The first class of students in the Accelerated MSW Program, which allows students with a recent BA in social work, to complete an MSW in three semesters.
Fall is upon us in Iowa City and the city is a splash with the colors of changing leaves. Our beloved Hawkeye football team leading their division heading into the second half of the season. And….great things are happening in the School of Social Work. We have students in advanced practicum settings gearing up for their spring field placements, participating in immersion trips to Portland, Oregon and India, finalizing their dissertations, and serving individuals in volunteer placements.

I also have been engaged in community based service, specially training the new class of hospice volunteers at the Iowa Medical Classification Center (IMCC) in Coralville. IMCC has had a prison hospice program for more than a decade which is run by one of our alumni, Kim Juraco. First introduced to the prison hospice program approximately six years ago, I find my involvement with the offenders who give of themselves to care for the dying one of my most fulfilling activities. When we think of “prisoners”, we automatically go to violent murderers, rapists, gun toting robbers, and individuals who possess many anti-social qualities. However, when I walk into IMCC and see the team of hospice volunteers, all offenders who are serving as little as a few years or as much as a life sentence, I am in awe of their compassion, dedication, empathy, and commitment to their dying brothers behind bars. During the hospice training this month, I had the opportunity to educate the group on the concept of grief and how grief is manifested during the dying process.

After I spoke, the experienced volunteers had the opportunity to share “life lessons” with the new cohort of offenders joining the hospice program. These men discussed the importance of human touch, such as hand holding or massage, being a strong listener to the dying, being a resource to family members who choose to visit, and most importantly being a supportive presence to the dying individual to alleviate fear and anxiety. As these men spoke, I fought tears as the stereotypes and biases that we have about people behind bars were once again challenged for me. These men are serving others, the most vulnerable, in the most compassionate of ways. The eyes of the volunteers spoke volumes as they shared how they are better people because of their work with hospice and how blessed they are to have the chance, despite their crimes, to serve others.

I share this because as social workers, we strive to embrace a strengths perspective and the belief that problems and adversities do not define us. We speak of the resiliency of the human spirit and how people have the ability to change, not allowing their past to define them. We are asked by our Code to embrace diversity, cultural competency, and to challenge our biases and stereotypes. The hospice volunteers at IMCC have provided me with a glimpse of the criminal justice system that I had never considered. I was rooted in stereotypes about people we define as criminals and doubted their capacity to fully change, experience empathy, and have a heart of service. Each and every time I walk into the prison and see the faces of the volunteers, I am humbled by their love and kindness for others. This has made me a better person, a better social worker, and better servant to others by smashing the stereotypes and biases that I once had. I am proud of these men, this program, and the great service that is being provided to the dying behind bars.

So I encourage you to look for opportunities to allow others to help you grow and to better yourself. Just as my life experience is not the same as the men I am blessed to know behind bars, these men have helped me grow, expand my beliefs, and reaffirmed my core values as a social worker; we are not defined by the choices we made….we are defined by how we use those choices to improve our lives. I hope you are a wonderful fall, holiday season, and thank you for your ongoing support of the School of Social Work.

Sara Sanders
Over the spring break I was able to go to Portland for the School of Social Work immersion trip. Portland has many programs implemented for people experiencing homelessness and offers a completely different perspective. They believe that rather than shuffling people experiencing homelessness from service to service and back to the street, the focus must be on first get people experiencing homelessness into permanent housing. One of the places we visited was called Dignity Village which is a community of mini houses for individuals experiencing homelessness. These houses are painted by local volunteer artists in the community and can be built by volunteers such as boy and girl scouts. Unlike places here in Des Moines, pets are allowed as well as couples, so they do not split up families. Going to Portland, I realized that I can help create that here in Des Moines. It is possible to create non-profits similar to Portland here in Des Moines and we don’t just have to “settle” for the status quo. Our society has become desensitized to people experiencing homelessness. It inspired me so much to know that there are college kids who have literally started non-profits out of their homes from scratch. I realized that there are too many people who ask: “what can I do- I am just one person?” and when everyone starts saying that, then nothing gets done. I don’t want to be that person.

-Kelly Meany, Des Moines MSW student, BA Social Work graduate (’15).

