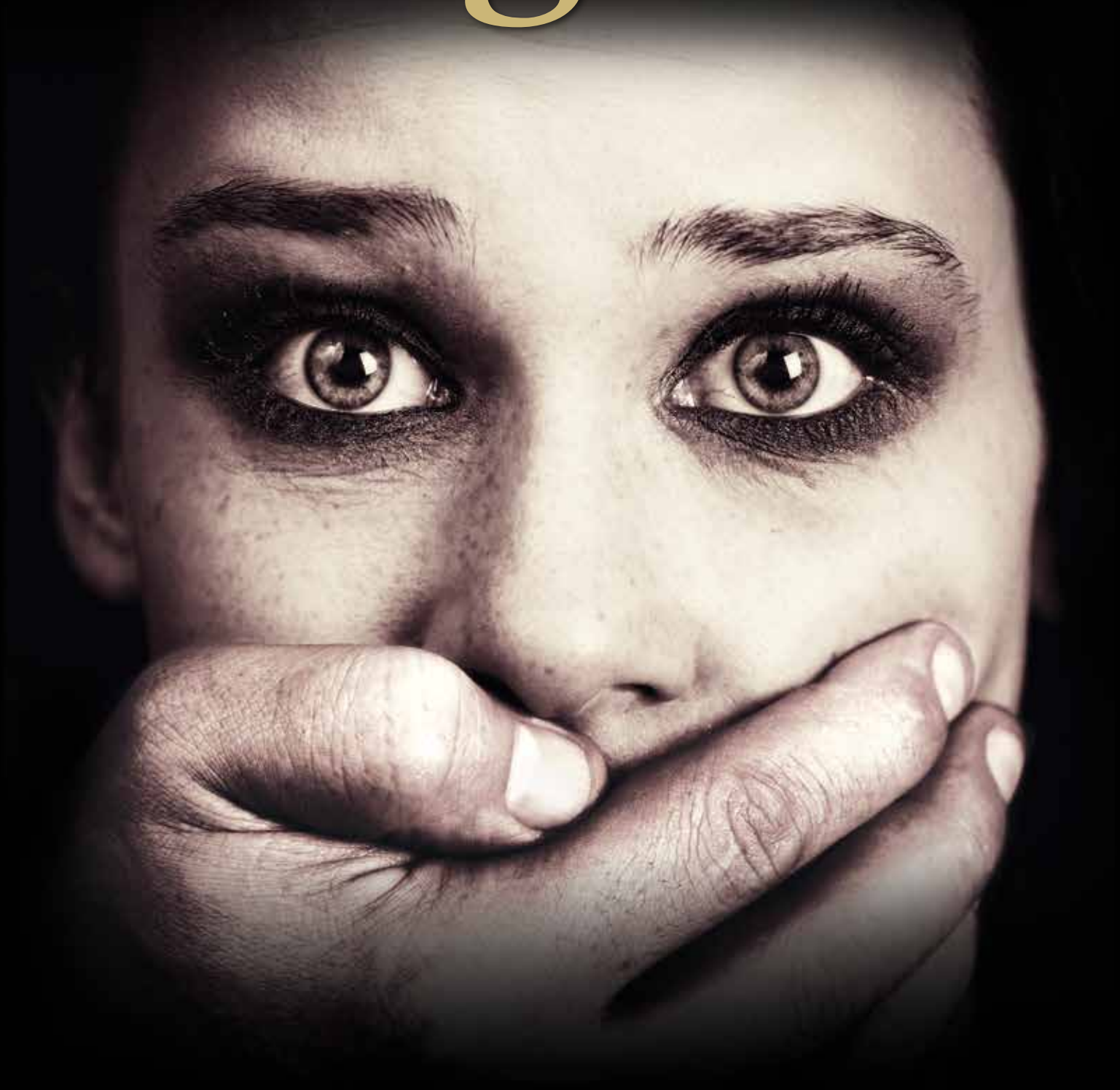
Bridges

MAGAZINE SPRING 2016

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Domestic Violence: Break the Silence

CONGRATULATIONS!

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK IS IN THE

TOP 10 OF ALL GRADUATE SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK

ACCORDING TO *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT* 2016 RANKINGS.

Bridges

Bridges is the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work magazine. We selected the name *Bridges* largely because of its symbolism. The term provides an important metaphor for both our profession and our school. Social work is a profession that has, as part of its mission, the goal of building and sustaining bridges among individuals, families, groups, neighborhoods, and communities, and we felt that the title *Bridges* captured this part of our professional mission. At the same time, the city of Pittsburgh has more than 450 bridges, and Allegheny County has almost 2,000, suggesting an uncompromising desire of the city's inhabitants to remain connected with one another. In keeping with this heritage, it is the school's goal to sustain and build bridges among those needing social work services; our students, alumni, faculty, and staff; the community; and corporate and governmental partners. We believe that the information in this magazine is an important way to achieve this goal.

CONTRIBUTORS

PUBLISHED BY THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Editor ..... Larry E. Davis, Dean

Assistant Editor ..... Rosemary A. Rinella

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Editor ..... Stacey Rosleck

Editorial Assistant ..... Sarah Jordan Rosenson

Writers ..... Sally Ann Flecker, LaMont Jones Jr.

Art Director ..... Alison Butler

Production Manager ..... Chuck Dinsmore

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University of Pittsburgh

School of Social Work
2117 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Tel 412-624-6304

Web **socialwork.pitt.edu**

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Greetings, Alumni and Friends,

I am very proud to announce that the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work has placed 10th in the 2016 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the best graduate schools of social work in the nation. Of course, friends and alumni, we know that we have one of the best programs in the country, but outside validation is always nice to have. Our school offers so much not only to our students but also to our alumni, our university, and our community.

This issue's cover story highlights how our faculty, students, and alumni are working together to fight the pervasive and yet often hidden problem of intimate partner violence. While faculty members like Associate Professor Rachel Fusco teach students how to work with victims of domestic abuse, our graduates are leading organizations that are on the front lines every day, such as Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

We also have deep and wide-ranging roots in the Pittsburgh region, as evidenced by Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto's decision to give his state of the city address from the offices of the Center on Race and Social Problems.

And our research expenditures, which are up 144 percent in the past year alone, are paving the way for breakthroughs in areas such as the prescription opioid abuse epidemic. Assistant Professor Gerald Cochran's research in this area will establish critical evidence to enable policymakers to more effectively confront this issue and improve public health.

At the annual Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) conference in January, we had more faculty members and doctoral students presenting than ever before. In addition, four of our faculty members—David E. Epperson Associate Professor Shaun Eack, doctoral program director and Professor Christina Newhill, Associate Professor Mary Ohmer, and Associate Professor Jeffrey Shook—were named 2016 SSWR fellows. I also was privileged to give the address at the presidential plenary, "Race: America's Grand Challenge."

Our new staff members are all here because of our rapidly expanding research activities. Catherine Osterritter will be working on Assistant Professor Lovie Jackson Foster's AskMe. HearMe project. Chalis Henderson and Esohe Osai will work with professors John Wallace Jr. and James Huguley on the Pitt-Assisted Communities & Schools program.

We are also fortunate to have the support of Pitt Board of Trustees members, like Tom VanKirk, who, with his wife, Bonnie, have generously donated the funds to create the school's VanKirk Career Center.

We recognize that our students need every competitive advantage available to them in order to succeed in today's job market. Under the excellent direction of Bobby Simmons, the VanKirk Career Center offers both students and alumni a myriad of resources to help them secure the jobs they want.

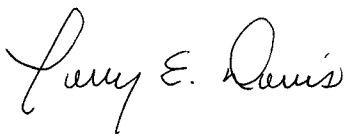
This year marked the publication of my book *Why Are They Angry with Us? Essays on Race*. It is a question that I have carried with me since I was a child, and it is a book that I worked on for almost a decade. I have been humbled by the response and also heartened that so many people are eager to have a more open dialogue about race in America.



"OUR SCHOOL OFFERS SO MUCH NOT ONLY TO OUR STUDENTS BUT ALSO TO OUR ALUMNI, OUR UNIVERSITY, AND OUR COMMUNITY."

Finally, we have hosted some outstanding speakers this year at the School of Social Work and Center on Race and Social Problems speaker series, and there are more to come. You are always welcome to join us for these unique opportunities to hear from the country's top scholars on a variety of social issues.

And you can always visit us online at socialwork.pitt.edu.



Larry E. Davis
Dean
Donald M. Henderson Professor

WELCOME, NEW STAFF



CATHERINE OSTERRITTER



CHALIS HENDERSON



ESOHE OSAI

Catherine Osterritter is a new research assistant for Lovie Jackson Foster's AskMe.HearMe technology-based design and evaluation project. Jackson Foster is an assistant professor.

