Four-year study through U.S. Department of Education grant is a first for MU School of Social Work.
See page 12.
Mizzou SW is published annually by the MU School of Social Work in the College of Human Environmental Sciences. Its main purpose is to inform alumni and friends about the research, activities and events of the School of Social Work and to publish news about alumni. All rights to reproduction of any material printed in Mizzou SW are reserved for the magazine.

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Associate Professor, Social Work, Lincoln University

Director’s Letter

Dear Social Work Alumni and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I present our new edition of Mizzou SW. Composing this year’s letter is a bittersweet effort as I write it during my final year as Director of the MU School of Social Work. As I look back on my career, I am gratified by the strides the school has made. Our faculty is truly exemplary; they excel at research, teaching, service and economic development — the four missions of MU. Our students, too, merit special acknowledgment. Their enthusiasm and dedication to their future profession is inspiring and uplifting. We have embraced technology in a positive manner and, with the help of two internal grants and the leadership of Dr. Dale Fitch, associate director, our MSW program will be fully online, accepting regular standing students for Fall 2016.

I am happy to report that 2015 has been a remarkable year for the School. In my last year as director, I have overseen the installation of six new faculty members (and the hiring of two more for next year), the implementation of our new MSW and PhD curricula, and the continued success and growth of our Integrative Behavioral Health Clinic located in the Family Impact Center. Externally funded research has grown exponentially, increasing by 270% from FY14 to FY15. Our scholarship endowment has grown by $1 million and the number of endowed scholarships has continued to increase. Thanks to generous donations from our alumni and a grant from the university, we have even refurbished three of our Clark Hall classrooms.

People have asked us how things are going at MU and about morale. Although the events of Fall 2015 were hard, we have also had many positive outcomes, including an increased discussion on campus and in our school about the impact of racism, power and privilege. On February 4, the College of Human Environmental Sciences held a workshop designed to generate ideas and strategies for ending marginalization and enhancing inclusion on campus that nearly 140 students, faculty and staff attended. On February 5, the school held a faculty and staff retreat to discuss action planning as we move forward to address racism and enhance inclusion within our school. Our Spring Forum on April 22, 2016, is entitled “Addressing Race and Racism in Social Work Practice.” Dr. Larry Davis, Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh and Director of the Center on Race and Social Problems, will be our keynote speaker.

We are working hard as a faculty to address racism, power and privilege, and inclusion among ourselves and in the classroom. As such, I will count on you to continue to support the School, its faculty and staff, and, most importantly, our students as we continue to prepare them for the profession.

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as Director of the MU School of Social Work for the past nine years. I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to watching its continued growth and achievements.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Sable
Director and Professor

Keep in Touch
Help us keep track of where you are and what you’ve been up to since graduation. Send updates you’d like to share with fellow alumni to ssw@missouri.edu. Be sure to include your name, including maiden name, and graduation year. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MizzouSocialWork. Join our group, “University of Missouri School of Social Work Community,” on LinkedIn. Or continue the conversation on Twitter @Mizzou_SW
Jennifer First and Laura Danforth
MU School of Social Work PhD students, Jennifer First, MSW ’12 and Laura Danforth, recently presented a poster at the annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference (SSWR) held in Washington, D.C. The title of their poster was “Teacher and School Staff Perspectives on the Effects of Disaster Media Coverage on Students.” This poster reported on a qualitative study that examined school staff perceptions of how disaster media affects students and how school staff might help reduce negative effects. This data also informed the development of a classroom-based intervention designed to help students cope with disaster media coverage; the Disaster Media Coverage: A Guide for Teachers and School Staff can be downloaded from the Disaster and Community Crisis Center (http://dcc.missouri.edu/dmi.shtml).

First says, “Presenting at SSWR was a wonderful experience. I enjoyed meeting and networking with other social work practitioners and researchers with similar research interests.”

Caitlin Bartley
MU School of Social Work master’s student Caitlin Bartley was the recipient of the Third Annual Youth Leadership Award from the Governor’s Council on Disability. Her achievements and honors include being the Miss America Goodwill Ambassador for Central Missouri, a Missouri Youth Leadership Forum graduate, and a speaker for the Children’s Miracle Network Radiothon.