Dignity Village House

Des Moines BA students Akaisha Blackhawk, Ashley Parker, & Brian Speicher worked with Helen’s Pajama Party to increase awareness of domestic violence. The students also sorted, packaged, shipped, and delivered pajamas that were delivered to domestic violence shelters in central and eastern Iowa.

Nate Kieso, MSW student in Iowa City, marched in support of a raise of the minimum wage, in the Fight for $15 demonstration. He also attended the Johnson County Board of Supervisors’ Public Forum on the same issue.

Marva Bailey, Melissa Chapman, and Doug Griffith, University of Iowa BA Social Work students at The Pappajohn Center in Des Moines, held a fundraiser as part of a class project. Under the supervision of their professor, Sandra McGee, they raised over 1600 food, clothing, and toiletry items for The Project of Primary Health Care in Des Moines, in efforts to help the HIV/AIDS and homeless communities in Central Iowa.

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
Comings & Goings

New Faculty

This fall we welcomed a new faculty member, Aislinn Conrad-Hiebner, PhD. Aislinn received her BSW at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas, before completing her MSW and PhD at the University of Kansas. She is teaching the Masters’ Human Behavior in the Social Environment class and Advanced Practicum Seminar for integrated students in their second year.

Aislinn’s research examines how families’ experience of poverty and economic hardship impacts their children’s risk for abuse over time. Previously, as a research analyst, she managed Project LAUNCH, a federally funded early childhood project in Kansas. She has also partnered with FRIENDS National Resource Center to validate the Spanish version of the Protective Factors Survey (S-PRS), a survey used in child maltreatment prevention programs. Before entering her doctoral program, she investigated alleged incidences of child abuse and neglect in Kansas and served as a foster care reintegration social worker.

When asked what attracted her to the University of Iowa, Aislinn stated that she was impressed by Iowa’s focus on child welfare and interest in poverty, her two passion areas. Welcome Aislinn!

New PhD Student

Elizabeth Byram—Liz received her MSW from the University of Iowa School of Social Work. She has over eight years of supervisory, direct practice and advocacy experience, working with children and adults with disabilities and mental health needs at Systems Unlimited and the ARC of Southeast Iowa. Her research interests include identifying whether and how adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers’ needs change over their life course and how to assist them during life transitions.

Emily Martin—Emily is enrolled in our MSW/PhD program and has several years of direct practice and teaching experience, including Teach for America. She was a teaching assistant at the UI for Introduction to Statistics and a research assistant in the Psychology Department, where she conducted research on the relationship between personality and police officers’ performance. Emily’s master’s thesis examines the relationship between knowledge about trauma and teachers’ interactions with and attitudes towards at-risk youth.

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
Alumni, Student, Community, Collaborate for Change

School alum Tammy Reiff, (MSW ’08), is on the City Council of North Sioux City, SD, which provides oversight and funding to the North Sioux City Senior Center. When she became aware of escalating problems at the Center between volunteers and the congregate meals program, provided by the Rural Office of Community Services, (ROCS), she knew what was needed and called Julia Kleinschmit. Julia is the MSW Program Director and has administered and taught at the Sioux City MSW Program since 1999. Reiff is a graduate of the Sioux City Program and asked Julia if her students could conduct a needs assessment of the Center as a class project. Two MSW students, Sara Staver and Lorelei Thomas, agreed to take on the project for Independent Study credit.

“The students did a fantastic job of listening to the feelings and opinions of all the stakeholders in a difficult and delicate situation that had been deteriorating for several years,” Reiff said. “The fact that they were ‘outsiders’, i.e. not from South Dakota, and from the university, was both an advantage and a challenge. They had to earn the seniors’ trust, but they were also impartial.”

The students spent several weeks observing, interviewing and conducting focus groups about concerns of senior center board members, ROCS supervisor and employees and community members, to identify gaps, barriers and strengths of the system.

“There were times when I had to pull out every counseling skill I had to get folks to talk to me. Some long standing senior volunteers had wielded a lot of power over others without any real authority to do so. Some people felt bullied and excluded. It got out of hand and the police were called several times. Something had to change and we were able to make some recommendations to the City Council that are now being implemented,” Staver said. “I learned a tremendous amount and the positive outcome really boosted my confidence in my skills.”