Chalis Henderson is the new director of resources and **Esohe Osai** is the new director of services for University-assisted Community Schools, a project shared by John Wallace Jr., Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice, and James Huguley, assistant professor. ■

RECEPTION HELD FOR NEW SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR AND CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

In September 2015, Dean Larry E. Davis hosted a reception at his home in honor of **Geovette Washington**, who was appointed senior vice chancellor and chief legal officer of the University of Pittsburgh in June 2015.



Pictured left to right: Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, Geovette Washington, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor Patricia E. Beeson, and Dean Larry E. Davis

SPRING SPEAKER SERIES

All lectures are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning. Lunch will be provided; registration is not required.

CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

"Myth of the Color-blind and Gender-blind Judge"

PAT K. CHEW, Judge J. Quint Salmon and Anne Salmon Chaired Professor and Distinguished Faculty Scholar, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016

"Rhetoric vs. Reality: Neoliberal Thought and the Racial Wealth Gap"

DARRICK HAMILTON, Associate Professor, the New School

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016

"Is Marriage for White People?"

RALPH RICHARD BANKS, Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law, Stanford Law School

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016

"Achievement Gaps—and the Toxic Interaction of Race, Poverty, and Segregation—Start Before Kindergarten"

ELAINE WEISS, National Coordinator, Broader Bolder Approach to Education Campaign, Economic Policy Institute

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

"Macro Practice in Social Work"

DARLYNE BAILEY, Dean, Professor, and MSS Program Director, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, and Special Assistant to the President for Community Partnerships, Bryn Mawr College

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY | Sidney A. Teller Lecture

"Human Security and Sustainable Development: A Global Agenda for Social Work"

JAMES HERBERT WILLIAMS, Milton Morris Endowed Chair, Dean, and Professor, School of Social Work, University of Denver

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

MSW Program

NEW COURSES LAUNCHED TO MEET GROWING NEEDS IN SOCIAL WORK FIELD

In the fall of 2015, the faculty voted to adopt a new advanced elective, Integrated Healthcare in Pharmacology, into the permanent inventory of courses in the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree program. This course was specifically developed for the Integrated Healthcare Certificate Program within the school's Direct Practice with Individuals, Families, and Small Groups concentration. Additionally, this course enhances our curriculum offerings for the Cannon Fellowship Program in Integrated Healthcare. This brings the total number of courses offered in the MSW program to 59, and two special-topic courses are under review.

Another new course, Social Work and Spirituality, is being piloted during the spring 2016 term to further expand the Direct Practice advanced electives. Social work is built on a biological/psychological/social/spiritual model of holistic assessment and intervention. Therefore, a course is needed that addresses the spiritual aspect of working with consumers. Elizabeth Mulvaney developed the course and has already taught a full class of 25 students.

In December 2015, the School of Social Work celebrated the graduation of more than 100 MSW students from the Bradford, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh campuses. Recognition ceremonies were held on each campus. ■

MSW STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CASE COMPETITION

Of the 53 students from 13 graduate programs at Pittsburgh universities who participated in the ninth annual Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Local Government Case Competition, 14 hailed from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work—the largest contingent from any of the participating schools. The case competition is an intensive, interdisciplinary, and interuniversity team competition held over several days and focuses on a significant community problem, which the teams work to address. Sixteen graduate student teams competed for cash prizes from November 18 to 21, 2015. Teams were challenged to address transportation issues in one of four areas: helping people get to jobs and job-related activities, aiding transit deserts, improving options for people who qualify for subsidized shared rides, and creating solutions for children experiencing unstable housing situations. The fourth challenge was by far the most popular issue tackled in the case competition.

Pitt MSW students **Megan Bassler**, **Emily Bell** (MSW '15), **Carly Cottone** (BASW '14, MSW '15), **Voneasha Davis**, **Daniel Garcia** (MSW '15), **Rodney Glover**, **Aqiyla Leonard**, **Kiera Mallet** (MSW '15), **Amber Malloy**, **Daisy Perez**, **Rachel Peterson**, **Julie Platt**, **Kristen Rodack**, and **Ivonne Sanchez** competed in this event. In addition to constituting the largest contingent from any one school in the competition, these students represented our school in providing valuable ideas to DHS regarding the issue of enhancing transportation reliability and accessibility to vulnerable populations in our county. An MSW student placed on each of the four finalist teams, including the three prize-winning teams. Special congratulations go to Malloy (first place), Sanchez (second place), Glover (third place), and Davis (fourth place) for excelling in this case competition.

Three of the four finalist teams provided creative solutions for children experiencing unstable housing situations, and DHS will share their ideas with regional education and human service organizations working with this vulnerable population. The other finalist team focused on improving transportation to jobs and job-related activities. DHS is preparing a full report on the competition and the team recommendations, which will be posted on the DHS Web site at **alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/News-Events/Events/Local-Government-Case-Competition.aspx**. ■



Case competition finalists

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BASW Program

SOCIAL WORK SCHOLARS ON DISPLAY

The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) degree program culminates with our students demonstrating the integration of their practice skills, scholarship, and analytical abilities with the annual undergraduate research poster fair that is part of the University's Springboard initiative, through which undergraduate research activities are recognized for their role in inspiring the intellectual curiosity of students. On April 11, 2016, more than 40 students presented their agency-based research projects.

To learn more about undergraduate research opportunities in the School of Social Work, please visit **socialwork.pitt.edu/researchtraining/undergraduate-research**.



Student Emily Gerlach and BASW Program Director and Professor Keith Caldwell

BASW PROGRAM'S VETERANS FRONT AND CENTER



BASW students Daniel Meyer and Kevin Carmichael

The social work profession has a long history of working with and alongside veterans and their families. Those affiliated with the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) degree program were pleased to see junior Kevin Carmichael selected to give the keynote address at the University of Pittsburgh observance of the National Remembrance Day Roll Call 2015. Carmichael, who served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army, provided a moving reflection as part of the remembrance and recognition of those who have served.

Carmichael and fellow BASW student and veteran Daniel Meyer were recognized for their military service at the September 5, 2015, Pitt football game. As part of the Pitt Football Hail to Heroes game, all active and retired military personnel and first responders were invited, along with their families, to the Panthers' home opener at Heinz Field as guests of the University.

PhD Program

STUDENTS' WORK CONTINUES TO RECEIVE ACCOLADES

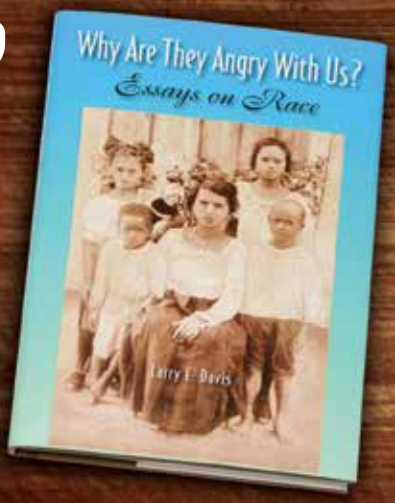
The current social work Doctor of Philosophy students are upholding the program's tradition of stellar early career research and scholarship, with many peer-reviewed publications; national conference presentations; and recognition locally, nationally, and internationally.

The School of Social Work chooses doctoral students annually for endowed fund awards. This year's awardees were **Heejung Jang** (Kevin Corcoran Endowed Dissertation Fund), **Eric Kyere** (Wynne Korr Doctoral Student Research Fund), and **Courtney Queen** and **Janice McCall** (Barbara K. Shore Dissertation Fund). All four were recognized in February at the 2016 University of Pittsburgh Honors Convocation, an annual event that celebrates the accomplishments of the University's faculty and students.

We said good-bye and best wishes to five doctoral graduates last year: **Amber Bahorik** (April 2015); **Lauren Bishop-Fitzpatrick** (August 2015); and **Amanda Hunsaker**, **Ngoc Nguyen**, and **Chereese Phillips** (December 2015). Our first-year cohort includes **Valerie Hruschak**, **Daniel Jacobson**, **Gina Keane**, and **Yan Yuan**.

Why Are They Angry With Us?

NEW BOOK BY DEAN LARRY E. DAVIS CONFRONTS ISSUES OF RACE IN AMERICA



Now, more than at any time since the 1960s, issues about race have taken center stage in America. A new book by University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis, titled *Why Are They Angry With Us? Essays on Race*, responds to many of the timely, sensitive, and often uncomfortable conversations that are taking place on our television screens, on newspaper front pages, in social media, and in homes across the country.

The book addresses the unresolved questions and conflicts about race in America from both the author's personal perspective and a psychological one. Davis, a Black male and social scientist, relates racial incidents and observations to explain the workings of race and racism. His collection of eight personal essays looks at the country's deep misunderstandings about race and attacks the core of many commonly held attitudes that contribute to racism.

