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http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork

2016 Iowa City MSW Graduates
Apple pie, apple cider, trips to the pumpkin patch, Hawkeye football, and the change of the leaves are just a few of my favorite parts of fall in Iowa City. The students are back in classes and in field demonstrating once again the excellence that emerges from the University of Iowa, School of Social Work. We launched a new cohort in the Quad Cities this fall and have started the process of recruiting a new cohort in Sioux City. As I move into my second year as the Director, I continue to feel honored to be part of the University of Iowa School of Social Work community and am daily impressed with the contributions of our faculty and students to the betterment of society.

This fall, the School experienced a powerful loss with the death of Megan Sloss, a second year MSW student. Megan was employed as a social worker at the University of Iowa, Hospitals and Clinics and had a deep passion for mental health. Tragically, her sudden death followed the loss of our Des Moines undergraduate student, Nicole Underwood, last winter. Both students were deeply loved by their classmates, faculty, those they worked with in field and in their larger community networks. In the aftermath of each of these events, and in the midst of trauma and grief, our School came together to engage in remembrance activities, to support their families and friends, and each other. As we honor the spirits of Nicole and Megan, remembering their contagious personalities, smiles that lit up rooms, and deep passion for social justice and serving others, we are also reminded of our connections as a community, a School and a profession. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of Megan and Nicole as they grieve the loss of these amazing women.

This fall the School is busy preparing for other meaningful transitions and several exciting events. First, we are bidding farewell to Lily French who has been serving as the Director of Field for the past four years. Lily has been a huge asset to the School in the area of field but also policy practice. The School is also honoring the contributions of Drs. Ed and Jeanne Saunders who will be retiring in December. Ed and Jeanne have been a huge presence in the School in both Iowa City and Des Moines most recently serving as the Director of the School (Ed) and MSW Program Director (Jeanne). Their absence will be certainly felt throughout Iowa but we wish them well in their travels and future directions in life. Given these changes, we have begun the Search for a new Director of Field. We are also about to launch the Search for a three year visiting professor who will contribute to the advanced family centered curriculum. We are excited at the addition of these new faculty to our team.

The School is also hosting six faculty from Perm University in Russia. Under the leadership of Dr. Carolyn Hartley, the School obtained a grant with Perm University to engage in faculty exchanges to learn about the delivery of field between the two countries and Universities. The faculty from Perm University will be in Iowa City and Des Moines for a week meeting with field instructors, students, and community agencies learning about the standards for field based on CSWE competencies. Finally, the School is preparing for reaccreditation that will be occurring during 2017-2018. The reaccreditation process is an opportunity for the School to evaluate both our strengths and our opportunities for growth. We may be calling upon our alumni and community partners for feedback as we move through this process.

Have a terrific fall, and please stay in touch with the School, sharing your accomplishments and news from the field.
Students in Service

Social Work Students and Alum Work Together to Up-Date Funeral Resource Guide

About 29,000 people die every year in Iowa. The number is growing as the population continues to age. Most die in a hospital, nursing home, or hospice, where social workers steer the discharge planning process, including working with survivors after a death has occurred. Over the past year, University of Iowa Social Work students (and one alum!) devoted many hours and much effort to up-dating a resource that has been available to the public, through the school’s website, for a decade.

The up-dated Funeral Resource Guide is now available on the School’s website, under “Professional Development.” In fact there are three separate Guides: Sioux City area, Des Moines area, and the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids area. Each guide starts out with the same overview of laws related to final arrangements in Iowa, and then lists some of the options and prices found on individual funeral home “General Prices Lists” in the geographic area.

Iowa City-based students Anna Hepker and Lindsey Sinn assumed responsibility for up-dating the section on Iowa laws, rules and resources. Other students collected General Price Lists from area funeral homes, analyzed them, and then developed a spreadsheet listing the prices and options available at individual funeral homes as of July 2016. Sioux City MSW students who participated in collecting and analyzing area funeral home general price lists include Bonnie Heikens and Marcelina Cockburn. In Des Moines, undergraduate social work student, Jacqueline Gloede worked with MSW alum Andrea Walker (this is the second time Andrea has volunteered to work on up-dating this resource!). In Iowa City/Cedar Rapids, MSW students Tarrah Syfert and Ellen Petersen collected and analyzed the price lists.