The center’s Board of Directors was discovered to be non-functional and so elections were held for a new Board and new bylaws were drawn up that made explicit the boundaries between the Board and ROCS and other entities using the center. The City Council approved funding for a half time center Coordinator to provide on-site support for the new system.

“It was a win for everyone. We got real world practice and they got an opportunity to move forward with agreements that empowered everyone as well as ways to provide input in the future,” Staver said.

Lorelei Thomas added, “The community was wonderful to work with. It took a while for us to build trust with them but once we gained their trust and support, it was encouraging to see the willingness almost everyone had to want to improve the senior center. There were still those who felt betrayed and not heard, but we tried our best to give every senior in the community an opportunity to be heard. It was a great opportunity for me and reinforced why I enjoy social work and community collaboration so much!”

Reiff said, “It worked out even better than I had hoped.”

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
On Friday, September 25, 2015, 70 people gathered in the University Conference Center to learn about micro-aggressions and how to manage them personally and in their work with clients. The workshop was arranged at the request of students from the School of Social Work as a result of their personal experiences with micro-aggressions in their fieldwork placements. Micro-aggressions are conscious or unconscious comments or ideas that are based in personal biases or common stereotypes.

One of the individuals attending was a U of I SSW alumna, Jennifer Lock. She explained, “Social work is all about communication and learning to read signals. Not to mention, our own personal bias and respecting dignity for all. I think this workshop is really informative.”

The main objective of the workshop was to help individuals understand the different types and implicit messages of micro-aggressions, and to demonstrate effective methods for interrupting and intervening when micro-aggressions occur.

Fatima Jayoma, a student at The U of I said, “I am attending the workshop today because I want to further my training and understand personal bias so I can use those tools in the workplace and also know how to handle micro-aggressions. For social work, I want to continue to challenge my beliefs and learn new things, creating cultural diversity.”

Tracy Peterson, (MSW, 2002), the Director of Diversity Programs and K-12 Outreach in the College of Engineering at The U of I, was one of the presenters at the workshop. Tracy explained the relevancy of the workshop for social workers saying, “Cultural competence is a point of paramount significance to social workers and they need to understand what micro-aggressions are. Social workers need to work from a place of understanding, because social workers are ‘social change agents’ and need to exhibit that in their work and to others that they work with.” As a citizen of the Diné (Navajo) Nation, Tracy understands the impact that micro-aggressions have on individuals. At the workshop he discussed his personal experiences of being a victim of micro-aggressions.

The workshop was sponsored by the school’s Diversity and Social Justice Committee. Presenters were Linda Stewart Kroon, MA, Tracy Peterson, MSW, Kendra Malone, MA, and Denise Martinez, MD.

Chitra Shah Visits School

On September 2nd, Chitra Shah, MSW, gave a special presentation to the School of Social Work as part of her visit to the UI. Her talk focused on her work with people with disabilities and the Satya Special School that she founded in Pondicherry India in 2003. The school is one of the locations our students visit during the annual immersion trip to India. Ms. Shah has won numerous awards for her groundbreaking work in a country that has few programs and resources for people with disabilities.
Spring is awards season and this year the School of Social Work faculty, staff, and students received several.

~Julia Kleinschmit, Clinical Associate Professor and now Director of the MSW Program received the CLAS 2015 Outstanding Outreach and Engagement Award in recognition of her commitment to distance education through technology and her service to Native persons in the Sioux City region for many years.

~Motier Haskins, Clinical Assistant Professor, and now Director of the BA Program, received the Catherine G. Williams Lifetime Diversity Award from the Iowa Chapter of NASW.

~Kate Kemp, Program Administrator, received the CLAS Staff Excellence Award.

~Jefri Palermo, Development Coordinator, received the Diversity Catalyst Award.

~Erin Robinson, PhD student, received the national 2015 Group for the Advancement of Social Work Doctoral Education, Student Award for Teaching in Social Work.

~Fatima Jayoma, BA student, was appointed as a student representative to the Iowa NASW.

Directors of the MSW, BA and PhD programs are honored during the transition party in May. L to R, Julia Kleinschmit, Motier Haskins, Carol Coohey.