James Herbert Williams, dean of the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, calls the book "an important contribution to the social sciences."

"This book is for those who want to understand why race and color operate as they do in today's world," says Davis. "I envision this being used in classrooms and book clubs as a way to talk about racial topics that are sometimes difficult to address in everyday settings."

The book, which engages the reader with jargon-free language, addresses important discourse about race with regard to prison, immigration, individual identity, and other topics.

"It is an easy read because I wanted people to read it," says Davis. "It is great to be profound, but in the end you want to reach an audience." ■



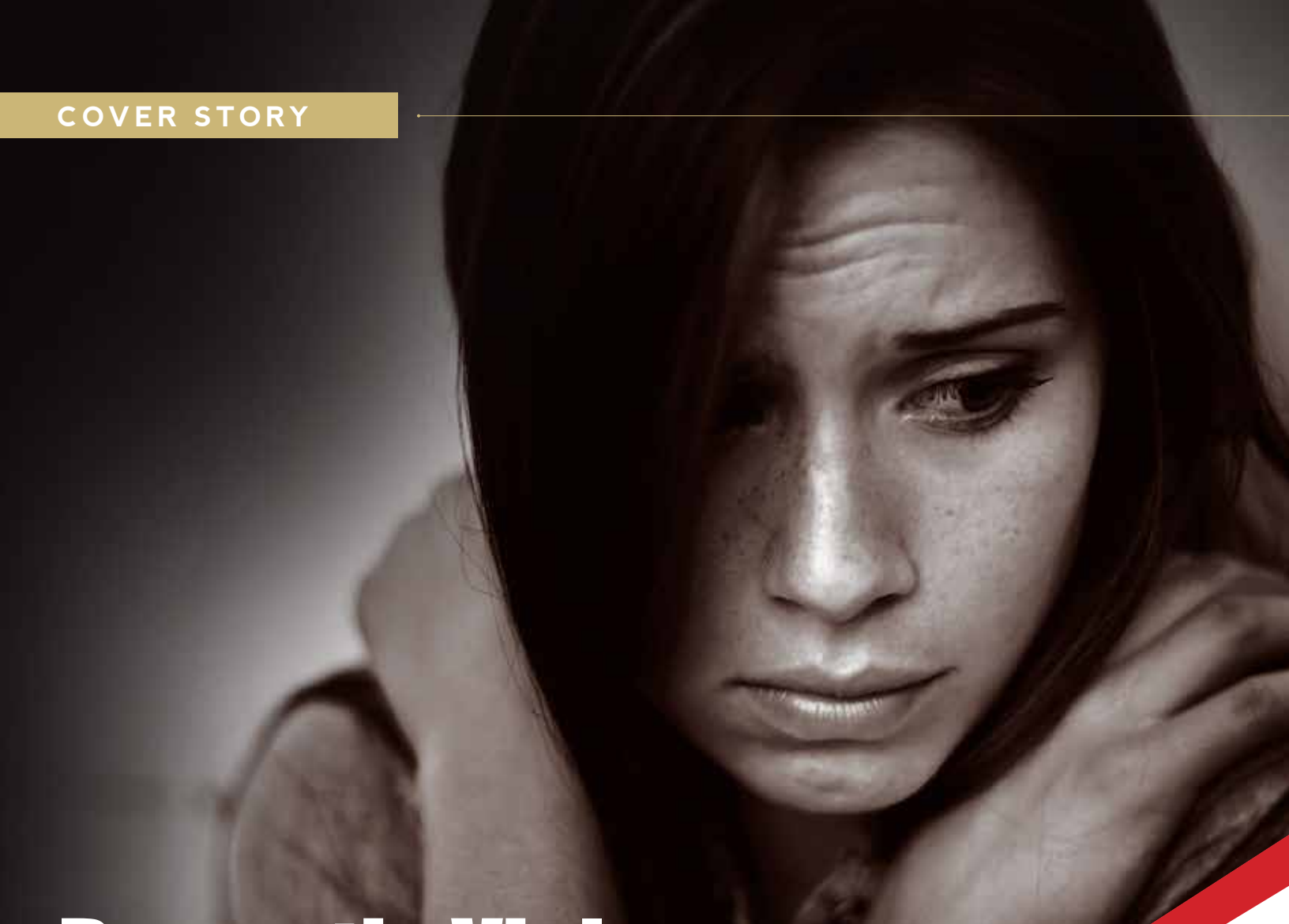
James Herbert Williams

JAMES HERBERT WILLIAMS DELIVERS THE WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY SIDNEY A. TELLER LECTURE

In celebration of World Social Work Day, James Herbert Williams, dean, professor, and Milton Morris Endowed Chair at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, delivered a lecture on March 16, 2016. The lecture, "Human Security and Sustainable Development: A Global Agenda for Social Work," was held in the School of Social Work Conference Center.

Williams holds a Master of Social Work degree from Smith College, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado, and a PhD in social welfare from the University of Washington. Williams' research, publications, training, and community service focus on human security and economic sustainability, health promotion and disease prevention, behavioral health disparities and health equity, global practice and sustainable development, adolescent violence and substance use, mental health services for African American children in urban schools, disproportionate confinement of African American youths in the juvenile justice system, school safety and violence prevention, and community strategies for positive youth development. His scholarship has been published in several prominent health and social science journals.

Williams has more than 30 years of experience as both a practitioner and a scholar/educator. He has served on two Council on Social Work Education commissions and, currently, is a member of its Commission on Educational Policy. Additionally, Williams is editor in chief of *Social Work Research*. He has served the Society for Social Work and Research Board of Directors as a member-at-large; vice president; and, currently, president-elect. He served as president of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD) and cochaired the NADD task force on health disparities. ■



Domestic Violence: Break the Silence

by Sally Ann Flecker

Get out and don't look back.

That's everyone's advice. It's the hope, the expectation of your family and friends—of the world, for that matter. **But that's easier said than done.**



"I think one of the most important aspects, and one of the things that social work is charged with getting out there, is the fact that we shouldn't blame the victim."

-Rachel Fusco, associate professor and chair of the direct practice concentration, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

Domestic violence against women is, perhaps, the most insidious form of abuse. The person you most love and trust turns on and against you in an attack that is as sudden and savage as it is inexplicable. The physical damage is deplorable. The emotional damage is unforgivable.

Seven times, on average, is the number of times it takes for a woman to leave her abusive partner for good. That's the conventional wisdom among social workers who practice at shelters for women fleeing domestic abuse. Seven gut-wrenching, uncertain, even terrifying times. It's a startling statistic. A victim of intimate partner violence (IPV) returns to the abuser for many reasons. Her partner sweet-talks her and assures her that the violence will never happen again. He threatens to harm those she cares about—family, friends, even pets—if she doesn't return. He threatens to kill himself. He bullies her into thinking he can jeopardize her job. He reminds her of the good times they've had in the past. Maybe it even feels safer to her to be there with him rather than wondering where he's going to appear next.

It's particularly difficult and frustrating for anyone close to the victim to watch her return. Friends, family, coworkers, and even her social workers want her to free herself from the emotional and physical grasp of the abuser. It's tempting to blame the victim and walk away. But this is her time of greatest need. An abuser's greatest asset is the ability to eat away at his victim's self-esteem and isolate her from those who care about and support her.

"I think one of the most important aspects, and one of the things that social work is charged with getting out there, is the fact that we shouldn't blame the victim," says Rachel Fusco, associate professor and chair of the direct practice concentration at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Her research includes a focus on the mental health of children in the child welfare system, including the effects of concurring child maltreatment and exposure to intimate partner violence. Fusco teaches courses on intimate partner violence. "As a society," she says, "we don't have a sophisticated understanding of why women get into these relationships or, even more, why they stay in these relationships."

What role can—and should—the field of social work play in responding to and preventing domestic violence against women?

"We're responding to a societal need," says School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis, adding that he expects to include an expert on the issue of domestic violence in next year's speaker series. "It's not going to go away any time soon. We're going to be continuing to work on it and, if anything, put more emphasis in our classes on it. It's a topic that deserves broader attention and consistently more attention. We want to do our part in addressing a pervasive problem."

Continued on page 10



When abused women say that it's just easier to return home, part of what they may be thinking is that at least they know where their abuser is. If she's living with him, then he's not stalking her.

The very first time Fusco heard a woman talk about choosing to stay with a violent partner because it was safer for her, she admits she probably thought to herself, "Oh, yeah. Right. Whatever you need to tell yourself." Fusco was young, a rookie child welfare worker fresh out of school.

