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Dear Friends,

Welcome to Engage, the University of Central Florida’s School of Social Work magazine highlighting our accomplishments over the last year. The year 2014–15 was a banner year for our school! The faculty secured nearly $3 million in externally funded grants and contracts. A number of these grants are multiyear contracts that will allow us to make significant improvements in the lives of clients we serve. Several of these projects are highlighted within this magazine, such as Dr. Gryglewicz’s suicide prevention work with youths and Dr. Burg’s grant to create the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Social Workers Social Work HEALS program.

This year proved to be outstanding for recruitment as well. Beginning Fall 2015, Dr. Tameca Harris-Jackson, an expert in human sexuality, will join our faculty. Dr. Chris Stewart was appointed to a joint position in social work and criminal justice. His work will focus on juvenile justice research and practice. Finally, Dr. Kim Anderson has accepted a joint position between the School of Social Work and the interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Public Affairs. She will continue her research on domestic violence across a wide range of cultures and serve as the program coordinator for the social work track of the doctoral program.

We have several exciting endeavors on the horizon. As you will read in the magazine, the School of Social Work will launch a fully online part-time M.S.W. program in January 2016. I am also pleased to announce that UCF is the lead university on a Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Program that will begin this fall. This program is a partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). The UCF School of Social Work will subcontract with Florida’s 13 other schools of social work to provide students with specialized knowledge in child welfare and prepare them for work in both state and private children’s services agencies. The Florida Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work agreed to a consortium model approach to working with the DCF. The schools of social work in Florida have developed a wonderful relationship with DCF, and collectively we look forward to further professionalization of the child welfare workforce in Florida.

None of these achievements would be possible without the dedicated work of the faculty, the enthusiasm of our fine students, and the support of the administration and our staff, as well as our friends, field instructors, alumni and community leaders. Serving as the Director of this School is a most rewarding experience for me both personally and professionally. I want to thank all of you who are a part of our community for supporting the work of our School and investing in our students.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of Engage. Please contact me directly if you have any questions about the School or would like to learn more about our programs.

Sincerely,

Bonnie L. Yegidis, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Professor and Director


Updates from the Program Coordinators

Times have changed, but the undergraduate social work professional continues to make essential contributions to our profession. Post-graduation, our students have been hired in areas that include substance abuse, children and families, homelessness and disability. For others, their B.S.W. was seen as a stepping stone to further their academic and professional careers, with many of the B.S.W. students continuing on to graduate school.

Connecting to the community is the cornerstone of the profession, and our students work collaboratively with community partners in the Central Florida region. Our students have collected food and toys during the holidays, assisted with arts and crafts in the children’s unit of a local hospital, and coordinated a community fair for homeless veterans. Whether it’s a course-based service-learning project or an extracurricular activity sponsored by the Bachelor of Social Work Student Association, B.S.W. students are eager to assist in improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable populations.

Robin M. Kohn, M.S.W., LCSW
B.S.W. Program Coordinator/Associate Instructor

The M.S.W. program has some exciting events scheduled for this year! The biggest event is our launch of an online part-time M.S.W. option, a nationwide market-based tuition program that takes three years to complete. We began taking applications July 1 and already have many applicants. We will admit students every semester. The curriculum is the same as that of the face-to-face program with one difference — students will take one class every 7.5 weeks as opposed to two classes every 15 weeks. The program will consist of both asynchronous and synchronous learning. Over the next few years, we anticipate that we will be hiring several new full-time faculty members to teach in our online program.

For more information, please visit ucfonline.com/msw for updates.

Shawn Lawrence, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW
M.S.W. Program Coordinator/Associate Professor

As I begin my work as coordinator of the Social Work Track in the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs, I am impressed by the students in our program and excited to work alongside the faculty within the School of Social Work and the College of Health and Public Affairs. This fall, the program embarks on the third year of a new competency-based curriculum designed to prepare graduates for leadership and scholarship in the public affairs arena. This curriculum provides an innovative approach that centers on interdisciplinary responses to societal problems. Using this approach, our students contribute to the literature as researchers and authors, to the Central Florida community as professional service providers, and to the undergraduate social work program as instructors. Their dissertations are diverse with such topics as veterans’ psychological well-being, home health care provider safety and patient quality of life.