Social workers can use the resource to familiarize themselves and their clients with Iowa laws and rules related to final arrangements, and can get a sense of the different final arrangement options and costs in a geographic area. Over the years, many social workers have thanked the School for making this information available as a public service. Throughout the process of collecting and analyzing the price lists, students learned about the Federal Trade Commission’s “Funeral Rule” including the required components that should be listed in each funeral home’s general price list. They also learned that not all options are available at each funeral home (for example, some funeral homes rent caskets, others do not), and the wide variation in prices both within any one funeral home and between funeral homes.

In an unfortunate turn of events, one of our students needed to use this information this past summer. As she was collecting and analyzing price lists, she received a call that her father had suffered a fatal heart attack, which was completely unexpected. She was able to accompany her family to the funeral home and help make meaningful final arrangements.

Students completed the work during an “Independent Study” supervised by faculty member, Mercedes Bern-Klug, who held planning meetings over the internet so that the students could see and hear each other, and review funeral home price lists together, despite the miles apart.

For copies of the updated guides, go to https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/professional-development-opportunities
During the past twenty years the development of mind/body integrative therapy modalities has exploded. With the publication of research by Bessel van der Kolk, (neurobiology of memory and trauma) Francine Shapiro, (EMDR), and the introduction of mindfulness to the West (Jack Kornfield and others), books, training programs, and a dizzying array of therapeutic techniques utilizing mind, body and spiritual approaches to healing, are now available to clinicians. I spoke with four social workers (among hundreds) who utilize mind/body techniques in their practice.

Jennifer Lock Oman, (MSW 1987) teaches a course for the School of Social Work called ‘A New Understanding of Emotions and the Brain’ where she helps social work students learn how to use imagery-oriented psychotherapy, by having them do it themselves. “Our current understanding of human behavior is moving towards awareness of the need for integration of the mind and body for holistic repair. Holistic in terms of what neuroscience is showing us means integration of left and right brain modes of processing. Through drawing, Imagery-Oriented Psychotherapy integrates the two hemispheres providing a more complete understanding of experience, emotion and behavior,” Lock Oman explains. Lock Oman utilizes expressive drawing as a way for the client to symbolize their unformulated experiences and access the emotions attached to them. Through the power of attunement in the therapeutic relationship, the client is guided to interpret the drawing and process the attached feelings which are then attenuated. Silvan Tomkins’ affect theory of personality is one of the underpinnings of this approach and provides the language that Lock Oman uses to build upon when teaching it to students. “The right brain has the map of the body, the visceral experience of what we know. When we draw, we bring the experience of the body through the right brain and then use the left brain to get the narrative that goes with it,” Lock Oman says.

Greg Nooney, LISW, uses an approach called Comprehensive Resource Model, an offshoot of Brainspotting, (David Grand, 2003) which is a refinement of EMDR. Developed by Lisa Schwarz, in 2005, The Comprehensive Resource Model (CRM), is a trauma therapy model that employs brain-based physiological safety as the foundation for healing. Other components of the model include a wide range of breathing skills each with a specific role or healing property, somatic embodiment skills, attachment neurobiology, and spiritual resourcing. Nooney tells his clients that the goal of using this technique is re-wiring the brain. According to Nooney, compared with EMDR, CRM is easier on the patient and therapist and does not require eye movements to achieve the same results. Using bi-lateral music and focusing on a specific eye position, Nooney finds this technique more natural, efficient and effective than others he has used. The therapeutic relationship of trust and safety is again, a pre-requisite to success. “The emphasis on using only evidence based practices is causing reluctance to try these new approaches. The research hasn’t been done yet, but as social workers we need to be on the cutting edge. Twenty years ago EMDR was dismissed, but now it is the recommended approach to treating PTSD,” Nooney said.