By the 50th time she heard some version of that story, though, she was listening differently to what the women were saying. "We have this idea that any kind of domestic violence intervention should work the way it tends to work in Lifetime movies, where you figure out how bad it is and then you flee to a shelter, stay away forever, develop a whole new life. But that's not the reality," she says. "And really, when women leave their violent partners, that's when they're in the most danger. Homicides are more likely to happen—because they're leaving. You also have to think about whether you are putting any of your friends and family in danger. We know that a lot of the victims in these IPV-related homicides are bystanders who help, the friends who let you stay with them. So it's just a lot of work to get out of these relationships—not only psychologically but also physically."

For women who have left their partners, social workers will suggest that they vary their routines—change up the route they take to work, try not to go to that same grocery store they always go to. "Half the time when I drive to work, I don't even know how I got there. I look up and I'm there. Most of us do that, right?" says Fusco. "I can't imagine if I had to think about going a different way, had to think about parking in a different spot, if I had to talk to the security guard when I left and ask him could he maybe walk me to my car in case my partner is sitting out there. It sounds utterly exhausting."

When abused women say that it's just easier to return home, part of what they may be thinking is that at least they know where their abuser is. If she's living with him, then he's not stalking her. He's not showing up at her job. She doesn't have to always be looking over her shoulder. "I think that's the piece that people don't fully understand," says Fusco. "For some women, it's strategic. It's actually smart and adaptive."

Fusco teaches students in her class on intimate partner violence how to do safety planning with abused women. It's a structured exercise that social workers do regardless of whether the women are staying in or leaving the relationship. It seems to have a pretty profound effect on her students, Fusco says. She remembers how eye-opening it was the first few times she led victims through safety planning. "Where in your house is the most unsafe?" she would ask. "When you have arguments, you don't want to be in the kitchen, because there are knives there. You don't want to be in the bathroom, because there are solvents that can be used to burn skin."

Overall, Fusco believes that the field of social work needs to get a lot better about letting women know that leaving their partner isn't a requirement of receiving services. "A big first step is letting women know that we can still think about ways to provide support, provide psychotherapy if they want or need that, talk about ways to build a healthy attachment to their children. But they don't have to leave their partner if that's not something they want to do," she says. "This is the area where I find social workers struggle the most—the issue of client self-determination. It's such a big part of our profession that we are supposed to start where the client is and let our work be really client directed. But it just always feels like the wrong thing to do to stay with a violent partner. It's so difficult to work with somebody who you know is being treated really badly—because we don't want that for them. But that might be what they need right now."

Continued on page 13

Supporting Survivors of Sexual Trauma

by Sally Ann Flecker



"We offer appointments if people are struggling with what happened and need to connect with someone immediately because they're having trouble making it through the day."

-Julie Evans (MSW '98), director of crisis and prevention services at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)

A woman is sexually assaulted. In the aftermath of this traumatic crime, there is a pinpoint of light. She is in a city with a rape crisis center. A person from the crisis team responds to the hospital to support the victim through the process, explaining where helpful.

"When people are traumatized, they're not taking in a lot of the information they're being given," says Julie Evans (MSW '98). Evans is director of crisis and prevention services at Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR), a stand-alone rape crisis center. "So we're the people there who are taking that information in to say, here are your choices, here are your options, and here's what that system said."

An advocate from PAAR can be present when the victim makes her report to police and later can provide support and accompaniment through legal proceedings. "We offer appointments if people are struggling with what happened and need to connect with someone immediately because they're having trouble making it through the day," Evans says. "They can come in and talk. We have a help line that operates 24/7 as well." She adds that data show how important it is for the victim to have trained support through the early medical and legal encounters. In support of that data, PAAR also does training with responders—uniformed officers, detectives, and medical staff—to make sure that the systems are responding in a victim-centered and informed way.

In addition to making sure that all of PAAR's crisis services are running smoothly, Evans is responsible for prevention programming. One promising evidence-based program the center has been running in Pittsburgh for several years is Coaching Boys into Men, a national curriculum developed by the San Francisco, Calif., organization Futures Without Violence.

"Our educators train coaches to implement this program with their team," Evans says. "It's 12 sessions that should lead to a 15–20-minute conversation that would take place either once a week or on the travel bus. We work with the coach to figure out where's the best place to implement it for him." The topics include respect for teammates, respect for girls and women, social media, consent, and intimate partner dating violence. "It's really effective because the coach is in a relationship with the kids. We've seen a lot of changes in the adult men, the coaches who have delivered the program," she says. "One of our educators is also a coach. He's said his whole lens has changed. He's not the same parent he was, he's not the same in his relationship. And he said he's seen that happen with the coaches he's trained. They've just really taken in the information."

Evans has been with PAAR for 20 years, starting as a volunteer and then an intern during her graduate work at the School of Social Work. She returns the favor, bringing social work interns in to train at PAAR, where they are able to work on crisis response and prevention. "The cool thing, too, is, depending on what their requirements are, they can really be an insider on their college campus and effect a lot of change with prevention efforts and response there," she says. "That's a unique opportunity." ■

Alumnus Targets Intimate Partner Violence in the African American Community

by Sally Ann Flecker



When Oliver Williams (PhD '85) came to the University of Pittsburgh to work on his master's degree in public health and his doctorate in social work, he volunteered at a women's shelter and a batterer program called Second Step. He also started a batterer intervention program through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

"One of the things I noticed was the fact that you didn't see many people of color [working or volunteering] in any of the batterer programs in Pittsburgh," Williams recalls. "But some of the literature back then said that the prevalence of domestic violence was much, much higher among African Americans than it was among other groups."

"We oftentimes want to deal with the challenges from without—which is really important. But it's equally important to deal with the challenges from within."

-Oliver Williams [PhD '85], professor, University of Minnesota School of Social Work

In fact, he points out that in the 1980s, African American women experienced intimate partner violence at a rate more than 35 percent higher than that of Caucasian women. Even more disturbing was the fact that intimate partner homicide also was disproportionately greater in the African American community. Even though rates have gone down over time, the rate of such violence among African Americans is still higher, particularly within low-income, highly stressed communities where African Americans are overrepresented, he says.

Likewise, when Williams worked with a batterer intervention program, he observed few men of color there as well. Back then, the program wasn't mandatory. "I started wondering about how you could get men of color to come to batterer intervention programs more. How do you reach out to the community?" he says.

He searched the literature for what had been written about the issue of African American men and domestic violence. There wasn't much. So he started to research barriers to service delivery, trying to figure out what might improve the participation of men of color. He found work written by School of Social Work Dean Larry E. Davis about African American men in group treatment.

"His work influenced me," Williams says. "I looked at the things he had to say and then at literature about working with African American men associated with community violence." He brought those two lines of thinking to what he knew from working on intimate partner violence.

By the time Williams became a professor of social work at the University of Minnesota in Saint Paul, he had developed a consistent voice questioning the one-size-fits-all approach to treating and preventing domestic violence. He cofounded and directs the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community to address that need.

"I think the domestic violence community expects people to follow the mainstream model for dealing with the issues. That model isn't bad. I'm not against it. I just think that we need to enrich it to help communities of color deal [with] and respond to problems," he says. "Those communities have to own the problem, too. And what I mean by 'own it' is figure out how to integrate it into the work that they do. We oftentimes want to deal with the challenges from without—which is really important. But it's equally important to deal with the challenges from within. And we don't do that so well."

Most recently, Williams has extended his work to consider the issue of domestic violence in other ethnic and cultural communities. In 2008, he was awarded Pitt's School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni Award for his outstanding contributions to social work education. ■

Although School of Social Work alumnus Allison Kacmar Richards (MSW '08) had a focus in feminist social work, she was more interested in working with young women than in working in domestic violence against women. All that changed when she did an internship at the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. She's held many roles there since, learning the program from the ground up. She's been an advocate, provided direct service, and supervised the hotline. Now, as on-site services operations manager, she develops programs and makes sure the staff have what they need to do the job, whether it's the hotline, children's program, emergency shelter, or nonresident program.

Things are busier than ever at the shelter. They have 36 beds, and they use cots, couches, and mattresses when they have to. Typically, she says, they're at 105 percent capacity. This spring, the center is starting on a renovation project to increase its space.

Part of the demand has come about because of increased hotline referrals through an early intervention called the Lethality Assessment Program. When Pittsburgh police are called to a scene involving intimate partner violence, they ask a series of 11 questions designed to ascertain how dangerous the risk is to a victim. "If [the victims] are at high risk for lethality, the police have to call us on our hotline. Of course, they encourage the survivor to talk with us so we can do safety planning. But even if she doesn't want to speak with us, the officer will get safety planning tips from us," Kacmar Richards says, adding that an advocate from the center's legal advocacy department contacts that person within 24 hours to do additional safety planning. "That's brought in so many more people to our services. A high percentage of the people who come through on the Lethality Assessment Program are people who never even knew of our services. And actually a lot of the university police departments, including Pitt's, are participating in this now. It's been a really wonderful thing."

