger.”

Lori Longs Painter, MSSA 1987, who is a Field Faculty Advisor and Clinical Instructor at the Mandel School, recommended that students gain experience in many areas of social work and community service through field education, volunteering and employment. “Before I found a job and even after, I asked to sit on a couple of nonprofit boards and even sat in on some committee meetings to observe and let them know I was interested in serving,” she said.

First-year student Megeen Tube has an interest in education and how it

intersects with social work, but isn’t exactly sure how to combine the two. She came to the event for help in figuring it out. “I’m trying to take advantage of every opportunity to network and learn. Talking to so many alumni, I can see how others are making their passions come together,” she said.

For Tobias, the Career Connections event was also an eye opener. “This was a good chance to see that there are so many things you can do with a social work degree. It’s inspiring to see what others have gone through. It shows that getting a job and reaching my goals is attainable.”



Rachel Wilkens-Truelsch (right), MSSA 2015, listens intently to career insights from **Jamie Jones, MNO 2010**.

Alumni News

We recognize the many achievements and contributions Mandel School alumni make in all corners of the world. Please send your news to: **Nada Di Franco**, nada.difranco@case.edu, and include your name, class year, email address and phone number.

Marcia W. Levine, MSSA 1966, is the 2014 recipient of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Gries Family Award for Community Leadership for the lasting impression she's made on the feder-



ation, the Jewish community and the Cleveland community. She had served on the federation's board of trustees and chaired its Israel Health Advancement for Women Subcommittee of the Overseas Connection Committee, of which she is still a member. Levine was associate executive director of the Jewish Family Service Association when she retired in 2002. As part of her "retirement career," as she puts it, she has been an active community volunteer. Currently, she is heavily involved in other organizations, serving on boards such as Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Greater Cleveland Congregations, as board president of the Cleveland Public Theater and as a partner (and past board chair) of Social Venture Partners Cleveland. Most recently, she began serving on the national board of directors of Corporate Accountability International. Levine is a member of the Mandel School Visiting Committee and co-chair of the Mandel School's Campaign Committee. She was also the school's diploma ceremony speaker at Commencement 2015.

Arthur Sontag, MSSA 1966, and his second wife Gilda (whom he met in 2003 after being introduced to her by a social work friend), stopped to visit the Mandel School on their way home to Chicago



from a trip to New England. Sontag has two daughters—one is a teacher and the other is a nurse practitioner. He retired in January 2014, but agreed to return to work at the Winnetka (Illinois) Police Department at the age of 72.

Paul Hoffman, MSSA 1976, is happily working in private practice as a psychotherapist and says he plans to never retire. He writes a blog, *My Two Cents: Thoughts of a Small Town Therapist* (smalltowntherapist.com) and is a guest contributor to a track and field website, speedendurance.com. He also performs a show titled *Love Songs of the Swing Era*.

Louis H. Kraus, MSSA 1978, is a mediator who founded the nonprofit organization Better Outcomes, which helps people learn how to find their common ground by using civil discourse.

Jane (Sroka) Hern, MSSA 1980, accepted a position as Director of Social Services at River Point Behavioral Health in Jacksonville, Fla. She said she is looking forward to seeing some resumes from Mandel School students on her desk one day soon.

Patricia "Pat" Nobili, MSSA 1983, retired in early 2015 as President and Chief Executive Officer of Achievement Centers for Children. During her 21-year tenure, the 75-year-old Cleveland-based nonprofit, which serves children with disabilities and their families, experienced unprecedented growth, expanded and created numerous new programs, improved its facilities, and significantly raised its visibility in the community. The organization operates facilities in three Cleveland suburbs, including Camp Cheerful in Strongsville, which is a recreational camp for children and adults



Maria Sharron

with disabilities. Nobili said she is looking forward to spending more time with her children and grandchildren. She also became a member of the Mandel School Visiting Committee in 2014. Pictured are Nobili (right) with **Ella Thomas, MSSA**

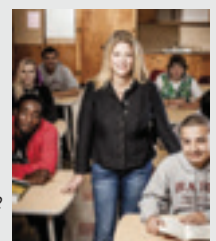
1971. Thomas, who is Executive Director of the Thea Bowman Center and also on the Visiting Committee, was Nobili's field supervisor at Cleveland Psychiatric Institute in the early 1980s. Nobili was managing the forensic unit at the institute while Thomas mentored her as director of social work.