Ed Sanders ‘passes the torch’ of Director to Sara Sanders.
Thanks to our summer Practicum & Fieldwork Supervisors!

We are always grateful to our placement supervisors. They provide a critical function in preparing our students for the profession. The names in bold represent our alumni. If you would like to supervise a student, please contact our Field Director, Lily French at lily-french@uiowa.edu. We welcome fieldwork supervisors from across the country. It’s a great way to pay it forward!

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<tr>
<th>Supervisors</th>
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<td>Sheila Aukes</td>
<td>DMACC</td>
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<td>Melinda Graham-Hinners</td>
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<td>RaeAnn Barnhart</td>
<td>Four Oaks Inc.</td>
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<td><strong>Jody Calvert</strong></td>
<td>Mary Greeley Medical Center, Behavioral Health</td>
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<td><strong>Dana Cheek</strong></td>
<td>UnityPoint Health, Adolescent and Adult Behavioral Mental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesleyann Christensen</td>
<td>VNS: Visiting Nurse Services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Andrew Coghill-Behrends</strong></td>
<td>Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jill Cook</strong></td>
<td>LifeWorks-Pediatric Integrated Health Program</td>
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<td><strong>Jordan Cullen</strong></td>
<td>HomeChoice Senior Care, Marion, IA</td>
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<td>Kimberly Decker</td>
<td>DuPage County Dept. of Probation &amp; Court Services, Wheaton, IL</td>
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<td><strong>Pat Elkington</strong></td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center-Cedar Rapids</td>
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<td><strong>Andrea Gustafson</strong></td>
<td>One Iowa</td>
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<td>Kimberly Hanrahan</td>
<td>United Action for Youth</td>
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<td>Lisa Heldenbrand</td>
<td>Polk County Crisis and Advocacy</td>
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<td>Michelle Hession</td>
<td>ServeHAITI, Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td><strong>Rebecca Hoefer</strong></td>
<td>CFI-Behavioral Health Intervention Services, Des Moines</td>
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<td><strong>Jeanie McCarville Kerber</strong></td>
<td>DMACC Human Services Program</td>
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<td><strong>Ilima Young-Dunn</strong></td>
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<td>Jena Maloney</td>
<td>St. Luke’s Medical Social Services, Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
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<td>Mary Milder</td>
<td>Shelter House</td>
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<td><strong>Ethan Novak</strong></td>
<td>CMHC-PATH Homeless Outreach</td>
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<td>Faye Petersen</td>
<td>UnityPoint at Home</td>
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<td>Sarah Petzel</td>
<td>Youth Outreach Services, Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Denise Rathman</td>
<td>NASW Iowa Chapter</td>
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<td><strong>Allison Reynolds</strong></td>
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<td>Kimberly Rezarch</td>
<td>Projects for All, Fairfield, IA</td>
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<td><strong>Nicole Romer</strong></td>
<td>UnityPoint Health, Blank Children’s Hospital-Regional Child Protection Center</td>
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NRC-Research to Practice

A substantial body of research indicates that supervision is key for social worker satisfaction and retention. **Associate Professor Miriam Landsman, MSW, Ph.D.** researches how supervision affects practitioner commitment and service delivery. With funding from ACF, USDDHS, the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice (NRC) collaborated with the Iowa Department of Human Services to develop a model of training to enhance child welfare supervision. The NRC, with funding from the Iowa Department of Management Office of Empowerment, adapted the curriculum to train family support supervisors.

The Iowa Family Support Supervisor Certification Training is a 48 hour blended in-person/online training built around four domains of supervision including human resources, family support practice, leadership, and safety and resilience. The course is approved for SSW graduate credit and for three hours of continuing education. Enrollment in training also entitles supervisors to participate in a Community of Practice. The course is offered twice a year in Des Moines and is open to enrollment by supervisors in a variety of practice settings. For more information, contact NRC Training Director Lisa D’Aunno, lisa-daunno@uiowa.edu.

In 2015, Professor Landsman completed a second wave of a study of the Iowa family support workforce, with funding from the Iowa Department of Public Health. Supervisors assessed supervisory performance since completion of the certification training. More than half of supervisors who completed the certification training felt that their skills improved in strength-based, reflective supervision, providing staff feedback, leadership, and addressing staff stress, resilience and safety.