Bartley says, “It is such an honor to be the recipient of the 2015 Youth Leadership Award. Throughout my academic endeavors, I have experienced a few instances of stereotyping and discrimination based on my ability status. Instead of focusing on a person’s strengths, some find it easier to make assumptions about a person’s limitations. Through public speaking and advocacy, I strive to increase disability awareness and acceptance while breaking societal stereotypes. Not only do I feel this is my calling, but it is something I love to do. To receive public recognition for something I enjoy so much is very gratifying.”

Jung Sim Jun

Her dissertation topic is Information and Communication Technology Use, Social Support and Life Satisfaction among Korean Immigrant Elders. Her dissertation advisor is Dr. Colleen Galambos. “I am pleased and very thankful for receiving such recognition!” Jun says.

Sweet 15: The MU School of Social Work Celebrates a PhD Birthday
MU School of Social Work’s PhD program is 15 years old. Over that period, 32 graduates have received their doctorates, and 13 students are currently in the program. Says Program Director Mansoo Yu, “The MU PhD program in Social Work is the only such program in a public Missouri institution of higher education. The goal of our program is to prepare students for excellence and leadership in social work research and teaching within the state and the nation.”

Field experiences and dissertation topics have covered a wide range of issues, including health care access, criminal justice, child welfare, epidemiologic research and, as social work always has, work with vulnerable and underserved populations. Graduates of the program have found work at a variety of institutions, as close as the MU School of Medicine and as far away as Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in South Korea. Student Laura Danforth says, “Being a student in this program has allowed me to experience the research process start to finish, learn about publishing, and has also provided me with hands-on teaching experience, all of which are essential skills to have when you are on the market.”

Student Lindsay Ruhr adds, “When I first started the PhD program, I had a rough idea of what I wanted to research, but I was 100% sure. The guidance that I received from faculty at the MU School of Social Work has greatly helped me figure out my future research agenda and determine what I want to do after I complete my degree.”

For more information about the program, see the PhD Program page at the MU School of Social Work website (http://ssw.missouri.edu/phd.html).

Master of Social Work program is now online!
Spring will mark the graduation of the first entirely online cohort of MU School of Social Work’s master’s students. The program began with advanced standing students, that is, students who already had bachelor’s degrees in social work, rather than degrees from other fields, because the School felt such students would be most likely to handle the coursework successfully. The first cohort of regular standing students will begin the program in Fall 2016. Of the current cohort, Program Director Dale Finch says, “Last year, we had a class of 16 online students and we asked them: ‘Given a 24/7 week, when would you be available to take this class if you had to attend in person on campus?’ Their response was there was never a time where even one of them would not be available.”

For more information about the MU School of Social Work Online MSW Program, see the website (http://ssw.missouri.edu/msw_online.html).

What Students Are Saying...
“I decided to go with an online program instead of a traditional graduate program because of the flexibility. I did not have to put my education on hold and could proceed with getting my degree sooner rather than later. I am grateful that Mizzou has an online program, so I can get my degree from my home state and the university that both my parents graduated from, while living in Tennessee.”
— Kelsey Rector, Pullaski, TN

“I am so grateful that Mizzou has an online MSW program. Attaining my MSW helped me advance my social work career and enabled me to be better equipped to help my clients. I was initially apprehensive about completing role plays online, but I quickly realized the convenience was invaluable and I had great experiences with my classmates from around the state. It is so cool and, dare I say, necessary, that you are able to learn and improve our social work skill set through the use of technology.”
— Darby R. Provanse, La Monte, MO

“I never took online classes in college and although my age group is usually considered the most technologically savvy, I was not one of those people. I could not imagine working on my homework and working a full-time job and couldn’t be happier to be one step closer to my graduate degree.”
— Stevie Probst, Cape Girardeau, MO

For more information about the MU School of Social Work Online MSW Program, visit our website: http://ssw.missouri.edu/msw_online.html.
Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Dr. Hsun-Ta Hsu, assistant professor, earned his doctorate at the University of Southern California School of Social Work. Research interests include health, homelessness, housing, social networking and intervention with homeless adults and youth.