For more information about our Ph.D. program and admission requirements, contact me at Kim.Anderson@ucf.edu.

Kim Anderson, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW
Social Work Track Coordinator for the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs/Professor
The Field Education Office has assembled a strong community-based network of agencies and providers that serve as placement sites for students in the B.S.W. and M.S.W. programs. In the past year, we placed over 450 students in placement sites throughout Central Florida. Through these efforts, the school has had a substantial impact on the community. During the 2014-15 academic year, our students contributed over 213,000 hours to the social service network in the Central Florida region with a value exceeding $2 million dollars.

Our partners in the community include area hospitals, schools, veterans services, community mental health programs, substance abuse treatment centers, hospices, counseling centers, child welfare agencies, juvenile treatment facilities and homeless services. Our students work with client populations ranging from young children to the elderly, providing social work intervention to enhance the quality of their lives. Our students truly make a meaningful impact on our community.

We value the commitment of all agencies and field supervisors who have dedicated many hours to the professional development of our students. We appreciate our partnerships and could not provide quality field education for our students without them. Each year we recognize and award our partners in field education at the Social Work Celebration Ceremony. In 2015, the Orlando Veterans Administration Department of Social Services was presented the Agency Special Recognition Award for excellence in field education. We also recognized two of our field instructors for their exemplary contribution with a Field Instructor of the Year Award: Jennifer Powers, M.S.W., of Catholic Charities of Central Florida, and Ana Gonzalez, LCSW, of Orange County Public Schools. Congratulations to the VA Department of Social Services and to our field instructors of the year.

Jacqueline Withers, M.S.W., LCSW
Field Education Coordinator/Instructor
Interprofessional education — a powerful mechanism for breaking down the silos that prevent holistic responses to patients in health care systems — is quickly becoming standard practice at UCF. Faculty from the School of Social Work, College of Medicine and the University of Florida College of Pharmacy teamed up during the fall and spring semesters to lead interprofessional training events for graduate students from all schools.

Hosted in the UCF Clinical Skills and Simulation Center, students from the social work, medicine and pharmacy programs worked in teams to interview a standardized patient, conduct an assessment and produce a treatment plan. Following their work, they attended a debriefing session with faculty members who had observed their team through one-way mirrors. One student said, “As a social worker, I really enjoyed the interdisciplinary collaboration in regards to treating the whole person. This program allowed professional collaboration between disciplines, by demonstrating that cohesion between disciplines can be highly beneficial in improving client/patient outcomes.”

This style of education — interdisciplinary and experiential — is the most promising effort to date in preparing future health professionals for their work with patients. A pre-post assessment of the event identified the following successes: improved confidence in participating in interprofessional teamwork, respect for the skills and values of the other health profession students, and increased belief in the value of interprofessional patient care.

Assistant Professor Tracy Wharton, one of the organizers of the event, stated, “In the different professional schools, students are socialized for different methods of communicating. By giving them the opportunity to work together with other disciplines, they realize the need to share common terms and goals rather than stick to their school’s own language. The case that we wrote for this training was set up in a way that they needed each other to get the full story.”

Over 450 students received the training during the 2014–15 academic year, and Wharton expects many more to attend in the upcoming academic year. She looks forward to seeing improved outcomes in health care cases as the students graduate and transition into professional practice.

Photos by Anjelica Partridge
Social workers have always played a central role in the health care system — such as guiding patients through the system, providing psychosocial support to patients during stressful treatments and connecting patients to resources. With the new national push for patient-centered integrated health care, social workers are now in a unique place to impact and transform the system. In support of these goals, the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Social Workers Foundation developed the Social Work HEALS program, which serves as a funding mechanism for scholarships and mentorship for undergraduate and graduate social work students.