Yolanda Armstrong, MSSA 1994, was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland in October 2014. As



a 24-year veteran in social service, she brings passion, experience and knowledge of the community to her work. She was also a mentee and mentor of Big Brothers Big Sisters, and credits her grandparents with leading her in the direction of striving to better the lives of people, particularly children. Armstrong looks at mentoring as a holistic approach in that one child's relationship with a mentor can impact the well-being of an entire family unit, if not an entire community. Armstrong also informally mentors at her church, Mount Zion Baptist Church, and with the Delta Sigma Theta public service sorority to which she belongs. In addition, she serves on the board of trustees of the Black Professional Association Charitable Foundation.

Megan O'Bryan, MNO 1995, was featured in the November 2014 issue of North-east Ohio's *Inside Business Magazine* (IBmag.com) for taking the reins



Inside Business

as Executive Director of the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, a nonprofit public-private advocacy group created to ensure the success of the top-to-bottom school reform effort known as the Cleveland Plan. "I think that the community surrounding Cleveland should be invested in a vibrant and vital

urban core," O'Bryan said. "We need to ensure that our kids and the workforce are prepared."

Gretchen M. Griener, MSSA 1996, has spent more than 15 years in the field of conflict analysis and resolution. Griener has taught in the social work program at Mississippi State University, was an adult community therapist and worked for the Mississippi State Social Science Research Council, completing a needs assessment for the Choctaw Indian Reservation. She also worked for a program in Washington, D.C., that evaluated social welfare policy as bills passed Congress. Dr. Griener returned to school for her PhD at George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. She completed her doctoral research in Jordan in 2013. She ran a satellite video conferencing dialogue in real time between U.S. residents in Virginia and Arab residents in Amman, Jordan, as a facilitator for groups in conflict in the larger world community.



Laura Hokenstad, MSSA 1996, started a new position in January 2015 as Director of Safety and Security at Save the Children in Sierra Leone, Africa. She is pictured above (second from left), with her team in Sierra Leone.

John G. Ladd, CNM 1998, is Program Officer for Invest in Children at the Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood.

Christina (Hester) Lizaso, MNO 2000, is a health care advocate who specializes in digital community building and communications. She co-founded and co-moderates the #gynccsm community on Twitter, which holds monthly tweet chats for those with an interest in gynecologic cancers. Lizaso is also a community blogger for Cure Today, and moderates the bi-weekly Empowered #PatientChat.

Harper Jean Tobin, MSSA/JD 2001, serves as Director of Policy for the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE). There, she coordinates all aspects of

Love for Social Issues— and Each Other—Blossoms at the Mandel School

Shanta Pandey, PhD 1989, came to the Mandel School to earn a doctorate in social work and then planned to return to her native Nepal as one of only a handful of women in the country with a PhD. She had no plans to get married, as she wanted to focus on empowering Nepalese women. Then she met **Gautam Yadama, MSSA 1985, PhD 1990**, at the graduate dorm, Clark Tower, in 1984. Their friendship grew through shared statistics classes taught by **Claudia J. Coulton, PhD 1978**, Distinguished University Professor and Lillian F. Harris Professor of Urban Social Research. Dr. Coulton was also the chair for each of their dissertations and Pandey was one of the first two research assistants for Dr. Coulton at the newly formed Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development.

Their first official date was at the Mad Greek restaurant in Cleveland Heights, where they shared many meals together during their time in Cleveland. They were married in 1990 at a Hindu temple in Pittsburgh.

"Marriage was something most women in Nepal did because they were expected to do so. Since my parents did not put that pressure on me, I was going to postpone it as long as I could or even opt out of it altogether," said Dr. Pandey. "Gautam came along and convinced me to marry him. When I said, 'I am older than you,' he said, 'Remember, women live longer! We will die together.' That worked. We recently celebrated our 25th anniversary."

Today, both are professors and researchers at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St.

Louis. Dr. Pandey's areas of expertise include women's empowerment, gender equity, maternal and child health, social welfare policy, and program evaluation. Her research examines the impact that policies and programs have on the most vulnerable populations in the United States and developing regions of South Asia. Most recently, her research took her to Nepal to examine the role of women's empowerment on the health and economic well-being of women, including programs designed to improve education, child vaccinations and maternal care. Her visit was cut short by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that killed more than 8,000 people. Dr. Pandey boarded a flight home five days later, but her thoughts remain in Nepal.