Alexandria Lewis, clinical instructor (MSW ’05), has teaching interests in gerontology; military social work; death, grief and loss. Her research interests include hospice, death education and online education.

Dr. Virginia Ramseyer Winter, assistant professor, earned her doctorate at the University of Kansas. Her scholarship explores relationships between women’s body image and their physical, mental and sexual health, particularly among racial and ethnic minority women.

Dr. Ninive Sanchez, assistant professor, earned her doctorate at the University of Michigan. She is interested in the sociocultural factors that influence health and well-being among low-income groups.

Margee Stout is the new assistant to the director. Stout most recently worked as an executive assistant at the MU Research Reactor, from 2007-2015. Before that, she worked at MU’s Veterinary Health Center Small Animal Hospital and in the Finance Department at the MU College of Business.

Dr. Sarah Myers Tlapek, assistant professor, earned her doctorate at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. Her research focuses on trauma, mental health and interpersonal violence, with an emphasis on resource-limited populations affected by political or community violence.

Christine Woods, returning clinical instructor (MSW ’02), has teaching interests in child and family welfare, crisis intervention, human development, child development, community services coordination, family dynamics and interaction and field instruction.

Nick Crossley (MSW ’98) was elected the Second Vice President of the International Association of Emergency Managers-U.S.A. (IAEM) in October of 2015. IAEM has almost 5,000 members across the U.S. Crossley is the director of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency for Hamilton County, Ohio, which includes the city of Cincinnati and 46 other jurisdictions.

Robert J. Kozuki, (MSW’59) passed away on November 4, 2014, in Honolulu, HI. Kozuki was a pioneer in hospice and palliative care, and is a member of the Conscience Works project.

Corinne Mann (MSW ’15) has an upcoming article, “Social workers as behavioral health consultants in the primary care clinic,” in Health and Social Work. The article addresses the role of social workers as behavioral health consultants in the primary care setting.

Ariel Spires (BSW ’14, BS ’14) is a youth counselor at Youth Village, a level-four intensive treatment center for girls in Memphis, Tennessee.

John Sullivan (MSW ’71) has retired from the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. His book, SubHuman Behavior, was published in 2014. He continues to practice with Osman & Associates in Indianapolis and is a member of the Concience Works project.

Dr. Ninive Sanchez, assistant professor, earned her doctorate at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the role of gender and power in social work; death, grief and loss. Her research interests include hospice, death education and online education.

Alexandria Lewis, clinical instructor (MSW ’05), has teaching interests in gerontology; military social work; death, grief and loss. Her research interests include hospice, death education and online education.

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May 2015 MSW
Summa Cum Laude
Harly Michelle Moore*
Magna Cum Laude
Christine Joy Lawrence
Emily Anne Love
Alyssa Elizabeth Noll
Rachael Marie Fox

May 2015 BSW
Summa Cum Laude
Allie Marie Hallert*
Riley Elizabeth Dean
Carly Marie Lancaster
Cum Laude
Monika Cichowlas
Sara Ann Eisenman
Natalie Mary Fish
Mallory Anne Hakes
Katherine Jude Hansen
Kelly Marie Sineni