Rich Joens, (MSW 1992) said that in the beginning, using EMDR was frowned upon, and people called him a ‘quack’. “But I just kept hearing these incredible stories of healing and recovery from my clients, and it seemed like magic.” Joens began teaching clients about Internal Family Systems (Richard Schwartz) when one of their protective parts would emerge and prevent them from exploring their trauma. “IFS works when I am being present with an open heart, then there is an energy exchange which is part of the reparative process. I have to practice IFS in order to do it. It forces me to be in touch with my parts, and the information I am receiving. Therapy is a spiritual experience. I am always trying to be a clear channel for whatever needs to happen. Social work allows for all kinds of interventions as long as it helps people”. Joens, like so many others, was influenced by the writings of Peter Levine, van der Kolk et al to ask the question, ‘How can this person have an experience so early in life that is causing symptoms that are so intractable, yet have no cognitive memory but with bodily symptoms?. The answer was obvious, ask the body. I asked Joens if he ever experienced vicarious trauma while doing therapy. “Not really. Having a spiritual orientation allows me to turn it over. Having a balanced life, especially living with animals and being curious is important. You have to create your own world that is energizing and restorative,” he said. Joens lives on a farm with a menagerie of horses, goats, sheep, lama, emu, peacocks, geese, turkeys and...
In partnership with NASW-Iowa, the School of Social Work will host a one-day conference of 14 sessions on some of our most intractable social problems.

This one-day working conference is designed for social work professionals and social justice advocates to increase their leadership capacity in addressing major social inequities within systems in their communities and across the state of Iowa.

7.5 contact hours of continuing education are offered for full day participation. There is also an option to register for a half day for 3 contact hours.

The cost is $50 for a half day and $90 for the full day. Both include a box lunch.

You can register online with a credit card at https://nasw-heartland.site-ym.com/

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Natalie Benway, (MSW 2007) has a full time private practice at the Seva Center that incorporates mind/body approaches, with talk therapy, like CBT. Using mindfulness, breathing, yoga and EMDR she tries to connect the person to their experience and knowledge in the body.

“Seeing the person as a whole is helpful in working with people moving through trauma. In talk therapy, you can over time, actually strengthen negative neuro pathways. With EMDR, we can re-wire the brain, create new pathways that are more adaptive, and people can live the life they have always wanted to.” Benway recommends the book, The Body Keeps the Score, by Bessel van der Kolk, MD. One of the first to do research on the positive impact of yoga, he wrote about trauma and working with Viet Nam veterans and did the first neuro imaging study of how PTSD affects the brain. “There is a desperation for this information, a desperation to connect to ourselves and each other, I think that is why yoga speaks to so many people right now. We are going beyond medication and diagnostics and looking for the source of the problems in the brain.”

Lisa Schwarz (along with Frank Corrigan) has just published a book The Comprehensive Resource Model: Effective therapeutic techniques for the healing of complex trauma.
**Presentations**


Conrad-Hiebner, A. (April 27, 2016). Beyond parenting: How to support economic wellbeing among vulnerable families, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, Des Moines, IA.


Cummings, S. and Kleinschmit, J. (2016, April). Adjunct Instructors in Distance Education: Designing an Effective Digital Infrastructure for Best Practices. Social Work Distance Education Conference, Indianapolis, IN.


Farley, Y.R., Using narrative therapy to treat morale injury in combat veteran. *NASW Symposium*, April 14,
2016, Des Moines, IA.

Farley, Y.R., The Trauma Informed Lens for ACES, at Resiliency Triumphs over Trauma, ‘Just Living’, University of Iowa. April 27, 2016 in Iowa City, IA.


Haskins, M. (September 6, 2016) Broadening and Deepening Relationships: Cultural Competency Staff Training, United Way of Central Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa.

Haskins, M. (February 2016). Approaches to Intercultural Communication, Polk County Positive Behavior Support Network


Kleinschmit, J. (2016, June). Privilege: What It Is, How It Impacts the Work We Do, and What We Can Do About It. Presentation at the Yankton Area Mental Wellness Institute, Yankton, SD.


Oliver, A. (June 2016). Beyond Risk Reduction: A Rights-Based Approach to Sexuality Education. AASECT Annual Conference, San Juan, PR.

Rosenwald, M., & Landsman, M.J. (2016). The use of evaluation to strengthen the “System of Care” for youth: The example of supportive housing models in child welfare. 29th Annual Research and Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health, Tampa, FL.


Publications


Landsman, M.J. (2016). Evaluation results from Partners United in Supportive Housing-Cedar
Submitted to U.S. DHHS, ACF, Children’s Bureau.


**Honors & Recognition**

Sara Sanders was asked to participate as a mentor in the Early Career Faculty Academy through the Center on Teaching.