In addition to being a professor and researcher, Dr. Yadama is Washington University's McDonnell International Scholar's Academy Ambassador to the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India and the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. He also serves as the university's Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Affairs-India. In 2013, he published the book *Fires, Fuel & the Fate of 3 Billion: The State of the Energy Impoverished*, which explores the worldwide issue of energy impoverishment. Dr. Yadama's work focuses on understanding the social and environmental challenges of rural poor in the regions of South Asia, Central Asia and China, and intervening in resource poor communities to improve social, health, economic, livelihood and quality of life outcomes.



Gautam Yadama, MSSA 1985, PhD 1990, (standing) and **Shanta Pandey, PhD 1989**, (seated) pictured with their children, Sagar and Aishwarya, at their 25th wedding anniversary celebration.

Alumni News continued

advocacy on federal administrative policies and regulations for NCTE and works to provide information for the public about laws and policies that affect transgender people. She also serves on the board of HIPS, an organization that promotes rights, health and safety for those involved in sex work, sex trade or drug use in the Washington, D.C., area. Tobin's writing on transgender equality and other issues has appeared in numerous publications and she was recently quoted in *Inside Higher Ed* about a U.S. Justice Department suit against a university in Oklahoma for denying tenure to a professor over her identity as a transgender woman.



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Adrienne M. Crawford Fletcher, MSSA 2005, is completing her PhD in 2015. She is a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, where she will become an assistant professor in August 2015.



Jane Hoyt-Oliver, PhD 2005, is connecting her students at Malone University in Canton, Ohio, to social work policy practitioners through Skype and conference calls. The initiative, sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers, the Council on Social Work Education, and the Coalition on Human Needs, seeks to give another opportunity for students to see the passion and work of professionals. Dr. Hoyt-Oliver said the program empowers her students and is thankful for the opportunity to participate in it.



Christa Hayden Sharpe, MSSA 2005, is the Field Office Director of the International Justice Mission (IJM) in Cambodia. Her Community Justice Assessment Tool for Churches is available online at ijm.org.

Quinton Cotton, MSSA 2006, is Program Officer of the Wisconsin Partnership Program at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.



Rachel (Gallup) Meffe, MSSA 2007 (left), pictured with **Gwendolyn Howard, MSSA 2006**, Northeast Regional Director of the Ohio School Social Work Association, received the 2015 School Social Worker of the Year award from the Ohio School Social Work Association. Meffe has been the school social worker for the Lake County Educational Service Center at Kennedy Academy for the nearly three years. Meffe was honored along with **Sarah S. Andrews, MSSA 1991**, who received the Friend of School Social Work award (see page 6).

Miho Suzuki, MSSA 2007, has been working for the Japanese trading company ITOCHU Corporation since 2011 on the Pre-Organic Cotton program to improve poverty levels among farmers in India and Africa. She said she is using her social work skills to make the world a better place through business.

Melody J. Stewart, PhD 2008, a judge for the Ohio 8th District Court of Appeals and member of the Mandel School Visiting Committee, was awarded the 2014 Bench Trailblazer Award for the Norman S. Minor Bar Association in October 2014. She was elected to the Ohio 8th District Court of Appeals in 2006 and re-elected in 2010. Judge Stewart serves on the board of the Ohio Supreme Court's Judicial College, and on several committees of the Judicial College and the Ohio Judicial Conference.



Kenneth Stoltzfus, PhD 2009, was hired by Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, to start a master of social work program and said he immediately plunged into the accreditation process. He produced more than 500 pages of accreditation documents to prepare for the first commissioner visit in January 2015.

Juliana Cole, MSSA 2012, became Dean of Student Engagement at the Cleveland Metropolitan School District in October 2014.

Belinda Lauer, MSSA 2012, is a Case Management Social Worker at the Cleveland Clinic, Euclid Hospital.

Wendy Doolittle, MSSA 2013, is Chief Executive Officer at McKinley Hall, a nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment agency in Springfield, Ohio. She said the policy class that she took with Assistant Professor **Scott A. Wilkes, PhD 2013**, made a huge difference in her perception about her responsibility in being part of changing policy, which has inspired her to be active. In September 2014, she spoke to a committee in Washington, D.C., regarding the implications of the 1MD rule—the classification of facilities as “institutions for mental diseases.”