May 2015 MSW
Kimberly Alexis Bacon
Jerry M. Best
Amanda Marie Birkenmeier
Kori A. Bower
Heather Janessa Brunt
Alexandra Bryant
Jocelyn Ann Burton
Haley Michelle Carson
Colleen Dietmeyer
Uraina Jean Domen
Cynthia B. Durbin
Rachel Kathryn Finch
Haley Jane Floyd
John C. Fuller*
Jessica Elizabeth Nora Goehring
Sherry Ann Goshen
Abby Elizabeth Harper
Jennie Marie Harvat
Scott Ellis Hawf
Suzanne Michelle Hiatt
Alisa Virginia Hill
Rachel Nicole Huntsman
Kayla Danielle Jackson
Debra Niles Kuner
Jenny Lynne Latham
Heather Marie Main
Hillary Meagan Marsh
Chris Edward Merin
Joseph Paul Mayer
Windy Elaine Marie Mayes
Kristen J. McCowan
Shannon Michelle Monahan
Rebecca Jennette Muchmore
Lisa Michelle Mullin
Jamie R. Pinney
Tara Elizabeth Price
Jordan P. Reid
Marta Julie Roberts
Harold Bernard Rose
David Rowland
Melanie Lynn Shands
Katie Sherbo
Tiffany Marie Sitts
Andrew R. Smith
Shaina Kathleen Smith
Dana Taylor
Melinda Gay Taylor
Jasmine M. Terak
Katherine Marie Thomure
Kelsey Delana Tomlin
Jennifer Lynn Tunink
Niki Delene Vandable
Carly-Martinez Valotoloto
Amber Danielle Windhorst
Abigail Rolbiecki
August 2015 MSW
Tiffani Hannah Michelle Bowman
Juanita Jean Buchanan
Hisayi Ann Bush
Nicole Annette Collins
Teresa Kay Crain
Nathan Laneey First
Christine Michelle Flores
Jocelyn Joanne Gutzowski
Bradley Joseph Hammer
Jacqueline Ann Hodson
Natalie Sheld Karsnowski
Jessica Lynn Lang
Corrynne Mann
Michaela Megan Much
Betty Jean Peck
Logan Rachel Seebach
Tony Simon
Jerry Neil Spurgeon
Daniel Raymond Strihling
Katherine A. Stuart
Amanda Rachel Sullivan
Katherine A. Stuart
Jerry Neil Spurgeon
Tony Simon
Michaela Megan Much
Corrine Mann
Jessica Lynn Lang
Natalie Sheld Karsnowski
Katherine A. Stuart
Amanda Rachel Sullivan
MU School of Social Work faculty, Marjorie Sable and Dale Fitch, along with UMSL colleagues Sharon Johnson and Lois Pierce, have received the 2015 MU System President’s Award for Inter-Campus Collaboration. Sable and Fitch developed an online course sharing between the two Schools, and also established a joint study abroad program to the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa. Pictured, left to right: Dale Fitch, Sharon Johnson, Marjorie Sable and former President Tim Wolfe. Not pictured: Lois Pierce

Aaron Thompson, Assistant Professor in the MU School of Social Work, won the 2016 Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award from the Society for Social Work and Research. The award is given, “in recognition of Dr. Aaron Thompson’s notable influence on the development and testing of school-based interventions for children with social, emotional, and behavioral health concerns and his noteworthy contributions to advance the social work profession.”

Field Instructor Awards
Tammy Smiley (MSW ’96) is the 2015 winner of the MU School of Social Work Field Instructor of the Year. Smiley works at the Fulton State Hospital and was responsible for mentoring student Abby Keller.

Kelly Gross (MSW ’15) is the 2015 winner of the MU School of Social Work Best New Field Instructor. Gross works at The Neighborhoods by TigerPlace and was responsible for mentoring student Valerie L. Harper.

Keep Up with News and Networking
Are you interested in giving back to the school? Are you interested in what fellow alumni are doing and how they are making a difference in our community? Are you ready for a job change? If you answered yes to any of these questions, head to our Alumni Page (http://ssw.missouri.edu/alumni) where you can find up-to-date information pertinent to you as a social work alum.

— Alumni Association President Kristi Sveum

For campus news, a calendar of events, and thought-provoking links, find the MU School of Social Work on Facebook: facebook.com/MizzouSocialWork

2015 MU School of Social Work Alumni Organization Outstanding Awards

Outstanding BSW Student: Jennifer Shearin
Nominator: Kim Anderson
In Acknowledgement of Significant Achievements as a BSW Student
As a McNair Scholar, Searhein received mentorship from Kim Anderson and training in Integrative Restoration Meditation from its founder, Richard Miller. She conducted a study called “iRest Integrative Restoration, A Meditative Approach to Healing: Bringing Calm and Ease to Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and/or Stalking,” which demonstrated that participants using this method experienced a clinically significant decrease in post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma-related symptoms as well as increased resiliency and mindfulness. Searhein presented her findings at the 2015 annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference and they are also included on Miller’s website (https://iрест.us/research). Additionally, under the guidance of Terry Wilson, MU Director of Health Promotion, Searhein taught a one-credit-hour iRest class for undergraduates.