Professor Mary Ann Burg applied for HEALS funding and received one of the 10 grants issued nationwide. “We are very excited to have been chosen by the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education to be one of the first university sites in the country to train students in this cutting-edge approach to patient care,” said Burg. “With the five years of stipend funding provided by this grant, we will have the privilege and opportunity to put social workers in the forefront of health care change in the U.S.”

Listening to the Cancer Community: Cancer Survivors Struggle Post Treatment

Even decades after being cured, many cancer survivors face physical and mental challenges resulting from their disease and its treatment. That’s the conclusion of a study led by Burg. The study was published in Cancer, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society, and has been quoted in a variety of news sources, including Reuters, USA Today, Cure magazine and multiple oncology online news services. “This study was unique in that it gave a very large sample of cancer survivors a real voice to express their needs and concerns,” Burg said.

Survivors most frequently expressed physical problems, with 38 percent saying they were an issue. Problems related to sexuality and incontinence among prostate cancer survivors were especially common. Financial problems related to the costs of treatment also persisted long after treatment for 20 percent of respondents, with African-American and Hispanic survivors being especially hard-hit. Burg believes these findings could help clinicians and other experts develop interventions that are tailored to the specific types of problems and concerns that cancer survivors may experience.

Burg’s co-authors include UCF colleague Victoria Loerzel; Gail Adorno and Cara Wallace (University of Texas at Arlington); Ellen D. S. Lopez and Dinghy Kristine B. Sharma (University of Alaska Fairbanks); and Kevin Stein (American Cancer Society).
Suicide is now the second-leading cause of death among people ages 10 to 24, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Local estimates from the Florida Department of Health also identify this as an urgent concern, with 765 adolescent and young adults dying from suicide between 2011 and 2013.

A project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and coordinated by Assistant Professor Kim Gryglewicz aims to change these numbers. Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (Florida LINC) will focus on the needs of people ages 10 to 24 who have an increased risk for behavioral health issues, including suicidal thoughts. The project will educate mental health professionals, physicians, nurses, families, teachers, law enforcement, clergy and peers on how to provide support, reassurance and an avenue to treatment if needed. This expands the network of well-informed professionals and community members who can effectively intervene and prevent loss of life.

One of the key components of the project is care coordination. Built on the philosophy of “no wrong door,” Gryglewicz and fellow LINC team members (USF Professor Marc Karver, Sofia Castro from the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, Melissa Witmeier and Mike Hansen from the Florida Council for Community Mental Health and other community leaders) are collaborating with various systems that serve at-risk youth, including managing entities that coordinate behavioral health care. This component prevents youth from falling through cracks that arise from fragmented human service environments. “Our goal is to save lives,” said Gryglewicz. “We want to be sure that youth and families are getting the services they need.”

The LINC project is made possible by a $3.68 million grant from SAMHSA with a project timeline that extends until 2020.

Adapted from an article by Karen Guin.
When UCF made the decision to begin a new online M.S.W. program, School of Social Work Director Bonnie Yegidis was determined to bring the full force of technology to the student learning experience. “Our students are living in technologically advanced times, and they expect state-of-the-art educational systems,” said Yegidis. To make this type of system a reality, she turned to the UCF Institute for Simulation and Training.

The institute referred the School of Social Work to Ryan Hill, a doctoral student in the Modeling and Simulation Graduate Program. He began working with social work Instructor Maralee Walsh on a computer program that could be used for clinical role-plays. The result was Fred, an avatar that can be interviewed by online M.S.W. students. Fred responds to students’ questions and comments in the same way a client would in the real world. The program provides students with an opportunity to practice clinical interviewing using a biopsychosocial assessment framework.

“Heads-on training is vital for clinical courses in online M.S.W. programs,” said Walsh. “This avatar allows us to not only include the hands-on training found in traditional face-to-face programs but to advance beyond the traditional mode.” The avatar has advantages over standard practices such as student role-plays, which don’t always match reality, and field placement practice, in which students may unintentionally harm real clients. Online students will be able to sharpen their skills with Fred before entering field placements.