Alumni News provides updates for alumni and friends received between September 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015.

Get Connected with Your Classmates and
Other Alumni through Two New Options

CWRU EverTrue Mobile Phone App



CWRU Connect Online Alumni Directory

- Contact other CWRU alumni (great for networking and catching up with classmates)
- Update your contact information
- Provide your professional and personal news to friends
- Join a regional CWRU group
- Receive regional chapter updates from the university and other alumni

Case Western Reserve University has launched two digital ways to keep in touch with your fellow CWRU alumni!

Download CWRU's EverTrue mobile app at case.edu/alumni/resources/evertrue, where you can manage your privacy settings or opt-out of the application completely. **Your contact information will appear unless you opt-out of the application.** This includes your name, preferred address, email address, education and place of employment. You can adjust your privacy settings at any time. If you have previously asked that your information remain private, it will not appear in the listing. Call Nada Di Franco in Alumni Relations at 216.368.2281 for assistance. For support 24 hours/day, call the CWRU Help Desk at 216.368.HELP.

Log in to the instructions for the CWRU Connect Online Alumni Directory (an alumni-only site):

1. Visit cwruconnect.case.edu
2. Click on "CWRU Connect Login" at the top right of the page
3. Select "First Time Login"
4. Enter in Name and click "Find"
5. Find yourself in the list and click "Next"
6. You'll be asked to enter a 10-digit constituent ID and 5-digit zip code. Contact Nada Di Franco in the Mandel School Alumni Office for your unique ID number at 216.368.2281 or send email to nada.difranco@case.edu, or call the CWRU Help Desk 24 hours/day at 216.368.HELP.

Alumni Events

Alumni in Social Work Education Leadership



At the Mandel School alumni reception during the Council for Social Work Education annual program meeting in Tampa, Fla., on October 24, 2014, several alumni in leadership positions at various university schools/departments of social work gathered with Dean Gilmore. Pictured (left to right) are **Mary Ann Rawlings, PhD 2008**, Chair, Professor and MSW Program Director, Department of Social Work, Azusa Pacific University; **Lisa McGuire, PhD 2000**, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, James Madison University; **Virginia Rondero Hernandez, PhD 2002**, Chair and Professor, Department of Social Work Education, Fresno State University; Dean Gilmore; **Gloria Hegge, PhD 2012**, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Newman University; and, **David Chenot, PhD 2007**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Social Work, California State University, Fullerton.

The Future of Patient Care, inter-professional education event, Naples, Fla., January 29, 2015. Dean Gilmore was on the panel with the Case Western Reserve health sciences deans and moderator, President Barbara Snyder, discussing the university's leadership in transforming the health care profession by training students in dental medicine, medicine, nursing and social work to follow a unique, practice-ready model of care involving each of these disciplines. Pictured (left to right): **Matthew Glass, MSSA 1998**, **Todd Traux, MSSA 1996**, Dean Gilmore, **Raymond Fant, MSSA 1963**, Judy Fant and **Jamie Jones, MNO 2010**.



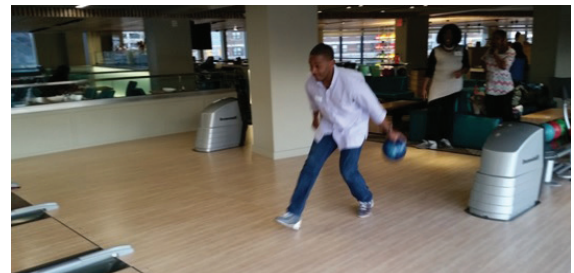
Achievement Centers for Children lunch, in Highland Hills, Ohio, February 18, 2015. Pictured (left to right): **Allison Kennedy, MSSA 2015**, **Virginia Weiss, MSSA 1993**, Dean Gilmore, **Barb Obiaya, MSSA 1976**, **Patricia Nobili, MSSA 1983**, **Carol Levanoff, MSSA 1998**, **Connie Boros, MSSA 1997**, **Kaitlin Carden, MSSA 2015**, and **Ariel Coleman, MSSA 2015**.