The goal of the Lethality Assessment Program is to prevent intimate partner violence homicides in particular but also serious injuries and reassaults. "Research shows that most people who have been killed by an intimate partner were not connected to a domestic violence program. So what we hope is that by officers connecting victims to our services, the likelihood of homicide is reduced," Kacmar Richards notes. "That's because of the issue of isolation. In intimate partner violence, a huge aspect of the abuser's power and control is in isolating the victim." When the person being victimized feels like no one believes or cares about him or her, he or she can be in more danger and feel less likely to be able to leave safely. Being connected to a domestic violence program can provide emotional support as well as options for tangible things that can help a victim take the next step, be it financial support, transportation support, or child care.

One myth about intimate partner violence is that a victim's low self-esteem is a factor in the abuse. But that's actually a result rather than a cause of the abuse. "People who are abusive have the belief that they're entitled to have power and control," she says. "The level of one's self-esteem does not determine whether or not they will be abused. What an abuser does is gradually wear down the person's self-worth, their ability to trust themselves and to make decisions. That happens so gradually that the person who's being victimized doesn't even know it."

That makes it all the more critical that survivors of domestic violence be empowered with the support, knowledge, and power to make the decisions that they feel are best for them. "When they have all the knowledge, all the information, and all the resources available to them, then they'll make a decision that's safe for them. They'll make a decision that speaks to their self-worth and their dignity," Kacmar Richards says.

"The stance that we recommend for both emotional and physical safety of the person going through the abuse is to always be a source of support."

-Allison Kacmar Richards (MSW '08), on-site services operations manager, Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

It can be challenging to hear that somebody wants to go back to an abusive situation, she admits, "but we can't tell the person what to do or assume that we know what's best for them." When Kacmar Richards supervises social work interns at the bachelor's level, including some from Pitt, one of the most intense—and transformational—moments in their learning comes when they want to keep a woman from going back to a dangerous situation. "That's one of the hardest places to be in," says Kacmar Richards. "The stance that we recommend for both emotional and physical safety of the person going through the abuse is to always be a source of support. Being that consistently supportive person works better, because then, when that person is ready to take the next step, they know they have someone to go to, that they're going to be supported."

As society continues to grapple with the issue of domestic violence against women, the School of Social Work has a key role to play in conducting further research into evidence-based interventions as well as continuing to educate social workers to be responsive to a very emotional and complex need. It's not a small need. Thousands, if not millions, of women stand to benefit. And, in fact, every time domestic violence is prevented, the fabric of society becomes stronger and more vibrant. ■

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

VanKirk CAREER CENTER

It's Your Career. Make It Happen.

By LaMont Jones Jr.

The clock has not yet struck noon on a chilly morning on the Oakland campus of the University of Pittsburgh, and already five students preparing to graduate have come to see Bobby Simmons for career consultations. As director of the School of Social Work's career services, Simmons is instrumental in helping students make the leap from the academic world to the real world of working in a chosen profession. Now a generous gift to the school is making his job easier and has added Pitt to the short list of universities with a dedicated space for career services in a school of social work.



Bobby Simmons

Dean Larry E. Davis had a vision for such a site at Pitt after becoming aware of similar spaces at other colleges with top social work schools. After getting wind of the idea, Thomas VanKirk, chair of the School of Social Work's Board of Visitors, caught the vision and with his wife, Bonnie, pledged funds to help establish the VanKirk Career Center.

VanKirk, executive vice president, chief legal officer, and secretary at Highmark Health, is a Pitt trustee and longtime Pitt benefactor. He began donating to the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute in the early 1990s while an attorney at Buchanan Ingersoll, a prestigious law firm that supports the speaker series presented by the school's Center on Race and Social Problems. Aware that a school's national ranking is affected by its graduates' ability to secure employment after graduating, he decided to contribute to the creation of the career center.

"The quality of faculty and research is important, but attaining a top-10 ranking is largely dependent upon the graduate job rate," says VanKirk.

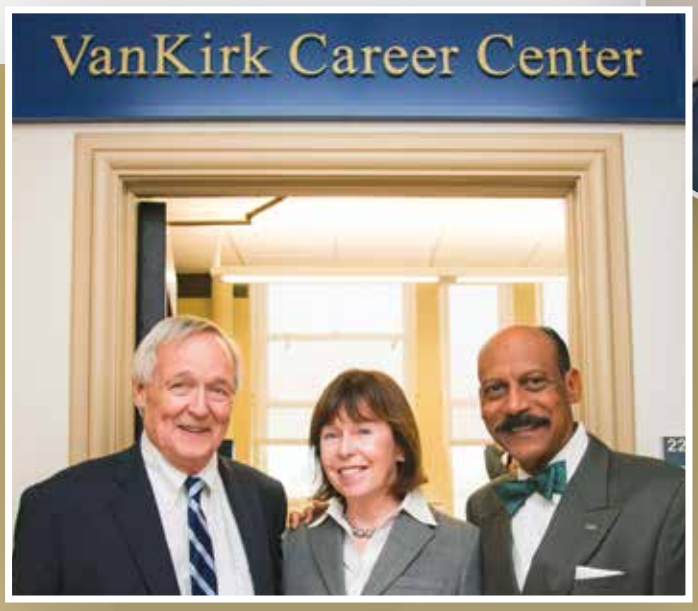
In newly released 2016 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of graduate schools of social work, the school tied for 10th place among the 233 social work graduate programs in the country.

"[The center] advances the school," says Davis. "It really shows that the school has grown, and it's a nice addition to the resources that the school has to offer students."

Pitt annually educates approximately 600 social work students, including undergraduates, doctoral students, and upwards of 500 earning master's degrees in social work. Of the approximately 220 graduate programs in social work at universities across the United States, only about two dozen have dedicated space for career services.

SIMMONS SEES THE CENTER AS ANOTHER COG IN THE WHEEL THAT CAN SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION STUDENTS FROM ACADEMICS TO WORKING PROFESSIONALS. AIDING STUDENTS IN PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT WHEN THEY LEAVE HELPS TO COMPLETE THEIR SUCCESSFUL CAREER AT PITT.

In 2012, Davis tapped then field education coordinator and social work faculty member Simmons to direct career services and alumni affairs at the school. Students seeking career assistance came to Simmons' office on the 22nd floor of the Cathedral of Learning for help. With the career center now in place, students can walk in or schedule an appointment to get help in preparing for the job market after graduation.





Thomas and Bonnie VanKirk and Dean Larry E. Davis stand at the entrance of the new VanKirk Career Center.

As described by Simmons, the "one-stop shop" adjacent to his office welcomes visitors with a digital monitor that displays job postings and other information. Inside, job hunters can get assistance with résumé creation; participate in mock job interviews; use computers to search for positions; take practice licensing exams; and view sample cover letters, résumés, and thank-you letters.

Simmons can relate to his students' needs. He graduated from Pitt with a master's degree in social work in 1985 and relocated to Atlanta, Ga., where he worked in social work at a hospital. A job at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, where he had completed an internship while studying at Pitt, brought him back to Pittsburgh in 1989. In 1996, he returned to his alma mater to work in the school's field education office.

Simmons sees the center as another cog in the wheel that can successfully transition students from academics to working professionals. Aiding students in preparing for employment when they leave helps to complete their successful career at Pitt.

Eileen M. Carlins (BASW '00, MSW '01), president of the school's Alumni Society, sees the center as an important resource that can aid alumni as well as students in a competitive job market. "To have that physical location dedicated just for career assistance is going to be a tremendous resource," she says.

MSW student Nova Jean Hubbard of Austin, Texas, says that the career center will increase the capacity of a school that already has greatly benefited her. She says that extensive interview coaching and preparation with Simmons was invaluable in her successful application for a competitive paid internship with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.

"I'm very, very happy with the program," she says. "I expect to be well prepared. I have friends at MSW programs in other states, and I've got to say, [their programs] barely measure up. You never really know what a school is going to be like until you get there, but there's never been a single doubt in my mind that I made the right choice. It's one thing to learn in a classroom theoretically and another to prepare for interviews, know what to wear, and [know] how to walk into a room. That's half the battle, and without the help Mr. Simmons gave me, I wouldn't have felt as prepared or confident."

With its increased capacity to aid employment seekers, the career center "is going to be a game changer," Simmons promises. "I think it's going to take it to a whole new level. Students will certainly benefit, [as will] alums. More than 80 percent of our graduates find work within three months of graduating, and I think having the center will increase that number.