Outstanding MSW Student: Niki Vandable
Nominator: Kelli Canada and Rebekah Freese
Recognition for Heart and Soul
Vandable graduated with her MSW degree in May 2015. Throughout her time in the MSW program, she demonstrated leadership and dedication to helping others. Vandable was the first student manager of the Integrative Behavioral Health Clinic (IBHC), which is sponsored by the MU School of Social Work. Vandable took on the manager role with great excitement. She managed seven social work students and their clinic schedules, co-supervised the first-year students’ work in the clinic and served as a liaison between the IBHC and its host, the MedZou clinic, devoting countless hours to helping the directors organize and review documentation. While these managerial duties were of great importance, Vandable also proved to be a compassionate and versatile clinician for her clients at IBHC.

Outstanding PhD Student: Abigail Rolbiecki
Nominator: Kim Anderson
Outstanding PhD Student: Abigail Rolbiecki
Nominator: Kim Anderson
In Acknowledgement of Going Above and Beyond
Throughout her academic career, Rolbiecki consistently demonstrated commitment to enhancing the lives of sexual assault survivors through scholarship and service. Rolbiecki made numerous presentations across the state on sexual trauma in the military and on campus. Rolbiecki used a mixed-methods approach to study the use of PhotoVoice as a brief clinical intervention for university female sexual assault survivors. The methods of PhotoVoice include group collaboration, picture-taking of social injustices, and photo exhibits with key stakeholders to affect social change. A PhotoVoice intervention can provide participants with strategies of empowerment at a personal level (changing patterns of thinking, behaving and feeling), interpersonal level (managing their relationships more effectively) and university level (affecting system change) to improve the lives of sexual assault survivors. Rolbiecki sees in her research not just the intrinsic interest of discovery but the potential usefulness to sexual assault survivors and the campus community.

Outstanding Faculty Member: Dr. Clark Peters
Nominator: Nathan First
In Recognition of Commitment to Student Mentoring
“Combining encyclopedic knowledge of the subject matter with his law school teaching style and social work expertise of strengths-based engagement, Peters has a unique ability to maintain high expectations of his students while simultaneously providing motivation to them to strive to meet those expectations,” says Nathan First. First knows full well Peters’ capacity to challenge, encourage and guide students to success as he constantly connects students — both current and former — with academic and vocational opportunities. He encourages them to publish, to pursue further education, to find optimal jobs and to make real impacts on their communities. And then, just as importantly, Peters takes concrete steps to help them achieve their goals — both while they are current students and for years to come.

Outstanding Alumna: Lisa Smith
Nominator: Peggy Reed Lohnmeyer
Career Recognition
Smith graduated with her MSW degree in 1986 and has been a licensed clinical social worker since 1992. She currently serves as the Fulton State Hospital’s Director of Social Services. In this position, she oversees the second largest clinical department at the hospital with a reputation of integrity, competence and unwavering commitment to clients’ rights, worth and dignity. She is known as someone who does not cease being a social worker at the close of the business day.
MU School of Social Work 2015 Grant Report

Clark Peters received an award of $43,469 as principal investigator from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initia- tive for a project entitled Assessing En- hanced Opportunity Passport™ Efforts: Assets for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care as a “Supervitamin.” The Super- vitamin program is an enhancement of the Opportunity Passport™ program which aims to build financial assets for youth aging out of foster care. The goals of Dr. Peters’ project are to analyze, un- derstand and assess the implementation of the Supervitamin program enhance- ment efforts and determine how the Su- pervitamin program enhancements have impacted the development of financial capability for participants.