Alumni gathering in the Washington, D.C./Maryland/Virginia area, October 8, 2014. Pictured (left to right): **Gerda Freedheim, MSSA 1974, Nora Hennessy, MNO 2004**, Associate Dean of Institutional Advancement, Mandel School, **Emery Jefferies, MSSA 1998, Jessie Felling, MSSA 2014, Christopher Mark Jenkins, MSSA/MNO 2013, Marci Lu, MNO 1999, Sarah Johnson, MNO 1998, and Susan White, MSSA 1980.**



Wooster Area Alumni Lunch on March 24, 2015, hosted by **Gayle Noble, MSSA 1988**, and **David Noble**. Pictured: **Dave Earley, MSSA 1997**, and **Susan Heady, MSSA 2000.**



Mandel School Alumni Association Board members/event co-chairs **Jasmine Chandler, MSSA 2009**, and **Jillian Rogers, MSSA 2014**, hosted an alumni and student social at The Corner Alley in Uptown Cleveland, on March 12, 2015. Alumni and students networked, shared advice and had some fun bowling together. Pictured is **Ramses Clements, MSSA 2013.**



January 2015 Mandel School graduates at Case Western Reserve University's midyear graduates reception, December 6, 2014. Pictured (left to right): **Tiara Fairwell, MSSA, Kendra Dean, MSSA/MNO, Emma Starks, MSSA, Laquilla Smith, MSSA, Brenda Mathias, MSSA, Megan Brenner, MSSA/MNO, Donnamarie Adams, MSSA, Jazmin Long, MSSA/MNO, Rebecca Bittala, MSSA, Rebecca Virant, MSSA, Courtney Diener, MSSA, and SheRise Smith, MSSA.** Not pictured: **Tessa Heung, MSSA.**

Nominate Alumni for the New Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences Alumni Association Awards

Awards will be presented during the Alumni Reunion Luncheon on Saturday, October 10, 2015, from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the Mandel Center

General Criteria

Nominees for the Alumni Association Awards exhibit several of the following characteristics: a strong commitment to social change through clinical direct practice, community practice, or education; or dedication to nonprofit work; leadership in an agency, institution/organization, private practice or a community; creativity in non-traditional or innovative approaches to practice; contributions to the field through research and publications; effective advocacy for the social work or nonprofit profession; and involvement in professional, civic, or community organizations.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Nominees demonstrate extraordinary professional success and achievement over the span (25 or more years) of his/her entire career. *This award is the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association.*

Professional Achievement Award

Nominees are mid-career (working 15 or more years).

NonProfit Leadership Award

Nominees have been working as leaders over a span of 15 or more years in the nonprofit profession and must have earned a Master of Nonprofit Organizations (MNO) degree or a Certificate in Nonprofit Management (CNM).

Early Career Award

Nominees are early career (15 or fewer years).



Requirements for Nomination

1. Letter of nomination (including title of award) describing how candidate's career activities meet several of the criteria for that specific award. Include nominator's and nominee's contact information, including email addresses and phone numbers. Nominators need not be alumni.
2. Copy of nominee's resume or curriculum vitae.
3. **Nomination materials must be received or postmarked by Thursday, August 13th.**

Submit materials via one of the following options: email to Nada.DiFranco@case.edu; fax to 216.368.2850; mail: Nada Di Franco, The Mandel School, CWRU, 11235 Bellflower Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7164.

In Memoriam

With sadness, the Mandel School announces the passing of our extraordinary alumni and friends. We extend heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

Remembering a Visionary in Social Justice

Ruth W. Begun, longtime friend of the Mandel School, passed away November 11 at the age of 102. Born Ruth Weltmann in Germany in 1912, Dr. Begun was the first woman to study doctoral-level physics at the University of Berlin. She came to America in 1937, marrying Semi Joe Begun in 1938 and moving to Cleveland in 1941. She went on to have a distinguished career in science, including working at the NASA Glenn Research Center, where she co-developed the spacecraft ion engine.