Chuck Wieland has been accepted to the 2016-2017 Executive Leadership Academy – UI (ELA-UI). The ELA-UI is a leadership development program for UI staff with strategic and operational leadership responsibilities who are top performers in positions of authority and who want to grow as leaders.

Sara Sanders was nominated and accepted into the Academic Leadership Program through CIC. She was one of five individuals at the University of Iowa in leadership positions selected to participate. She will be travelling to different Big 10 Universities throughout the academic year for 3-5 days’ worth of academic leadership classes.

Jeanne Saunders, Motier Haskins and doctoral graduate Matt Vasquez, won the award for Best Qualitative Article of 2015 from the *Journal of Social Work Education*.

**Awards & Grants**

Gilster, M. *College Access Challenge Grant Launch Subgrant*, Sub-award: $7,634 (Megan Gilster, Consultant). Iowa College Student Aid Commission via United Way of Muscatine

Gilster, M. Office of Outreach & Engagement, Micro Grant for *Aligned Impact Muscatine Asset Mapping*: $1341 (Megan Gilster, PI)

Sandra McGee, PhD, LMSW, on behalf of the UI School of Social Work, is working with DMACC and the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) on a new mentoring initiative, Minority Youth Family Initiative Mentoring (MYFI) Program: Enhancing Opportunities for African Americans and Latinos in Human Services.

The mentoring program is a part of the DHS MYFI initiative in Central Iowa. DHS reached out asking the School of Social Work to join them in this programming. DHS has funds that will assist students of color pursuing first their Associates Degree and then their BA in Social Work from UI in Des Moines or other institutions.

Ultimately the goal is to recruit people of color to the child welfare profession in an effort to increase diversity within the workforce and also to have members of the culture assist with developing and implementing strategies that decrease disproportionality in the system.

Dr. McGee has recruited four UI Des Moines social work undergraduate students and 1 Des Moines MSW graduate to serve as mentors to the 14 identified DMACC students.

Join us at SSWR in New Orleans for the University of Iowa Reception—Friday January 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm New Orleans Marriott
Annie Galbraith, (BSW 2010), always wanted to go to law school. She started out as an English major but when her advisor suggested she try a course called Intro to Social Work, immediately she could see the overlap between the issues raised in social work and law. She did her practicum in the public defenders’ office and an honors project on a legal issue. Annie graduated from Drake University Law School in 2013 and practiced insurance defense for 2 years, but something was missing. When she accepted a position at Iowa Legal Aid in Waterloo she finally felt personally and professionally satisfied. Annie explained, “The law allows you to advocate and affect change on a larger scale. You can get clients what they need quickly. Law is a powerful tool. A background in social work gives you the ability to recognize and empathize with the underlying factors causing a client’s issue, and helps you to be a better advocate.” Annie enjoys the variety of cases she handles, which includes family and juvenile law, housing, consumer, tax, and public benefits. Her advice for others considering law school— “It’s a full time job. Do your homework to determine whether to invest the time and money. If you’re willing to put in the work, you will do fine. Be humble and work hard, and be flexible in terms of locations of jobs.” This was good advice for her sister, Alex Galbraith (BSW 2013), who never considered law school until she saw what a good fit it was for Annie. She graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2016 and is currently doing a judicial clerkship in Davenport. “When I was deciding to go to law school, some people I talked to couldn’t see the connections between social work and law, but it’s been a wonderful experience for me,” Alex said. She recommends that social work students use their practicum and internships to determine if legal work is right for them because it’s a huge commitment. “I was really happy to use what I learned in skills lab with my clients,” she said. “Last year, MSW student Jade Howser had her placement in the law school’s immigration clinic. She could answer our questions and teach us about trauma informed practice, and how to conduct better interviews. Students in other clinics wished they had someone like her to help them. Social work and law really is a great fit.”