40 Years of Wild Bill’s Coffee Shop

Bill Sackter Day Award winners were Tanya Williams, Barb Kahl, Nadin Mustafa and Bev Sweet.

Tanya Williams, Bev Sweet, Tanya’s father, alum David Smith, and Eleanor Anstey.

L-Barb Kahl was a Program Consultant in the Child Health Specialty Clinic at CDD where she worked since 1987. She retired in May. R-Nadin Mustafa is an MSW student and was the Staff Manager in Wild Bill’s last year.

Ed Saunders and Tom Walz; two Directors who made the success of the coffee shop and the legacy of Bill Sackter part of their life’s work.

Ed Gaines worked at Wild Bill’s for many years.
The 16th Iowa Latin@ Conference

The School of Social Work, in partnership with the Center for Diversity and Enrichment, the College of Business and other groups and individuals across Iowa, presented the 16th Strengthening and Valuing Latino Communities in Iowa Conference. The conference consists of a Latino Youth Leadership Development Summit and a Professional Development Institute that run concurrently.

This year the Youth Summit drew 370 high school students and chaperones from across Iowa.

Keynote speaker Joaquin Zihuatanego performed several of his poems chosen to emphasize the importance of connection with family, addressing racism and pursuing education and one’s dreams. He also gave a workshop in the afternoon. Other workshops focused on Latin@ identity, preparing for college, STEM careers, and political participation.

The Professional Development Institute heard from the Iowa Teacher of the Year, Clemencia Spizzirri, whose message was that ‘we can’t wait 50 more years’ for the numbers of teachers of color to increase to where there is parity with students. Instead we need to develop the cultural intelligence of our current teachers and provide them with the support and resources that will enable them to teach all students from all backgrounds, more effectively.

www.iowalatinoconference.org
Ryan Berg, Des Moines native and 2005 alumni of the School of Social Work’s Creative Writing Seminar for Social Workers, has recently published a memoir, *No Place to Call Home*. Although the book centers on his time working with LGBTQ youth in foster care in New York City, the first few pages were written in the workshop.

Berg was motivated to write this book after seeing how so many youths were lost in the system and unprepared to live independently after aging out of care.

Statistics show that 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Berg stated, “The pipeline into homelessness was astonishing to me. I was also frustrated and enraged that so many LGBTQ youths faced discrimination, violence and rejection by foster parents and service providers, and were traumatized by their experience in foster care”.

In September, Ryan spoke at Prairie Lights about his new book and also led a conversation with Kai McGee from Iowa KidsNet and Four Oaks, about LGBTQ youth homelessness in Iowa and the coalition of organizations working on changing state policies related to homeless youth. Kai has worked in human services for 20 years and spoke of her experiences witnessing LGBTQ youth being denied access to physical and mental healthcare, not referred to by their names and pronouns of reference, the loss of many to suicide or being re-homed in foster care.

The oppression of LGBTQ homeless youth is not only a problem nationally, but also exists in Iowa. Ryan’s advice for young social work professionals would be to “Know yourself, know your limits, and do the work on yourself before stepping up to the plate. I learned that I have to manage my own expectations daily. Educate yourself on systems and policy in addition to direct care work, this way you can best advocate for your clients. Really learn trauma-informed care and how to apply it. Don’t fall into the trap of prescriptive care. Each client is unique. One-size-fits-all does not apply. Meet the client where they are at, and honor their journey”.

AFFIRM is a new coalition of organizations and concerned stakeholders trying to push for reform in both the child welfare system and the juvenile court system. Anyone who cares about these issues is welcome to join the group. They meet monthly in Ames and provide a conference line for those who want to participate by speakerphone. For more information, contact Kai McGee at 515-326-2120, or pmcgee@fouroaks.org

In DHS state fiscal year 2012 (7/1/2011-6/30/2012) there were 10,312 children in care in the state of Iowa (excludes number of youth involved in juvenile justice system). This ranged from youth who were removed from their homes or families and placed with relatives or kin, to youth who were placed in foster care, to youth who were placed in congregate care settings. Approximately 45% of these youth were aged 10 or older.