Her association with Case Western Reserve University dates back to 1947, when she began teaching a chemistry course at Case Institute of Technology. She and her husband saw the civic unrest in America in the 1960s and made a commitment to use their financial and intellectual resources to address violence prevention. They established the Society for the Prevention of Violence in 1972. They later funded the Semi J. and Ruth W. Begun Professorship in Violence Prevention Research and Education at the Mandel School (currently held by Dr. Daniel J. Flannery), as well as the Dr. Semi J. and Ruth W. Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education (begun.case.edu). The center, which is directed by Dr. Flannery, opened in 2003 to promote social justice and community development. It is now home to a professional staff of 25 social scientists performing applied community-based research and providing evaluation, training and technical assistance. Dr. Begun also wrote a series of books for both teachers and students on social skills for preventing violence in elementary schools.

"Ruth's commitment to education as a primary tool in violence prevention was steadfast. Through her leadership and philanthropy, she leaves a rich legacy of people who have been touched by her and share her commitment to violence prevention," said Dean Gilmore.



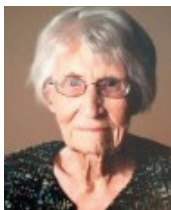
Mandel School Archives

Elizabeth Law Watkins, MSSA 1950, retired faculty member, passed away March 19 at the age of 92. Dr. Watkins joined the faculty of the then School of Applied Social Sciences in 1969, which was developing a new curriculum in the health concentration.

As associate chairman of the concentration for nine years, she incorporated content regarding the public health approach to solving health problems and developed field work placements in the new community-based health and mental health clinics and organizations. From 1977 until her retirement in 1989, she was a professor at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Public Health. The primary focus of her research was always in making high-quality health services available to minority women and children, particularly migrant workers. On the national level, Dr. Watkins used her position as president of the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health to develop linkages with organizations involved in social work health care issues. She worked in collaboration with the late Ruth Irelan Knee at the National Institute of Mental Health to develop the Coalition of Social Work Organizations in Public Health. A charter member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Dr. Watkins was the recipient of NASW's Knee/Wittman Lifetime Achievement Award in Health and Mental Health Practice. The Public Health Social Work Section of the American Public Health Association awarded her the 1988 Outstanding Achievement Award. She was the first non-physician president of the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health, which recognized her with the 1987 Distinguished Service Award.



Emily (West) Day, MSSA 1936, of Richfield, Minn., passed away January 13 at the age of 101. Mrs. Day worked at inner-city settlement houses in cities including Cleveland and Chicago during the Great Depression. Mrs. Day was later hired by the community board operating the Elliot Park Neighborhood House in Minneapolis, where she developed a summer camp for children. After her retirement at age 66, Mrs. Day



continued to substitute teach, read to kindergarten students, and was involved with the Richfield Park Commission and a special committee to establish a municipal water supply. She traveled all over the world with her husband, Whittier Day, visiting every continent, including Antarctica and the Arctic.

Freda (Caver) Clinton, MSSA 1943

Marjorie (Bomart) Wallis, MSSA 1947

William D. Stuber, MSSA 1948

Gordon Chester Esch, MSSA 1949

Barbara (Novak) Moore, MSSA 1955

Audrey (Connoly) Labarre, MSSA 1956

Audrey E. Rinker, MSSA 1959

John Henry Ramey, longtime friend of the Mandel School, passed away November 2, 2014, at age 88. Mr. Ramey worked with community organizations, camps

and settlement houses for more than 70 years. In 1954, Mr. Ramey became executive director of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club in Chicago, where he and his staff worked with street gangs and addressed other community problems and challenges, including racial integration. In 1965, Mr. Ramey became executive director of the Greater Cincinnati Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers. In 1969, he became an associate professor at the University of Akron, where he established a social work program. From 1972 to 1984, he was a leader in the campaign to secure licensing for social workers in Ohio. Mr. Ramey was past president of various social work associations, including the Ohio Chapter of NASW, and was a charter member of the NASW and the Academy of Certified Social Workers. He was a founding member of the International Association of Social Work with Groups in 1979, serving as its general secretary until 2003 and as editor of the *Social Work with Groups* newsletter for 22 years. He retired from the University of Akron in 1989 as an associate professor emeritus.