The first cohort of the new online M.S.W. program will begin classes in January 2016. Shawn Lawrence, Associate Professor and M.S.W. Coordinator, is excited to have Fred as one of the technological tools available for instructors. Along with other faculty members, she has invested two years of planning and preparation into the online program, ensuring that the courses and technology match the educational needs and preferences of online students. “Our online program is designed for the next generation of social workers,” said Lawrence, who is welcoming student applications for the new cohort.

Photo by Abi Bell
The School of Social Work graduated its 38th student from the Graduate Certificate in Military Social Work this past May. Michael Bermes, Ph.D. ’13, M.S.W. ’09, currently the research and program evaluation section head for the Behavior Health Branch of the U.S. Marine Corps, created the certificate program in 2012. After several years of study, he convened an advisory committee composed of service providers, including the Orlando VA Medical Center and the UCF Veterans Academic Resource Center. In collaboration with these community experts, he developed three courses for the certificate and set up field placements in agencies serving veterans. “The development of this certificate was critical to the training of the next generations of clinical experts in caring for our military, veterans and their family members. These graduates are now better prepared to meet the quickly expanding veteran population within the state of Florida,” said Bermes.

As Bermes transitioned into a new position, the baton was passed to Professor Sophia Dziegielewski, a social work researcher who served in both the Air Force and Army. She now leads the certificate program and teaches several of the military social work courses. “The certificate courses provide an in-depth review of the military culture and guide the application of this knowledge in the provision of culturally sensitive practice. The clinical courses take this information further with examinations of combat-related illness and treatment as well as methods for improving service delivery in veteran groups and with their partners, children and extended family members,” said Dziegielewski. “These topics are fundamental in understanding the military experience and identifying risk and resiliency factors that influence veteran well-being.”

In addition to the certificate courses, the School of Social Work seeks to support the continuing education needs of professionals who serve military and veteran populations. During UCF Veterans Week 2014, the School hosted a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) workshop regarding trauma spectrum disorders arising from service in a combat zone. The workshop featured Jeffrey Yarvis, Ph.D., a nationally renowned speaker and researcher with extensive experience in counseling military personnel. He concluded the training session by commending the attendees. “What you are doing is incredibly important,” he said. “You are helping veterans grieve and return to their lives.”

Adapted from an article by Karen Guin.
The Journal of Social Service Research, housed in the School of Social Work, has entered its 37th year of publication. Professor Sophia Dziegielewski, editor, attributes the journal’s longevity to its coverage of both emerging trends and foundational topics that define modern-day social services and social work practice. In the last few years, this interdisciplinary journal has featured special issues regarding gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues across the life span; spirituality in social service; and research related to families with children experiencing medical or mental health problems.

One of the hallmarks of the journal is its emphasis on evidence-based research regarding social service practice and policy. “The journal provides a venue for both quantitative and qualitative research that can be used to better understand social services and optimize the methods of delivery for some of our most vulnerable populations, thereby improving outcomes for individuals, families and communities,” said Dziegielewski.

The journal’s most recent special issue, published in Fall 2014, addressed the challenges faced by families with children who experience medical or mental illness. Featured articles present different perspectives for helping parents and families cope with these challenges and include research-based recommendations for supporting families and strengthening the parent-child relationship in times of crisis. Practitioners are encouraged to look beyond the medical or mental illness and to instead focus on the familial, social and environmental contexts that influence children during their most vulnerable times.

Professor Ana Leon, an editorial board member who guest-edited the Fall 2014 issue, believes that this interaction is an important one that allows practitioners to incorporate the person-in-environment perspective when working with children. “This special issue and the journal in general allow us to present research findings that strengthen and inform the foundation of practice with special populations such as children and their families,” said Leon.

Dziegielewski looks forward to the coming issues, which will feature research on post-traumatic growth in veterans with amputations and the Bantwana Initiative, a comprehensive family services program in sub-Saharan Africa. “When social service researchers produce results that hold potential for moving the field forward, this journal helps to ensure that their findings are shared,” she said.