Leigh Tenkku Lepper, MU SSW Di- rector for Research, received an award of $942,720 as principal investigator from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAM- HSA) for a project entitled Physician Assistant (PA) Alcohol Education and SBIRT Training Program in Missou- ri. This project will work with three existing PA programs in Missouri — University of Missouri-Kansas City, Missouri State University, and Saint Louis University — to train 258 PA students across the three-year project on screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment (SBIRT) for individuals with hazardous or harmful alcohol use. The program will also involve training PAs in practice, as well as conducting SBIRT training within clinic- al sites and regional hospital systems.

Leigh Tenkku Lepper is also serving as the MU principal investigator in a collaboration with UMKC entitled Center of Excellence (CoE) on Be- havioral Health for Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW) and their Families. This project, funded by SAMHSA for $160,250, aims to develop and strengthen the behav- ioral healthcare workforce that provides addiction treatment and recovery sup- port services to PPW, their children and their families.

Leigh Tenkku Lepper successfully applied for funding for an interdisci- plinary extramural research retreat. Missouri Advantage will award $10,000 to the Master of Public Health program, with which Dr. Tenkku Lepper has a joint-appointment. The cell phone free, off-the-grid retreat will take place over a two-day period in May of 2016. The goal will be for attendees to develop an interdisciplinary concept into a fundable proposal to a specific agency. Partici- pants will be selected in a competitive process and will participate in an Inter- disciplinary Research Forum.

Aaron Thompson (Principal Investi- gator) and his collaborators in the MU College of Education were awarded a $3.5 million U.S. Department of Edu- cation grant for a project entitled Explo- ration of a Self-Monitoring Training Program. This project is to evaluate an addiction prevention program for fifth-grade students who exhibit disruptive and challenging classroom behaviors. The team will test the efficacy of the pro- gram to influence classroom behavior, social-emotional learning and academic achievement. They also aim to exam- ine whether the effects of the program are sustained after elementary students make the transition to middle school. See the feature article on page 12 for more information.

Aaron Thompson (Principal Investi- gator), in collaboration with colleagues from MU’s College of Education (Wendy Reinke and Keith Herman) and Department of Psychology (Kris- tin Hawley), received a Boone County Children’s Services Board contract in the amount of $4,189,743 to implement the Family Access Center for Excellence (FACE) of Boone County. The goal of this program is to improve the mental and physical health, well-being and safety of children and their families in Boone County by developing and imple- menting a mechanism to expand access to high-quality mental health assessment and services for youth and their families. FACE also aims to improve the quality of existing services in Boone County through providing training in scientif- ically supported practices that address youth and family social, emotional and behavioral health issues. Specifically, the FACE of Boone County will (a) ac- cept referrals from any family or social service program in Boone County, (b) conduct a scientifically based child-centered and family- focused assessment, (c) develop a family program for fifth-grade students who exhibit disruptive and challenging classroom behaviors. The team will test the efficacy of the pro- gram to influence classroom behavior, social-emotional learning and academic achievement. They also aim to exam- ine whether the effects of the program are sustained after elementary students make the transition to middle school. See the feature article on page 12 for more information.

Kelli Canada (former PI; Marjorie Sable Health (BH) Workforce Education and Training Program) received an award of $1,100,000 from the National Institute of Nursing Research, $1,100,000 for a project entitled Evaluation Services for Epworth Discovery Coalition (Principal Investigator: Wendy Reinke) Boone County $1,190,865 2014–16

Colleen Galambos Building Patient Centered Outcomes Research Capacity: Care Transitions Co-Investigator (Principal Investigator: David Mehr) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality $268,671 2015–16

Colleen Galambos Intelligent Sensor System for Early Illness Alerts in Senior Housing Co-Investigator (Principal Investigator: Marilyn Rantz) National Institute of Nursing Research $1,745,495 2011–16

Colleen Galambos Year 4 – Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Home Facility Residents Co-Investigator (Principal Investigator: Sonja Erickson) Epworth $68,602 2014–16