In Juvenile Justice state fiscal year 2011 (7/1/2010-6/30/2011) there were 2,976 youth who spent time in detention or other juvenile justice “hold” facilities. Above 97% of these youth are aged 10 and older.

Although there is no specific data in Iowa that determines the number of LGBTQ youth who are system involved, we can draw conclusions from several national studies to achieve an estimate: Although LGBTQ persons are estimated to make up about 5-10% of the entire population, LGBTQ identified youth are found to be disproportionately present in both systems of care. 18-20% of youth in the child welfare system identify as LGBTQ or gender non-conforming, and 13% of youth in juvenile justice detention identify as LGBTQ or gender non-conforming.

In Iowa an estimated 835 LGBTQ identified youth are in the child welfare system annually, and an estimated 386 LGBTQ youth are held in detention facilities annually.

**There are currently NO laws addressing discrimination against LGBTQ individuals or discrimination in the juvenile justice system.**
Mercedes Bern-Klug was listed as a Change AGent in Action in the John A. Hartford Foundation’s Annual Report for her work on honoring the wishes of nursing home residents through training nursing home staff members in how to implement the Iowa Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (IPOST). You can listen to her description of the project at http://www.jhartfound.org/ar2014/honoring-the-wishes-of-nursing-home-residents.html

Amy Butler - Adolescence is a period during which individuals are developing a sense of identity, emotional independence from parents, and productive peer relationships and when they are exploring the larger social world. A violent victimization during adolescence has the potential to disrupt these developmental processes, negatively influencing a girl’s developing self-image, setting back her movement towards independence, and undermining her trust in people. In a recent study, I found that young women who had been sexually assaulted during adolescence had lower levels of self-worth and liked themselves less than did other young women. They were more likely than other young women to be married or cohabitating, yet they were less satisfied with these intimate relationships than were other young women. I continue to examine the ways in which sexual assault during adolescence affects young women’s lives.

Aislinn Conrad-Hiebner- Child maltreatment is 22 times more likely among poor families than non-poor families. Child poverty and maltreatment are serious social problems associated with many negative outcomes for children, families and society. In a recent study, I found that food insecurity predicts risk for child physical abuse, as mediated by maternal depression. In the upcoming year, I will continue exploring the role of economic hardship on child wellbeing, including risk for neglect and mental health outcomes. My long-term goals are to identify the strongest economic predictors of child wellbeing, develop a tool to measure these economic hardships, and design potential interventions based on this research.

Carol Coohey- Effective social work practice requires a belief that one can make a difference despite limited resources and other challenges. Yet, little has been written about how students develop self-efficacy and what role field instructors play in students’ perceived self-efficacy and preparedness for social work practice. To address this gap in the literature, doctoral student Rebecca Dickinson, Professor French and I developed a scale that captures supervision behaviors that help students learn. We surveyed 168 bachelor and master’s students from our Des Moines, Iowa City, Sioux City and Quad Cities centers. They reported several instructor behaviors facilitated their learning, including being available and open, providing emotional support, giving feedback on their performance, and challenging them to try out more advanced skills and to think critically. From their feedback, we developed the Field Instructor Supervision Scale, which will be used in the next phase of our research on student self-efficacy.

May Guo- Immigration disrupts the bonding process in families. What factors attribute to a closer family relationships in immigrant families? By analyzing a survey of 236 Chinese older immigrants in Los Angeles, I found that co-residence, a common feature of immigrant families, was actually associated with poorer family relations. Older immigrants reported closer relationships with children who provided practical support and who showed deference to the parents. The findings suggest
that, instead of promoting multi-generational households, policy makers and service providers need to search for meaningful alternative housing options for older immigrants to help them maintain autonomy and independence. Culturally sensitive services and programs are also needed to support informal caregivers in immigrant families.

Carolyn Hartley - The majority of research on legal responses to intimate partner violence (IPV) focuses almost exclusively on criminal justice system responses. Civil legal services, which include civil protective orders (CPOs), divorce, child custody and support, are an under-recognized and under-studied response to IPV. With funding from the National Institution of Justice, our (Co-PI Lynette Renner, University of Minnesota) study is one of the first to examine the longitudinal effects of civil legal services on outcomes for women experiencing IPV. From a sample of 147 women receiving civil legal services from Iowa Legal Aid, we found that receiving civil legal services significantly increased women's safety, psychological well-being and economic self-sufficiency over time. Thus, civil legal services are an important component of a coordinated community response to IPV.