"My two favorite words are 'You're hired.' That's what I want our students to hear. Unfortunately, there's a need for what social workers do, but, fortunately, we are preparing them to go out there and assist communities and people who need help in our society. That's what it's all about." ■

FOR JOB POSTINGS AND UPDATES:

@pittsswcareers

socialwork.pitt.edu/vankirk

412-624-6354

A Message from the Office of Development



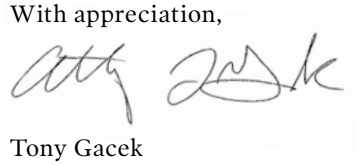
A lot is happening at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. We aspire to further innovate our outreach and find new ways to engage our constituents here in Pittsburgh, across the country, and around the world. As we shape our programming in the months and years ahead, we can't do it without your input. While we survey our constituents throughout the academic year, I want to extend the opportunity to you now to tell us what you want from Pitt. Our alumni work with us in countless ways—as field supervisors, adjunct professors, volunteers, donors, continuing education attendees, and more—but as we look ahead to new ideas and ways to strengthen the Pitt social work network, we need to know what resonates most with you.

Please take a moment now to send me an e-mail (**gtony@pitt.edu**) or give me a call (**412-624-8604**) and tell me what's on your mind. How can the School of Social Work better serve you? How can it empower you, enlighten you, or engage with you? How can we help to make you more successful in your career or more valuable to your network? Please tell us. The more input we get, the more powerful our programming will become and the more valuable and meaningful your Pitt social work degree will be to you.

Don't be shy! We want to hear what you've been up to since you left campus and what your goals are now and in the future.

I look forward to hearing from you, and I thank you in advance for your continued commitment to the School of Social Work.

With appreciation,



Tony Gacek
Director of Constituent Relations
412-624-8604
gtony@pitt.edu



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The 2015 Distinguished Alumni recognition program was held on October 7, 2015, at the School of Social Work. The following awards were presented at the luncheon: Distinguished Alumni Award in Social Work Education, **Ron Marks** (MSW '77, PhD '80), dean, School of Social Work, Tulane University; Distinguished Alumni Award in Social Work Practice, **Alan Momeyer** (MSW '72), vice president of human resources, Loews Corporation; Outstanding Alumni Award, **Cynthia Klemanski** (MSW '76), senior social worker, UPMC Presbyterian; Outstanding Field Instructor, **Elyse Wagner** (MSW '09), clinical social worker, UPMC Presbyterian; and Rising Star Alumni Award, **Aerion Abney** (MSW '12), program officer, POISE Foundation. ■

ALUMNI SOCIETY

Your Help Is Needed!

School of Social Work Alumni Society

If you are interested in serving on any of the committees or learning more about upcoming alumni activities please contact **Tony Gacek**, director of career services, by phone at **412-624-8604** or by e-mail at **gtony@pitt.edu**.

FIND US ONLINE!

Find us on **Facebook** by searching for PittSSW

Follow us on **Twitter**: @PittSocialwork

STAY CONNECTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK!



Pitt Career Network

Register to serve as a mentor to a current student or to network with fellow alumni.

The Pitt Career Network is an online networking service for Pitt alumni and students that provides the opportunity to discuss careers and job prospects, learn about your field in new places, have a positive impact on someone's future, and make valuable connections with other alumni.

For more information and to sign up, visit **alumni.pitt.edu/alumni/resources/career-resources**.

We Are Looking for You!



The School of Social Work is seeking alumni who might be interested in becoming field instructors for our students.

BASW and MSW interns provide more than 300,000 hours of service to agencies and organizations like yours every year. Being a mentor is a very rewarding experience and gives you a hand in educating and preparing the next generation of social workers for service.

If you are interested in becoming a field instructor, please visit **socialwork.pitt.edu/academic-programs/field-education** for more information.

Keep Us Posted!

The School of Social Work wants to know what's new with you.

Tell us about career advancements, papers, honors, and achievements, and we'll include this information in our Class Notes section. Simply visit **socialwork.pitt.edu/alumni/alumni-updates.php** and submit your name, degree, and graduation year, and the information you'd like to highlight (be sure to include locations and dates).

If you wish to include a photo, please make sure it's at least 1 megabyte in size to ensure proper print quality. We accept TIF, EPS, and JPEG files.

Keep Us Updated!

PITT
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Have you become a member of the Pitt Alumni Association's online community?

This online service exists to help alumni connect with each other and with the University. Here you can locate and reach out to other Pitt alumni. If you have been out of touch with your alma mater, you can update your contact information to begin receiving Pitt news and other materials.

Check out the Pitt Alumni Association online community at **alumni.pitt.edu/alumni/resources/alumni-resources**.

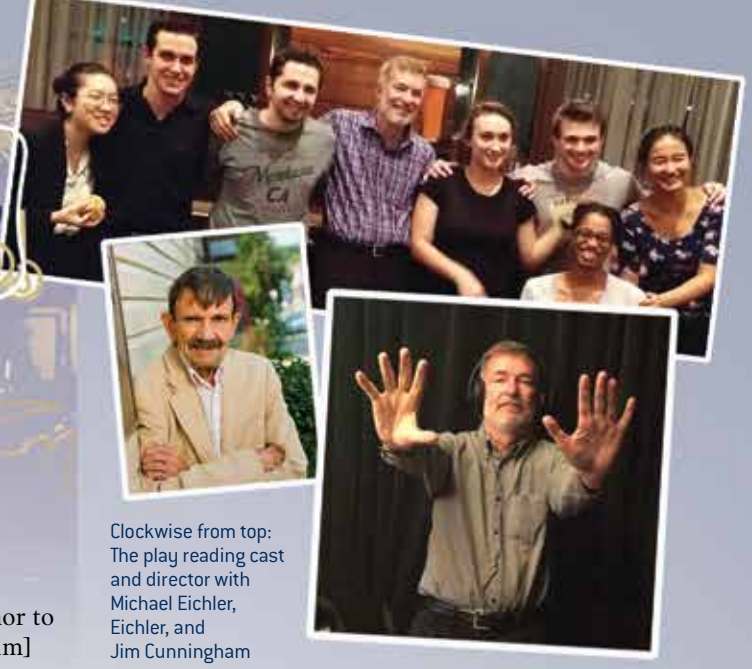
Did You Know?

The VanKirk Career Center is open to alumni as well as students from the School of Social Work.

Our specialization in social work careers will provide you with the information and connections necessary to empower people, lead organizations, and grow communities. The VanKirk Center hosts student and alumni networking events and career development workshops throughout the year. Our free job posting service provides employers with a direct connection to the region's top talent.

Visit **socialwork.pitt.edu/student-resources/career-services.php** for full details on upcoming events or to schedule an appointment.

REPULSING THE MONKEY



Clockwise from top: The play reading cast and director with Michael Eichler, Eichler, and Jim Cunningham

PLAY READING PROMOTES COMMUNITY CHANGE AND THE HUMANITIES

In November 2015, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work kicked off a campaign to grow its Community, Organization, and Social Action (COSA) fund in memory of the late Professor Emeritus James V. Cunningham, whose legacy was cemented by his commitment to supporting grassroots community, neighborhood, and social action organizations. The kickoff centered on a reading of the play *Repulsing the Monkey*, written by alumnus Michael Eichler (MSW '86), which focuses on gentrification in Pittsburgh, a problem in the region for which Cunningham and his students and alumni have sought solutions.

This reading of Eichler's play was a class project for Mary Ohmer's Community Organizing course in conjunction with Pitt's Year of Humanities. In addition to organizing, promoting, and coordinating the play reading, students conducted research on neighborhood change and gentrification issues nationally and in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, including interviewing local change makers, several of whom are COSA graduates. As a result of their efforts, the play reading was very well received, selling out the first night and almost selling out the second night. Students also organized discussion sessions after the play readings with neighborhood change makers, play attendees, members of the cast, and Eichler. In fact, these events generated interest in staging a full production of the play in Pittsburgh this year.

Ohmer said, "It was an honor to celebrate Jim's [Cunningham] legacy at this event. I went to school and later worked with Mike [Eichler]. We were both in Jim's community organizing class. We learned how important it was for community organizers to address the kinds of issues raised in *Repulsing the Monkey*. I have fond memories of Jim and his dedication to his students, the Pittsburgh community and the field of organizing."

This term, Ohmer's students are helping to continue this conversation. At a dialogue session with neighborhood change makers this spring, these students will present on best practices nationally and internationally that support revitalization without displacement.