Facility Journal-Based Publications


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>Assessing PTSD and resilience among Native American adult daughters of abused women</td>
<td>Cherokee Nation</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>2014–15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryer, Wharton, Krick, Mitchell, Norris-Tirrell, &amp; Yegidis</td>
<td>Management and leadership development training</td>
<td>Florida Department of Children and Families</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>2015–16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burg</td>
<td>Social work health care education and leadership scholars (HEALS)</td>
<td>NASW &amp; CSWE</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>2015–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childs &amp; Gryglewicz (Co-PI)</td>
<td>Developing knowledge about what works to make schools safe</td>
<td>National Institute of Justice</td>
<td>$2,269,744</td>
<td>2015–17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karver &amp; Gryglewicz (Co-PI)</td>
<td>Campus suicide prevention grant</td>
<td>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</td>
<td>$612,000</td>
<td>2013–16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karver &amp; Gryglewicz (Co-PI)</td>
<td>State youth suicide prevention grant: Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (FL LINC)</td>
<td>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</td>
<td>$3,680,000</td>
<td>2014–19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon</td>
<td>Enhancing caregiving capacity for very young children: your journey together home visiting intervention</td>
<td>Florida Institute for Child Welfare</td>
<td>$28,267</td>
<td>2015–16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steen &amp; Burg (Co-PI)</td>
<td>Child abuse prevention campaign evaluation</td>
<td>Florida Department of Children and Families</td>
<td>$74,716</td>
<td>2015–17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wan, Golden, &amp; Gammonley (Collaborator)</td>
<td>Evaluating the effect of toolkit use on caregiving burden and health-related quality of life on Alzheimer’s caregivers</td>
<td>Pabst Charitable Foundation for the Arts</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wharton</td>
<td>Investigating health and well-being of older adults through focus on risk management of aggressive behavior by dementia patients</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health - National Institute on Aging</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
<td>2014–16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yegidis</td>
<td>Title IV-E social work student stipend program</td>
<td>Florida Department of Children and Families</td>
<td>$5,400,000</td>
<td>2015–17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**DSM-5 In Action**
Authored by Professor Sophia Dziegielewski
Published by Wiley
In this newest edition of *DSM-5 in Action*, Dziegielewski and her co-authors emphasize the connection between diagnostic assessment, treatment planning and practice strategy. Section I clearly defines the basics of the diagnostic assessment, while section II focuses specifically on application and treatment. The book includes chapters co-authored with fellow UCF experts Professor Ana Leon and Associate Professors George Jacinto and Olga Molina.

**The Changing Face of Health Care Social Work: Opportunities and Challenges for Professional Practice**
Authored by Professor Sophia Dziegielewski
Published by Springer Publishing Company
Dziegielewski’s “third edition of this best-selling social work text reflects the dramatic changes that have taken place in the health care environment.” This text “encompasses many facets of professional social work practice within the U.S. health care system, across key health care settings and with numerous patient populations.”

**International Handbook of Adolescent Pregnancy: Medical, Psychosocial, and Public Health Responses**
Edited by Andrew L. Cherry (University of Oklahoma) and Lecturer Mary E. Dillon
Published by Springer Publishing Company
Dillon’s most recent textbook is “a go-to reference for practitioners and researchers in maternal and child health, pediatrics, adolescent medicine and global health.” The chapters provide a “comprehensive examination of globally recognized values and best practice principles for studying and responding to adolescent pregnancy.”

**Research Methods for Social Workers**
Authored by Director and Professor Bonnie L. Yegidis, Robert W. Weinbach (University of South Carolina) and Laura L. Myers (Florida A&M University)
Published by Pearson (currently being revised for an eighth edition)
The most recent edition of this textbook is designed to provide an accessible foundations perspective on research methods and evidence-based practice for social work students. Supplemental materials that support student mastery of the core competencies in social work education are provided.