Active Grants Awarded Prior to 2015

Grants

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Grants and Research

MU School of Social Work 2015 Research Infrastructure Report

Joann Messbarger, MU SSW’s Senior Grant Writer, is proud to report that, in 2015, she assisted with the completion and submis- sion of 13 grant proposals with SSW faculty members serving as principal investigators (PI). Addi- tionally, she provided assistance on six projects with SSW faculty members serving as co-investiga- tors and two award and renewal budgets. Messbarger lays the foundation for success by meeting regularly with research faculty members to discuss their research plans and current scholarly activity. She en-courages faculty members to share multiple drafts with her through- out the proposal process, stating, “The earlier and more often I see the proposal narrative in the drafting process, the more value I can add. True strengthening of a proposal happens when the PI has time to think, not due to changes based on my recommendations as well as those offered by their colleagues.”

Throughout the academic cycle, Messbarger maintains frequent communication with the staff of the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration to inform them of upcoming grant submissions and to make sure protocol and procedures are being followed. Everyone agrees that it is great to have a dedicated grant writer on staff. The research faculty mem- bers have more time available to focus on project development and other faculty members gained the insight and attention to detail that Messbarger provides results in stronger, more fundable proposals.
Helping students succeed in a school setting requires much more than just textbooks and desks. It takes a staff of committed educators and, for many students, it takes some special tools, like Aaron Thompson’s STARS program.

STARS stands for Self-management Training and Regulation Strategy. It’s a Tier 2 targeted intervention currently being implemented as part of the first federally funded randomized control trial in the history of the Columbia Public Schools (CPS). STARS will be measured against an existing successful behavioral intervention: Check In Check Out (CICO). Thompson is the principal investigator on an ambitious four-year 3.5-million-dollar research grant from the U.S. Department of Education to determine if students randomly assigned to STARS have better social-emotional, behavioral and academic outcomes compared to students randomized to CICO.

Fall 2015 marked the initial implementation of the STARS program. Thompson used a screening tool with fifth-grade students across 12 CPS elementary schools to find students who met screening criteria for elevated levels of risk on social, emotional and behavioral risk indicators. Following parental consent procedures for all of the identified students, a clinical assessment was then used to identify students who could benefit from a selective behavior support program. Those students were randomized into either STARS or CICO conditions. Following randomization, study data collectors conducted classroom observations and collected standardized achievement and functional assessments from both students and teachers. STARS and CICO students are currently participating in their respective programs and this spring Thompson’s team will collect posttest data to compare the groups.

Thompson describes STARS as “an autonomy-supportive approach” in which students are directly involved in intervention planning, training, goal writing, progress-monitoring and comparing that progress monitoring data with data from teachers and counselors. Before students self-monitor on classroom goals, they participate in nine short lessons on self-regulation: five lessons teach them to recognize problems and set revisable goals to address them, four lessons teach them about social-emotional and interpersonal skills that are useful in achieving or revising those goals.

CICO involves students checking in at the beginning of each school day with a designated adult to receive positive encouragement and a goal sheet, which is then signed by teachers throughout the day before students check out.
Thompson also credits research team members Wendy Reinke and Keith Herman as being instrumental in support and encouragement in applying for the highly competitive funding (less than 8% of applications are funded). Within the School of Social Work, STARS means a four-year position for Anne Stinson as Project Director and research assistantships in data collection and data entry for social work graduate students, including full tuition and stipend, insurance and benefits. Thompson is also grateful for the work of Will Spiller, Director of Bright Beam, for using his “computer engineering genius to assist us in monitoring student performance with great reliability and accuracy.”

As to the future of STARS — with this being the second randomized control trial with at-risk students — Thompson hopes STARS will become a nationally known and widely used “tool” or “strategy” in a continuum of tools available to American educators. Furthermore, Thompson hopes the research findings here will persuade the public that schooling is more than just academics — it is a social setting where kids learn important self-management and social-emotional skills that will help them be better students and citizens. No Child Left Behind was recently reauthorized, and many of the updated provisions reflect a public shift away from the exclusive academic testing that the original bill focused on, towards that which may involve family members. STARS and the Check In Check Out (CICO) program is used as a control in the current study are both Tier 2 interventions.