Miriam Landsman - The absence of safe, affordable housing is a significant factor that leaves homeless, child welfare involved families vulnerable to having children removed from their care and delaying reunification when children are in out-of-home care. In collaboration with Four Oaks, the Iowa Department of Human Services, and the Affordable Housing Network in Cedar Rapids, I am evaluating a five-year experiment in providing supportive housing to 125 child welfare involved families in Linn County, Iowa. This is one of five demonstration projects in the nation funded by the U.S. Children’s Bureau.

Sara Sanders - The number of individuals aging and dying behind bars is growing throughout the United States. Attention to prison hospice programs has grown over the last 10 years; however, there has yet to be a focus on the need for advance care planning among dying offenders. Currently I am working with four prisons in Iowa to implement a systematic advance care planning program for older offenders and those who are dying. Through this project, I am collecting data on the wishes of dying offenders about end-of-life care and their reactions to dying behind bars. We are now in four prisons in Iowa, so we are expanding slowly, statewide.

Jeanne Saunders, Motier Haskins, Sandra McGee - The School has focused on building cultural competence among faculty and students for many years. As part of this effort, beginning in Fall, 2015 all students entering our BA Social Work and MSW programs in all centers will take part in a one-day NCBI (National Coalition Building Institute) training at the beginning of the semester to enhance awareness of the cultural competence journey that is critical for professional social work practice. While the NCBI program is used nationally and internationally, to date there has been no systematic evaluation of its impact on participants. Together with staff and doctoral students in the School and members of the University Chief Diversity Office, we developed a mixed methods longitudinal study to assess the impact of the NCBI training on students’ classroom and practicum experiences. The results of the study will begin to provide evidence of the impact the program can have on social work students, future professionals.
Alumni Updates

UI Social Work alum **LaTasha Deloach** (MSW 2008, BA 2003) ran for ICCSD School Board to practice her social work ethics and principals and to help the community and education systems in the area. LaTasha has been the Community Projects Specialist for Johnson Country Social Services for almost 8 years. “Schools have a lot of complexity that greatly involve social problems,” she says. “As an individual with social work ethics, I want to make sure that we are looking out for everyone in the community and making sure they have everything they need to live a sustainable life.”

“Our community is in a situation right now where we have a ton of inequity and people are not getting what they need,” she explains. “I have a great deal of experience with integrated practice and the ability to work in groups to address certain issues.” Congratulations to LaTasha on winning the election with a record percentage of votes.

**Dionna Langford**, BA 2013, ran for Des Moines Public Schools Board in District 2 and won! Dionna works as a youth development specialist at the Youth Work Readiness Program at Children and Families of Iowa. You can view her introducing Hillary Clinton during her visit to Des Moines on 9/22/15, here. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-6fIwEeY&feature=player_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-6fIwEeY&feature=player_embedded)

**Alison Oliver**, MSW 2004, was featured in the most recent *Contemporary Sexuality*, the professional newsletter for the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT).

[http://www.aasect.org/member-spotlight-alison-oliver](http://www.aasect.org/member-spotlight-alison-oliver)


Photos below are from an alumni event at the CSWE meeting in Denver.

If you are interested in having a UI Social Work alumni event in your city, contact Jefri Palermo at 319-335-3750

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
If you are interested in having a UI Social Work alumni event in your city, contact Jefri Palermo at 319-335-3750.

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Coming Soon….

Alumni will soon be able to receive a UI School of Social Work t-shirt or sweatshirt for a small donation to the School through the UI Foundation. We will notify you by email when we are ready to place the order, so please make sure we have your current email address. Send to Jefri-palermo@uiowa.edu

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In the future, we will be sending it electronically.

Des Moines Social Work Students and alum Kelli Soyer at the Iowa Human Needs Advocates press conference. IHNA is a group of organizations working to promote and advocate for public policy that assures justice and equity for all Iowans.
The School of Social Work gets a new sign to replace the one removed when new windows were installed.