**The Behavioral Health Specialist in Primary Care: Skills for Integrated Practice**
Authored by Professor Mary Ann Burg and Oliver Oyama (private practice)
Published by Springer Publishing Company
This text “provides comprehensive training for all health professionals including those in medicine, nursing, social work, mental health, and clinical and health psychology who desire targeted evidence-based training in Behavioral Health skills. Rich case examples drawn from typical patient presentations demonstrate the relationship between physical and psychological health and the complexity of behavior change in chronic illness.”
Maynard Evans High School in the Pine Hills area of Orlando received a $2,000 grant and several donations for its Garden Club, thanks to the efforts of students from the School of Social Work. UCF students in Instructor Coleen Cicale’s fall semester course Macro-Level Roles and Interventions in Social Work collaborated on a class project aimed at supporting the high school’s club and raising awareness of food insecurity. Their goal was to obtain funds to support, sustain and expand the high school’s garden in hopes of supplying fresh foods to the high school and possibly the community, said Cicale.

Several UCF students worked with Evans High School teacher Delila Smalley to develop the grant proposal. They submitted the proposal to Whole Kids Foundation, a charitable organization based in Austin, Texas, whose mission is to provide children with access to healthy choices through partnerships with schools, educators and organizations.

“We’re very excited,” Smalley said. “We’re working to make our organization sustainable, so the first thing we’re doing is mapping out a plan for how to distribute the funds over time.” Among the club’s first purchases will be garden tools, soil containers and wood for additional planting beds, she said. Other students in the class held a community event to raise funds and secure donations of fruit and vegetable plants and seeds. The students brought in $329 and received gifts of 274 seed packets from local nurseries.

The project was presented at Gardening for Good: A Community Garden Conference at Monmouth University, which took place August 7–9.

Adapted from an article by Karen Guin.
Student Achievements

B.S.W.

Awards and Honors

Caleb Bauman, Deborah Cobb, Shawn Garland, Charo Jean, Ashley Jones and Emily Koschler were recognized at the B.S.W. graduation celebration for earning a perfect 4.0 GPA in their social work courses.

Naya Carrillo received the B.S.W. Field Education Student of the Year Award.

Katelynn Craft received the B.S.W. Academic and Professional Excellence Award.

Lyndon Ortiz received the B.S.W. Perseverance and Resilience Award.

Barbara Zamudio was elected as the 2015–16 B.S.W. student representative to the board of directors for the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Theses

Sara Guliet received the Cheryl Evans Green Memorial Scholarship.

Joel Pieper and Rebecca Xiarhos received the College of Health and Public Affairs Undergraduate Scholarship.

Ivonne Ramos received the Patricia Barnes Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

Katelynn Craft successfully defended her Honors in the Major thesis entitled “The Mediating Roles of Stress and Coping on Adolescent Lesbian Homelessness.”

Liana Menendez successfully defended her Honors in the Major thesis entitled “Latino Cultural Competency in Social Work Education: A Review of the Literature.” She received the College of Health and Public Affairs Honors in the Major Scholarship in recognition of her work.

Kyra Nickell successfully defended her Honors in the Major thesis entitled “Domestic Violence Shelter Policies Across the State of Florida.”

Elizabeth Scheiner successfully defended her Honors in the Major thesis entitled “The Increase of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation by Low-income Workers: A Social Work Perspective.”

School Director Bonnie Yegidis, Gullet and college Dean Michael Frumkin

Scholarships

Hollie Farrell received the Dawn Brett Memorial Scholarship.

Valentina Fevrier and Kaamilah Mixon received the Judith G. Thames Endowed Scholarship.

Valentina Fevrier and Kaamilah Mixon received the Judith G. Thames Endowed Scholarship.

Research Accomplishments

Yvi Goddard (B.S.W., ’14) presented her Honors in the Major thesis with mentor Dr. Mary Ann Burg at the 2014 Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education. Her presentation was titled “Advancing Social Work Education: Preparing Students to Work in the Health Reform Environment.”

Yegidis, Thames, Fevrier, Mixon, Lampron and Frumkin

M.S.W.

Awards and Honors

Meredith Adrion received the M.S.W. Clinical Field Education Student of the Year Award.

Olivia Quinn received the M.S.W. Generalist Field Education Student of the Year Award.