2017 National Poetry Contest for Social Workers

For the 5th year, the School of Social Work is sponsoring a national poetry contest. Any social work student, faculty member, or alumnus from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education may participate in the contest. The deadline for submission is January 1, 2017. Poems should speak to hopes, dreams, fears, and experiences related to social work. The purpose of the contest is to acknowledge the creative talent of social workers and to draw attention to social work as a profession. There is no cost to enter. The top three submissions will be awarded cash prizes and will be published in The New Social Worker magazine. [http://www.socialworker.com](http://www.socialworker.com). All of the submissions that meet the contest criteria will be published in an electronic book posted on The University of Iowa School of Social Work website. For contest rules and to submit online go to: [https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/creative-writing-social-workers](https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/creative-writing-social-workers)

New MSW/MBA Dual Degree

The Graduate College has approved plans for the School of Social Work and the Tippie College of Business to offer a combined degree - MSW and PMBA. Applicants will apply to each program separately, and curriculum matrices are being finalized. Students who are currently enrolled in the MSW may be eligible to apply to the PMBA degree as early as January 2017. Further details will be posted on our website in December. We are so excited to offer this new partnership for social workers interested in providing leadership in the non-profit and organizational fields.

Hawks In The House event at Ankeny Des Moines Area Community College to promote our BA and MSW programs.
Faculty Exchange Visit with Russia

School of Social Work faculty Aislinn Conrad-Hiebner, Carol Coohey, Amy Butler, and Carolyn Hartley traveled to Russia from May 13-28, 2016 as the first part of a faculty exchange project with Perm State University in Russia. The purpose of the exchange was to learn about the nature and structure of agency field placements and how they differ in the two countries. Professional social work began in Russia just 15 years ago and the development of field education is an important priority for them.

Svetlana Gasumova, Elena Gritsenko, Milana Gggrigoryeva, Larisa Soboleva, and Tatiana Sokol, visited Iowa City October 2-10. They met with alums Lynette Jacoby, Susan Junis, Lois Buntz, LaTasha DeLoach, Sarah Witry, Yolanda Spears, Darrel Kirby, Angeleah Whitlach and Caitlin Owens among others, during their tour of multiple Iowa City agencies that provide placements for the school. They continued their tour in Des Moines and were hosted by Mike Bandstra, Yvonne Farley Billie Marchik and many others. Both centers benefitted from the visitors’ presentations in social work classes.

The faculty from Perm and Iowa will submit abstracts to present their findings at the European Association of Schools of Social Work conference to be held in Paris in June 2017. Thanks to all of the alumni, field supervisors and faculty that made their visit a success.

Iowa Latinx Conference

Over 350 Latinx students and chaperones from 26 high schools across Iowa, gathered in Iowa City October 7th for the 18th Latino Youth Leadership Summit.

Keynote speaker Rosa Clemente gave a call to action for the youth to empower themselves to take leadership in the struggle for their rights as full citizens. Clemente urged them to see themselves as part of the Black Lives Matter movement and all movements of oppressed groups, and to become lifelong activists.

Ms. Clemente is a leading scholar on the issues of Afro-Latinx identity. Her groundbreaking article, Who is Black?, published in 2001, was the catalyst for many discussions regarding Blackness in the Latinx culture. She continues to discuss cultural identity, political identity and racial identity in and out of the academy.

The young people attended workshops on Identity, Business, Latinx Culture, Creative Writing, and College Experience. The Professional Development Institute ran concurrent to the Summit, and attracted more than 130 professionals who attended workshops on Advocacy, Latinx Community Cultural Wealth, Undocumented Iowans and the Retention of Latinx Students in Higher Education.

The annual conference is sponsored by the University of Iowa Center for Diversity and Enrichment with support from the School of Social Work. It also included a Latinx History Competition and a Latinx student research poster display.
SIoux City | Eighty percent of people in downtown Sioux City who identified themselves as homeless have been arrested before, with about a third of the arrests stemming from public intoxication, a survey released Tuesday found.

About 20 percent of the homeless interviewed spent at least six hours per day searching for a place to sleep, according to the survey.

The findings were the topic of discussion at the Siouxland Street Project meeting Tuesday at the Sioux City Public Museum.

Representatives from dozens of local governments, businesses and other organizations were present as part of the six subcommittees for the project, each focused on different aspects of the homeless problem in Sioux City.

Presenting the survey was Julia Kleinschmit, clinical associate professor at the University of Iowa, who helped interview 97 homeless at the Sioux City Public Library.

“We asked them questions like, ‘Where do you sleep? How much time do you spend per day finding a place to stay?’” Kleinschmit told the audience.

About 68 percent of the homeless interviewed said they wished to change their situation, but felt they lacked the support needed.