At a reception preceding the play reading, social work alumni, faculty, and staff; community leaders; and friends reflected on the significance and impact Cunningham made on Pittsburgh and future organizers and social workers through his role at the school. The school announced its ambition to raise an additional $100,000 in Cunningham's memory for the COSA fund, which was started with a generous gift from Cunningham and his late wife, Rita. The school will be coordinating outreach on its Cunningham memorial campaign with alumni and interested constituents throughout 2016, including a soon-to-be-announced matching gift grant from a generous COSA alumnus that will match the first $5,000 in gifts to the fund this year, with an opportunity for additional support in the future.

"I came to Pitt because of my respect for Jim Cunningham and Moe Coleman (professor emeritus of the School of Social Work and director emeritus of Pitt's Institute of Politics). Once you spent a few minutes with Jim you knew he was the real deal. I knew I would be fortunate to be his student and I was right. I went on to have a long career as a community organizer and later became a professor myself. Later in life, I stumbled into play writing and in a few short years I was blessed to have some success even getting to off off Broadway. When I would come back to Pittsburgh to visit old friends I was amazed at the influx of new young residents moving here from cities like Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. I noticed the rising real estate prices and the expensive restaurants and began writing a play about a brother and sister who inherit a bar from their parents on the South Side Slopes. When they decide to sell it, 20-somethings from out of town compete to buy it and of course change it. When I heard about the fellowships that were being set up to honor Jim, I wanted to help. To have Jim's family and friends attend and enjoy the play was the highlight of my writing career."

– MIKE EICHLER

To make a gift to the COSA fund in Cunningham's memory, please visit **secure.giveto.pitt.edu/cosas**.

THE INFLUENCE OF FORMULARY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ON OPIOID MEDICATION USE

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, in partnership with the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health, has received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to examine the effect of formulary management strategies on patterns of problematic prescription opioid consumption and overdose in the Pennsylvania Medicaid program.

The principal investigator is **Gerald Cochran**, assistant professor in the School of Social Work and the Department of Psychiatry in the University's School of Medicine. Working with him is **Julie Donohue**, coprincipal investigator and an associate professor in Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health.



Consequences of problematic prescription opioid consumption (which includes heavy use and misuse) and overdose have reached epidemic proportions in the United States and are a major public health concern. A number of repercussions associated with problematic opioid consumption and overdose, including comorbid health problems and deaths, add to the seriousness of this issue. Strategies such as Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs have had a limited impact on access to opioids and overdose rates.

There is a growing need for approaches that address both physicians' prescribing and consumers' use of opioid medications. Preferred drug formularies and use management tools stand to be valuable strategies for payers to control prescribing, consumption, and subsequent overdose.

Previous studies of formulary and preferred drug list implementation in commercial and public plans have demonstrated reductions in prescription filling among a number of medication classes. Furthermore, research has shown that shifting medications to prior authorization lists results in prescription decreases.

THERE IS A GROWING NEED FOR APPROACHES THAT ADDRESS BOTH PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIBING AND CONSUMERS' USE OF OPIOID MEDICATIONS.

Medicaid is an important payer for prescription opioids and covers a vulnerable population at high risk of opioid misuse. Pennsylvania has the fourth-largest Medicaid program in the country and has long-standing contracts with several managed care organizations, each of which develops its own formulary and approach to managing drug use. As such, Cochran and Donohue can take advantage of rich cross-sectional and longitudinal variation in formulary design in an insurance program that covered more than 2 million people annually between 2007 and 2012. With these data, Cochran and Donohue will identify patient- and provider-level risk factors associated with opioid overdose and trajectories of opioid consumption that precede overdose in Medicaid and examine effects of formulary/use management tools on overdose and problematic use.

Results from this study will be directly disseminated to Pennsylvania's Medicaid program administrators, who can implement statewide policies to slow or reduce problematic prescription opioid consumption, overdoses, and deaths. ■



GERALD COCHRAN, assistant professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine



Spring 2016 CRSP Update

The spring term has been a very productive and exciting one at the Center on Race and Social Problems (CRSP). The spring speaker series got off to an amazing start with a special appearance and talk, "State of the City," given by Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, who was introduced by Pitt Chancellor Emeritus Mark A. Nordenberg. As usual, our speaker series showcases CRSP's commitment to a broad diversity of topics and disciplines, with a special focus on the intersection of race and social problems.

In late fall, CRSP announced the winners of its student paper award. The undergraduate winners were Megan Carson, Brian Maine, and Daniel Salmon for their paper, "N1 Kinds of Freedom."

Postdoctoral research associate Anita Zuberi and her colleagues, Rick Hopkinson, Bob Gradeck, and Waverly Duck, released an impressive report, *The Pittsburgh Neighborhood Distress and Health Study: Neighborhood Profiles.* The purpose of the report was to provide a snapshot of Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods, with a special focus on the links among neighborhoods, race, and health. The report is available on the CRSP Web site at **crsp.pitt.edu**.

NEW WEB SITE UNDER WAY

Plans for updating the CRSP Web site are under way. This has turned out to be quite a daunting task, but we are looking forward to improving our means of getting information about the center out more effectively. We also are currently in the midst of planning what we are sure will be three exciting Summer Institutes, one focusing on disproportionality in child welfare, another on racism in higher education, and one on violence prevention. This last institute will be held in conjunction with the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. Please look for details on our Web site and our Facebook page.

RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS JOURNAL SPECIAL EDITION

The center's publication of the journal *Race and Social Problems* is now in its eighth year. This fall, we intend to release a special issue edited by Thomas Shapiro and Hannah Thomas, both of Brandeis University, on the topic of wealth inequity. This promises to be a very timely and informative publication on a topic that is receiving increased public scrutiny.

ANNUAL CUBA TRIP

Our annual Cuban Social Policy Issues course was once again a success. This year, professors Valire Carr Copeland and Mary Ohmer led the class of MSW students to Cuba. As has been true in the past, students found it to be an exciting course.



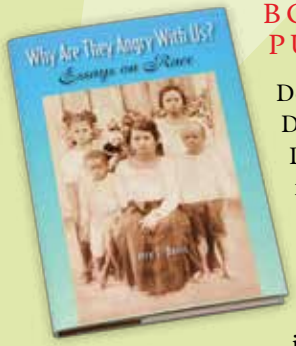




Sights from Cuba:

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA (second from left)
Back row (left to right): Professor Mary Ohmer, Alex Pierlott, Valire Carr Copeland, and Tina Marie Jones
Front row (left to right): Mary O'Hara, Gabby Demarchi, Suad Yusuf, and Danielle Dyke

AT THE ERNEST HEMINGWAY HOUSE (far right)
Back row (left to right): Dyke, Yusuf, Grace Ozinga, and Ohmer
Middle row (left to right): O'Hara, Pierlott, and Demarchi
Front row: Jones



BOOK PUBLISHED

Dean and CRSP Director Larry E. Davis released his new book, *Why Are They Angry with Us? Essays on Race*. The title of the book is derived from a question he asked himself at the age of 7: "If we were slaves [Blacks], why are they [Whites] angry with us?"

A BIG THANK-YOU

CRSP continues to play an important role in the school, the University, the city, and the social work profession. We want to thank the University of Pittsburgh for its generous and sustained support, for without it, there would be no center. We also want to thank the law firms of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC and Reed Smith LLP for their support of our very successful speaker series. Among other things, with the help of these supporters, we continue to provide a forum for a discussion of America's defining social problem: race. There is little doubt that our country is currently in the midst of its greatest racial challenge since the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Thus, the work done here in CRSP is even more important today than it was 14 years ago, when the center was begun.

Please feel free to join us at the center for any of our lectures or to view our activities online at ***crsp.pitt.edu****. As always, we appreciate your continued support.*



CONGRATULATIONS

Ira E. Murray*, a doctoral student and graduate fellow in the School of Education, won this year's Doctoral Student Paper Award from the Center on Race and Social Problems for his paper, "'Not as Much as It Should Be': How Community-based Outside of School Time Programs Attend to Black Male Sociopolitical Development."*

CLASS NOTES

- **Thomas Broffman** (BSW '73, MSW '74) retired from Eastern Connecticut State University's Department of Social Work, where he had taught since 2002, in December 2015. He has since joined the faculty of the new Master of Social Work program at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Conn., where he will serve as coordinator of the veterans sequence.

  Broffman did his Pitt MSW field placement through the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. He worked at the Providence (R.I.) VA Medical Center for 16 years. He writes that his career "is ending where it began—working with veterans and their families." In October 2015, Broffman was awarded the Connecticut Social Work Educator of the Year Award by the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), which he now serves as vice president. While a student at Pitt, Broffman was involved in NASW as a student representative.