Scholarships

Francesca Ferretti received the Marlene Richmond Memorial Scholarship.

Jessica Lampron received the Judith G. Thames Endowed Scholarship.

Sarah Maginnis received the Danielle L. Adler Scholarship.

Research Accomplishments

Colleen Cicale conducted two presentations at the NASW-Florida Social Work Conference 2015.

Cicale and Macri presented at the UCF Graduate Research Forum.

Dissertations


Shabu Varghese successfully defended his prospectus entitled “Determinants of Health-Related Quality of Life of Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease” in June 2015.

Colleen Campbell served as lead author for a 2014 article published in Health & Social Work. Campbell conducted two peer-reviewed presentations at the Fourth International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector.

School Director Bonnie Yegidis, B.S.W. Program Coordinator Robin Kohn, Ferretti and Frumkin

Associate Dean Ross Wolf, Macri and Frumkin

Yegidis, Thamas, Fevrier, Mixon, Lampron and Frumkin

Associate Dean Ross Wolf, Macri and Frumkin

Yegidis, Thamas, Fevrier, Mixon, Lampron and Frumkin

Photos by Abi Bell
This year was an exciting one to visit the Florida Legislature. Visitors could expect to witness many debates, including those focused on medical marijuana, K–12 testing, prison reform and health care funding for low-income Floridians. Because these important issues impact the clients and communities served by the social work profession, policy presents itself as increasingly relevant to social work practice and education.

In recognition of this connection between policy and practice, UCF social work students traveled to Tallahassee in March for Legislative Education and Advocacy Day, an event sponsored by the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Scheduled for the midpoint of the 2015 Legislative Session, students attended committee meetings and individual meetings with legislators.

Citing opportunities to talk “about social work, social justice and policy with several hundred social work students, NASW leadership and social work educators,” B.S.W. student Joel Piper said that the event “introduced [him] to the legislative process in a hands-on way.” Fellow B.S.W. student Jillian Baxter believes that the event further reinforced for her the “interconnections between micro, mezzo and macro levels of practice.”

The NASW Florida Chapter hosted students from social work schools across the state. With total attendance topping 800, UCF represented the largest portion of the group and received the University Achievement Award for Outstanding Participation.

“We’re very proud of our students who have carried on this distinguished tradition of representing the University of Central Florida at the Capitol,” said B.S.W. Program Coordinator and Associate Instructor Robin Kohn. “Our students not only strengthen their understanding of policy practice through their participation, but they also honor our university and profession through their engagement with Florida’s most powerful players.”
## Faculty Leadership in Professional Social Work Organizations and Affiliated Entities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Member</th>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burg</td>
<td>CSWE</td>
<td>Annual Program Meeting Health Track</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapple</td>
<td>CSWE</td>
<td>Council on Disability and Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon</td>
<td>CSWE</td>
<td>Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris-Jackson</td>
<td>CSWE</td>
<td>Council on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacinto</td>
<td>CSWE</td>
<td>Council on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression</td>
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<td>Kohn</td>
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<td>Child Welfare Specialty Practice Section</td>
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<td>Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education</td>
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<td>Wharton</td>
<td>AEA</td>
<td>Military and Veteran Evaluation Topic Interest Group</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<td>Wharton</td>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>Field Panel for ICD-11 Mental and Behavioral Disorders</td>
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<td>Withers</td>
<td>BPD</td>
<td>Field Directors Committee</td>
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<td>Yegidis</td>
<td>CSWE</td>
<td>Council on Conferences and Faculty Development</td>
<td>Member</td>
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</table>

### Faculty Honors

**Assistant Professor Reshawna Chapple** was selected as a 2015 College of Health and Public Affairs Research Fellow. This fellowship provides training and mentorship for grant proposal production. Her work will focus on deafness and disability research and training culturally competent social workers.

**Associate Professor Denise Gammonley** received a 2015 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award at UCF. She has produced multiple publications regarding the study-abroad experience and methods for integrating community service and policy advocacy into study abroad.