Forty-seven of those surveyed were Native American, many of whom said they did not feel welcome in certain areas and businesses in town.

Local Native American activist Frank LaMere said such discrimination is something he himself has faced numerous times.

“This is important. I get disrespected in the same places, and we have to do something about this,” LaMere said. “It’s the elephant in the room.”

Reasons for homelessness varied from case to case, such as loss of a job or substance abuse. Many wish to have efficacy apartments but cannot find suitable living conditions.

“Some of them were evicted because they didn’t pay rent as a form of protest against landlords who wouldn’t fix things or terrible living conditions,” Kleinschmit said.

Many homeless said they had a set schedule of leaving shelters in the morning before walking to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Transportation Center to stay warm, then going to the library before finding lunch, then going back to the shelter to check in at night.

The last question asked was something they are proud of they would want people to know — like military service, graduating college with a 4.0 GPA, and being transgender.

“It only gets harder to get a job and a place to live the longer you are homeless and living so rough,” Kleinschmit said.

As an incentive for taking the survey, each respondent was given $5 gift cards to Kum & Go, funded by Mercy Medical Center -- Sioux City.

Matt Ohman, executive director of the Siouxland Human Investment Partnership, one of the agencies taking part in the project, said they hoped the cards were not used by the homeless interviewees to buy alcohol.

Did You Know...

- You can get your MSW from The University of Iowa while living in the Quad Cities!
- Most classes are held evenings and weekends, so you can continue working. Some sessions are online.
- You can finish in 3 years and increase your earning potential!

Accepting applications now!

Contact: Mary-Newcomb@uiowa.edu
563-441-4036
It’s a great time to get a PhD in social work!

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- Mentorship by nationally recognized scholars
- Opportunity for part-time study

Contact: man-guo@uiowa.edu for more information or http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/graduate-program/phd-social-work

Research Spotlight

I recently completed data collection for a community-engaged research project for Aligned Impact Muscatine, funded by a contract with the United Way of Muscatine and the University of Iowa Office of Outreach and Engagement.

Aligned Impact Muscatine (AIM) is a community collaborative in Muscatine, Iowa that seeks to improve high school and college graduation rates and increase training opportunities for unemployed or underemployed adults.

Muscatine has low educational attainment yet demand for employees with graduate, professional, or bachelor’s level education grows. Among 2014 Muscatine High School graduates, only 65% enrolled in college in 2015. Post-secondary education is associated with higher income and lower likelihood of unemployment and poverty; AIM therefore intends to “build a more employable and prosperous community.”

AIM plans to coordinate the efforts of the many organizations that do work to help meet this goal in Muscatine in order to create a collective response. They sought assistance in completing a more comprehensive assessment of the characteristics of and relationships between all of the programs and services that help meet AIM goals in the community.

Along with Cris Meier, a doctoral student in the School of Social Work, I conducted telephone surveys to collect data on program locations and collaborative and referral networks. We conducted descriptive analysis and created maps to describe for AIM the geographic distribution of programs and the networks among programs. I now plan to use the data to address existing research gaps about the predictors of program location and connections and the impact of connections on problem framing.

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Alumni Updates

Deaths in 2016

Joy D. Anderson  MSW 1958
Robert A. Andrew  BSW 1971
Robert S. Brower  MSW 1969
Bernadine L. Frus  MSW 1980
Lori Hutchinson  BSW 1974
Jackie Kibbie-Williams  MSW 1988
Denese M. Kromminga  MSW 1975
Rev. Marvin A. Mottet  MSW 1975
Elisha M. O’Bannon  MSW 2003
Carl E. Ortmeyer  BSW 1939
Sylvia F. Rogers  MSW 1967
Maryann Rolling  MSW 1985
Hilda A. Sickels  MSW 1964
Susan M. Spelletich  BSW 1974
James M. Ursin  MSW 1953
Orlyn W. Wathier  MSW 1959
Lyle G. Williams  MSW 1974

Nicole Underwood, a senior, died in a bus crash on Dec. 28, 2015. Her family received her posthumous degree from President Bruce Harreld at the Des Moines graduation in May. Contributions to a scholarship in her name can be made here: https://www.gofundme.com/nicoleunderwood

An article about Nicole appeared in the Daily Iowan newspaper and can be read here: http://daily-iowan.com/2016/05/12/remembering-nicole-underwood/