- **Dorothy C. Browne** (MSW '72) has joined Jackson State University as the inaugural dean of its School of Public Health—the state of Mississippi's first such school. Since 2012, Browne had served as an adjunct professor of maternal and child welfare at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health while also working with colleagues at UNC and Duke University to conduct workshops, teach courses in health disparities, and plan the National Health Equity Research Webcast (formerly the Annual Summer Public Health Research Institute and Videoconference on Minority Health). Browne says that Jackson State's "expansive and collaborative" vision drew her to the new school.

  Browne earned her Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health degrees at Harvard University.

- **Leonard E. Faulk Jr.** (MSW '68, PhD '84) was awarded the 2015 John D. Hamilton Community Service Award by the Chautauqua Region (N.Y.) Community Foundation on September 10, 2015. In its 23rd year, the award was bestowed upon Faulk, an esteemed community organizer who has been active in the Jamestown, N.Y., community for many years in many capacities.

  Faulk has been involved with the State University of New York at Fredonia's StartUp NY Advisory Committee, the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, the City of Jamestown Strategic Planning and Partnership Commission, the Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation and more.

- **Cynthia Hughes** (MSW '77) has published *Hoop in the Bathroom*, a new book geared toward educators, parents, and children of all ages. The book teaches a practical life lesson about teamwork and includes vocabulary words and learning activities for children in kindergarten through fifth grade.

  Hughes also coauthored *Unconditional Love*, a biography of the late Lela Haynes Session, a Jeanes teacher (the Negro Rural School Fund of the Anna T. Jeanes Foundation—from which the phrase "Jeanes teacher" came—was established to improve the public education of rural African Americans) whose life impacted political, social, and racial history in South Carolina; *Just One Moment*, a guide to helping children handle divorce; and *Can I Be President of the United States If I Am 8?* (slated for release in 2016).

- **Tirelo Modie-Moroka** (PhD '03) is a lecturer in the direct practice concentration in the Department of Social Work at the University of Botswana. She also lectures on a part-time basis at the university's Institute of Health Sciences and in its Department of Psychology.

  Her latest project includes working with the Nkaikela Youth Group to develop a health promotion program that provides psychosocial support for female sex workers in Tlokweng, Gaborone, Selebi-Phikwe, Francistown, and Kasane, Botswana. The program uses a gender-specific, theory-driven intervention requiring relational, multidisciplinary, and integrated group work. Her current project involves broadening the scope of scientific knowledge in the design of clinical assessments and intervention tools as well as the promotion, dissemination, and translational science of implementation research.

  Modie-Moroka also earned a Master of Public Health degree at Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health. ■

A POWERFUL ADVOCATE FOR DISABILITY-RELATED ISSUES

Richard O. Salsgiver (MSW '84) was inducted into the California Social Work Hall of Distinction in October 2015.

A leading voice on behalf of individuals with disabilities, Salsgiver has drawn inspiration from his own experiences to advocate for disability rights and awareness. "I know what it is like to be locked in a room, locked in a closet for three days because you've done something wrong," he said, describing how he was institutionalized from age 6 to 12 after being born with cerebral palsy. "That knowledge has served me well in my profession as a social worker because it has given me legitimacy to talk about those experiences."

Rather than allowing his life to be defined by his disability, Salsgiver sought to demonstrate that physical or mental limitations do not inhibit an individual's ability to contribute to society. As the program manager of the Center for Independence of the Disabled and later as executive director of the California Association of the Physically Handicapped Independent Living Center, he emerged as a powerful political advocate for and educator on disability-related issues.

He helped to secure the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and supported other legislation that enhanced the lives of individuals with disabilities throughout California.

In 1994, Salsgiver joined the faculty at California State University, Fresno, where he taught courses on social work practice and human behavior. He also coauthored one of the leading disability-related texts, *Disability: A Diversity Model Approach in Human Service Practice*, now in its third edition. ■

"I AM SO THANKFUL I AM A SOCIAL WORKER. IT'S ONE OF THE FEW PROFESSIONS THAT ALLOW YOU TO LEGITIMIZE YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCE."

- RICHARD SALSGIVER (MSW '84)

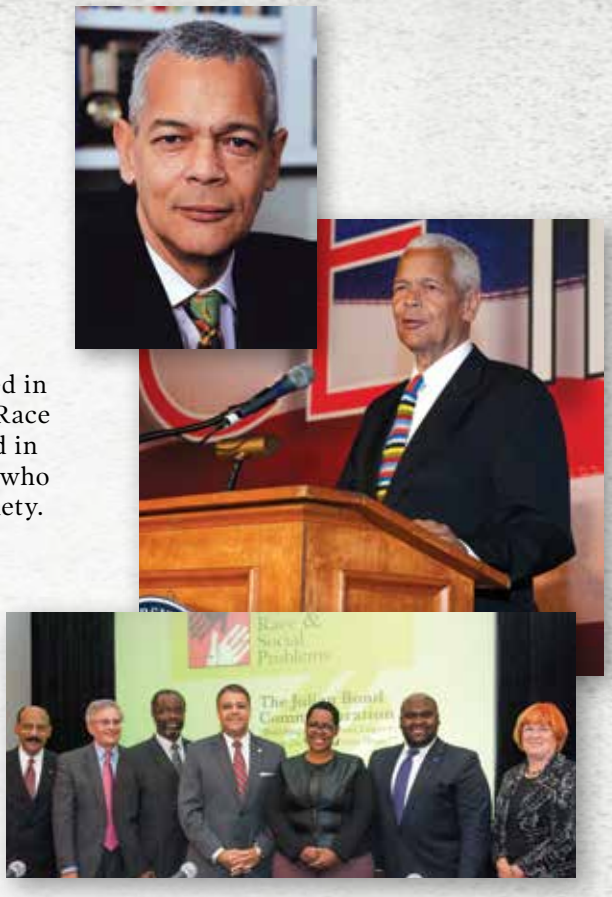
SCHOOL COMMEMORATES LIFE OF JULIAN BOND

In October 2015, the Center on Race and Social Problems honored **Julian Bond**, the civil rights leader and social activist who had died just two months prior, with the Julian Bond Commemoration Building on the Bond Legacy: Where Do We Go from Here?

The school had a unique relationship with Bond, who also had served as chair of the NAACP. He gave the inaugural speech when the Center on Race and Social Problems opened in 2002 and delivered the keynote address at the center's 2010 Race in America conference, the largest race conference ever held in America. We owe much to his legacy as a civil rights leader who did not shy away from confronting the inequities in our society.

The video of Bond's Race in America keynote, "The Road to Freedom: From Alabama to Obama," was shown at the commemoration and followed by a panel discussion and question-and-answer session. The panel was moderated by John Wallace Jr., Philip Hallen Chair in Community Health and Social Justice at the School of Social Work, and panelists were Don Cravins Jr., senior vice president for policy and executive director, National Urban League Washington Bureau; Sammie Dow, director, Youth & College Division, NAACP; Jessica Ruffin, chief operating officer, Coro Pittsburgh, and site director, Public Allies Pittsburgh; and David Shribman, executive editor, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Bond's legacy is one that we aim to continue. ■



Photos from top to bottom: Julian Bond; Bond speaking at the Race in America conference; Dean Larry E. Davis, David Shribman, John Wallace Jr., Don Cravins Jr., Jessica Ruffin, Sammie Dow, and Provost Patricia E. Beeson at the Julian Bond Commemoration

University of Pittsburgh

School of Social Work
2117 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

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Empower People
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Grow Communities

All lectures are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Conference Center, 2017 Cathedral of Learning.

Lunch will be provided; registration is not required. For more information, visit socialwork.pitt.edu or call 412-624-6304.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
"Macro Practice in Social Work"
DARLYNE BAILEY, Dean, Professor, and MSS Program Director, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, and Special Assistant to the President for Community Partnerships, Bryn Mawr College



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY | Sidney A. Teller Lecture
"Human Security and Sustainable Development: A Global Agenda for Social Work"
JAMES HERBERT WILLIAMS, Milton Morris Endowed Chair, Dean, and Professor, School of Social Work, University of Denver

CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS | REED SMITH LLP SPRING 2016 SPEAKER SERIES



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27
"Myth of the Color-blind and Gender-blind Judge"
PAT K. CHEW, Judge J. Quint Salmon and Anne Salmon Chaired Professor and Distinguished Faculty Scholar, University of Pittsburgh School of Law



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4
"Rhetoric vs. Reality: Neoliberal Thought and the Racial Wealth Gap"
DARRICK HAMILTON, Associate Professor, the New School



THURSDAY, MARCH 3
"Is Marriage for White People?"
RALPH RICHARD BANKS, Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law, Stanford Law School



TUESDAY, APRIL 12
"Achievement Gaps—and the Toxic Interaction of Race, Poverty, and Segregation—Start Before Kindergarten"
ELAINE WEISS, National Coordinator, Broader Bolder Approach to Education Campaign, Economic Policy Institute