**Associate Professor George Jacinto** received the 2015 Educator of the Year Award from the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. He has invested many years in the professional development of social work students and has connected these students to multiple community-based projects.

**M.S.W. Coordinator and Associate Professor Shawn Lawrence** received a 2015 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award at UCF. She focuses her scholarly work on pedagogical models for teaching psychopathology and pharmacology in the field of social work.

*AEAt = American Evaluation Association  
BPD = Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors  
CSWE = Council on Social Work Education  
IASWG = International Association of Social Work with Groups  
NASW = National Association of Social Workers  
WHO = World Health Organization*
Faculty and Staff

Faculty

Kim M. Anderson, Ph.D., M.S.S.W., LCSW*
Professor, PAF Coordinator, Social Work Track

Mary Ann Burg, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW
Professor, Associate Director of Research

Reshawna Chapple, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW
Assistant Professor

Mary Dillon, Ed.D., M.S.W.
Lecturer

Sophia Dziegielewski, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW
Professor, Military Social Work Certificate Coordinator

Denise Gammonley, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW
Associate Professor

Kim Gryglewicz, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Assistant Professor

Shelley Hall, M.S.W.
Instructor, Assistant Field Education Coordinator

George A. Jacinto, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.Ed., LCSW, CPC
Associate Professor

Robin Kohn, M.S.W., LCSW
Associate Instructor, B.S.W. Program Coordinator

Shawn Lawrence, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW
Associate Professor, M.S.W. Program Coordinator

Ana M. Leon, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW
Professor

Mary Mann, M.S.W.
Instructor

Shellene Mazany, M.S.W., LCSW
Instructor, Field Education Coordinator

Olga Molina, D.S.W., M.S.W., LCSW
Associate Professor

Julie Steen, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Associate Professor

Tracy Wharton, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.Ed., LCSW
Assistant Professor

Jacqueline Withers, M.S.W., LCSW
Instructor, Field Education Coordinator

Bonnie Yegidis, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Professor, Director

Zaida Valentin
B.S.W. Program Assistant

Not pictured above: Kevin Brown, Ph.D., M.S.W., Lecturer; Tameca Harris-Jackson, Ph.D., M.S.W., LICSW*, Lecturer; Chris Stewart, Ph.D., M.S.W.*, Associate Professor.

*New in Fall 2015

Staff

Catherine Cash, M.A.
Coordinator, B.S.W. Program Advisor

Ada Heller
Administrative Assistant

Lisa Johannes, A.A.
M.S.W. Program Assistant

Chichi Pizarro, M.A.
Coordinator, Administrative Services

Zaida Valentin
B.S.W. Program Assistant

Not pictured above: Coleen Cicale, M.S.W., Interim Coordinator, M.S.W. Program Advisor; Shanice Rodriguez, B.A., Program Assistant
Community Advisory Council Membership

Danna Carroll
Orange County Citizen’s Commission for Children

Evelyn Clegg
Meridian Associates Counseling and Prevention Services

Denise DaCosta
Orlando VA Medical Center

William S. D’Aiuto
Florida Department of Children and Families

Nancy Ellis
COHPA Center for Community Partnerships

Emily Garten
Devereux Family Counseling Center

Mercedes F. McCall
Florida Bank of Commerce

Chuck Miceli
Miceli Counseling Associates, LLC

Joan Nelson
Heart of Florida United Way

Mary Norris
Arnold Palmer Medical Center

Michele Saunders
Orlando VA Medical Center

Uschi Schueller
Kinder Konsulting & Parents Too

Faith Sills
Office of the Public Defender

Judith G. Thames
Winter Park Health Foundation

Robert Wesley
Public Defender, 9th Judicial Circuit

Tyra Witsell
Orange County Citizens’ Commission for Children

UCF SSW Programs

Bachelor of Social Work
- Certificate in Aging Studies
- Certificate in Children’s Services
- Minor in Aging Studies

Master of Social Work
- Face-to-Face and Online Options
- Certificate in Military Social Work

Doctoral Program in Public Affairs
- Social Work Track