Another article from the Des Moines Register is available here: http://whotv.com/2016/05/11/des-moines-woman-killed-in-chicago-bus-crash-receives-posthumous-degree/

Megan Sloss, a graduate student, died in a gun accident on Sept. 18, 2016. Contributions to a scholarship in her name can be made here: https://www.gofundme.com/2r9zhvg

You can read more about Megan here: http://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/national/article103531207.html

Valerie Sims-Rucker, MSW 1985, was recently appointed as a public member on the Illinois Optometric Licensing and Disciplinary Board of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. She was a member of the Illinois Social Work Examining and Disciplinary Board from 2008 to 2016. Valerie will also be presenting a workshop at the Midwest School Social Work Conference on October 27th.

Scott Easton, PhD (2011) was featured in an article about a global research project he is working on. You can read the complete article here: https://bcsocialworkblog.com/2016/09/07/beyond-borders-bcssw-collaboration-investigates-quality-of-life-for-palestinian-social-workers/

Dawn Worrell, LISW, ’93, ’99
A great opportunity is available for a licensed mental health professional to join an LISW with over 15 years experience within an established private practice setting.

The Counseling and Wellness Center is centrally located within Iowa City and readily accessible to clients residing in the surrounding area. Parking is conveniently provided on site. The spacious office includes a 2-way mirror and could be easily adapted to any testing or therapeutic approach. Options exist for both part time and full time use. The space becomes available February 1, 2017. If interested in learning more or know someone who may, please contact me at 319-400-6168 or at d.worrell@mchsi.com.

Amanda Reedy, PhD 2010, was awarded tenure at Eastern Washington University.

Abby Peeters, BSW 2015, has joined the Peace Corps and is currently volunteering in Mozambique.

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
About 300 alumni have enrolled in the new version of Social Work Connect; an online map that allows alums to identify their location on a map of the world. You can include contact information which allows current students and former colleagues to connect for mentoring, job and practicum information. Its free. [http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/people/alumni](http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/people/alumni)

**Joseph L. Veehoff, MSW 1963**
I have been retired for eleven years, after twenty years of service with the Iowa Department of Social Services and another twenty with the Mercy Health System of St. Louis, working in Springfield, MO. Thus far, I enjoy the retirement portion the best!

**Emily Donovan, MSW 2005**, now a member of the national NASW Board ran into Merce Bern-Klug during legislative day on capitol hill.

**Sherry Gaskins**, who will graduate from the Sioux City program in 2017, received the Baumback scholarship for her leadership in South Dakota social work.

**Jamie Kuhn, MSW 2005**, is at the VA in Columbus, Ohio, as the Chief of Geriatrics, managing 40 clinical staff and various Geriatrics and Palliative Care programs. I am a Health and Aging Policy Fellow this year, doing projects with both Congressional Research Service and the Administration for Community Living.

**Angeleah Whitlatch, MSW 2015**, received the 2016 Alfred Healy Leadership Award from the Center for Disabilities and Development. The purpose of the award is to nurture a lifelong commitment to leadership in developmental disabilities. Angeleah completed her fieldwork at CDD as part of the ILEND cohort. She has since been hired by CDD as a full time social worker.

**Lois Buntz, MSW 1977**, retired Dec. 31st from her position as Executive Director of United Way of East Central Iowa.

**Iris Waichler, MSW 1979**, had a new book published in August. *Role Reversal: How to Take Care of Yourself and Your Aging Parents* started as a tribute to her father but while writing it, he became sick and died at age 97. The book was transformed into a combination memoir and compendium for caregivers with resource information to help caregivers feel less isolated and more empowered. Iris has used her decades as a medical social worker to cover such important topics as assessing what level of care is needed, estate planning, how to talk about final wishes, the emotional ramifications of role reversal, and how your role in your family of origin might impact your caregiving relationship. The resources are woven into the inspirational story of her father’s life and her personal experience managing his final years. With 46 million baby boomers out there, this is a book that many people can benefit from reading.

**Zadok Nampala, MSW ’14** and Motier Haskins both presented at a training ‘Building an Inclusive Community’ in August. The event was sponsored by Tanager Place and Mount Mercy University.

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork
Graduation events in Des Moines, Iowa City and Quad Cities, 2016