G. Edward Pfenninger, MSSA 1972

Bernice E. Banks, MSSA 1973

Gregory C. Keck, MSSA 1973, of Sagamore Hills, Ohio, died January 2. Dr. Keck founded the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio, which specializes in the treatment of children and adolescents who have experienced developmental interruptions due to early traumatic history. He is the co-author of *Parenting the Hurt Child and Adopting the Hurt Child* and *Parenting Adopted Adolescents*. From 1991 to 2000, he served on the board of directors of the Association for Treatment and Training in the Attachment of Children. He was also its president for two years, and was awarded the organization's annual Outstanding Contribution to the Field Award in 2001. Dr. Keck received the Adoption Triad Advocate Award in 1993 from the Adoption Network Cleveland. In 2012, he received the NASW Lifetime Achievement Award.



Fannie Johnson-Baxter, MSSA 1973, a Mandel School Visiting Committee member since 2012, passed away December 3, 2014, in Cleveland. After receiving her MSSA, Mrs. Baxter became a dedicated social services leader for 41 years in the Cleveland area. She was an innovator in school-based social work with her efforts to bring health and human services to Cleveland Metropolitan School District students. She worked for the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, Beech Brook, Murtis H. Taylor Human Services System, Applewood Centers, the YWCA of Greater Cleveland, and served as interim director of Continued Life. She taught at the Cleveland State University School of Social Work for 20 years and served as a student advisor with the Cuyahoga Community College Women in Transition program. Mrs. Baxter also served as a board member of The Singing Angels and Villa Montessori.



Suzanne B. Plumb, MSSA 1977

Patricia (Gleason) Coppedge, MSSA 1983

Margaret Sullivan Bulzan, MSSA 1985

Michaella Drotar, MSSA 1985

Dorothea Mary Warr, MSSA 1985

Michelle Goldberg Levin, MSSA 1988, died December 5, 2014. She was a fixture in Summit County (Ohio) arts and public service circles, and nationally in Jewish organizations. She worked for 25 years for Summit County Children Services, serving as a key connector of local organizations, agencies and businesses before retiring in 2004 due to illness. Mrs. Levin began at the agency in 1979 as a social worker in the intake department, which she eventually led as supervisor. In 1985, she became coordinator of volunteer services and began focusing on community development, conducting seminars and workshops on child abuse and neglect for other organizations. Mrs. Levin later founded and served as director of the Family Resource Unit, which she designed to connect local business and



other community resources to families in need. She also served as president of DOVIA, the professional organization for volunteer directors, and was honored by The Volunteer Center for her work training boards of trustees and other volunteer directors. She served as president of Beth El Congregation and on its board of trustees for more than 30 years. She returned to school at age 43 to pursue her MSSA. Mrs. Levin was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in September 2003. Despite being given less than a year to live, she persisted in therapy and survived more than 11 years.

Madeline Ann Sivak, CNM 1992

Gregory Morse Yost, MNO 1993

Kathleen (Griffin) Fant, MSSA 1994, of Orange Village, Ohio, passed away November 11, 2014, at the age of 79. Mrs. Fant worked as the resource center manager at the Mandel School in the 1990s. She also was executive director of Transitional Housing for Women, retiring in 2000. She continued to educate herself and received certificates in landscaping, horticulture and anthropology. In addition to raising four children, Mrs. Fant wrote the *History of Orange Village* in 1983.



Duane Carl Gustavson, MSSA 1994

Kathryn Ball Gaubatz, CNM 1996

Qutina Mercer Carter, MSSA 2006

Michele M. Powell, MSSA 2010

Rachel H. King, former registrar of the Mandel School, passed away October 11, 2014, after a brief illness. Mrs. King made significant contributions to serving Mandel School students for nearly 20 years, long before there was a Student Information System and email communications. After her retirement, she worked at a local human service agency.



This memorial section lists deceased alumni and friends for whom death notices were received between September 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015.

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- Online
- Intensive Weekend

Master of Nonprofit Organizations (MNO)

- Full-time (one year)
- Part-time

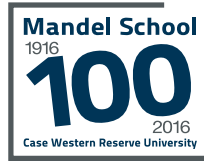
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare (PhD)

Lauren McNair
MSSA Advanced Standing Student
Hometown: Los Angeles, California

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All MSSA, MNO, CNM, DSW and PhD Alumni are Invited to Reunite and Reconnect!



**HOME
COMING
& REUNION**
CELEBRATION
MANDEL SCHOOL
OCTOBER 9-10, 2015

Main Event:
Alumni Luncheon and Awards
Presentation on Saturday, October 10

Details:
See page 3 or visit
msass.case.edu/alumni/reunion