Other Tier 2 interventions common in Missouri include the following:

Social Skills Intervention Groups
Facilitated by a teacher or counselor, this program provides systematic instruction and training in those skills.

Check & Connect
This program involves the training of teachers or counselors as mentors who then provide long-term monitoring of caseloads of students and their families. C & C mentors “check” student progress by a variety of measures, in terms of both behavioral and academic goals, and “connect” regularly with students and their families to ensure that progress continues.

Self-Monitoring
This approach gives students the responsibility to set behavioral goals and monitor their progress toward those goals. Teacher involvement includes a check of student ability to self-monitor and a periodic progress review, which may involve family members.

For more information, see the Missouri School-wide Positive Behavior Support website (http://pbsmissouri.org/tier-2-workbook).

School Interventions Overview

In a school setting, three types of social/emotional/behavioral skill interventions are typical.

Tier 1 (universal) interventions include all students and typically involve whole-classroom instruction or large-group processing.

Tier 2 (targeted) interventions include students determined to be at risk and typically take the form of small-group work and specific teacher or counselor involvement.

Tier 3 (individual) interventions include specific students determined to need particular assistance and typically take the form of individual work with appropriate support staff.

STARS and the Check In Check Out (CICO) program used as a control in the current study are both Tier 2 interventions.

Counselors and support staff from participating Columbia Public Schools at the STARS project initial training session.
Update: Integrative Behavioral Health Clinic

Student social workers are in the field at IBHC

For the 2014–15 school year, the IBHC manager position was initially filled by student volunteer Niki Vandable. Thanks to the generous donation of SSW alumnus Morty Lebedun, the clinic manager position this school year has been a funded service to twice a week. Beginning Fall 2016, the IBHC staff plans to increase service to twice a week. The IBHC staff plans to increase service to twice a week.

To date, the IBHC has served 49 clients and has benefited from the work of 28 students. One client sent the following words of gratitude to the clinic staff, "I can’t express how much finding IBHC has helped me. The staff here is excellent, and always made me feel welcome and important.”

Regarding his own visit to the clinic during an open house, Lebedun says, “It’s a warm and welcoming atmosphere, a program I’m glad to contribute to. I’m particularly impressed that they’re looking at mental health and emotional issues, that they link those with physical health and other social services. --Marty Lebedun

Generous Bequest Funds New Student Loan Program

The MU School of Social Work (MU SSW) would like to express its gratitude to the Sullivan family for the Andrew J. and Betty L. Sullivan Loan Fund in the School of Social Work. The fund is a non-endowed loan fund of over $900,000 created by the estate of Andrew and Betty Sullivan to provide zero-interest loans to students attending the MU SSW. Selection of loan recipients will rest with the School director or a committee or persons authorized by the director. Loans will be made in accordance with established rules and regulations within the University of Missouri-Columbia Office of Student Financial Aid.

Help make tomorrow’s change today with a contribution to the School of Social Work. Your generosity funds the important work of our faculty and students now and into the future.

To make a gift to the MU School of Social Work, please contact Nancy Schultz by email at schultzn@missouri.edu or call 573-882-5142. Thank you for your support!


Colleen Galambos (2015) — Staff perceptions of social work student contributions to home health care services at an independent living facility. Home Health Care Now.

Alexandria Lewis (in press) — The social context for family caregivers over the course of hospice. Journal of Pain and Symptom Management.


Clark Peters (2015) — Expressed-interpersonal empathy outcomes. Faculty Court Review.


Ninive Sanchez and Dale Fitch (2015) — “I know God’s got a day 4 me”: Violence, trauma and coping among gang-involved Twitter users. Social Science Computer Review.


MU School of Social Work Alumni Organization’s 2015 Year in Review

It’s been an exciting year for the MU SSW Alumni Organization. Here’s a recap of some notable events in 2015.

In MARCH, the School of Social Work Alumni Organization (SSWAO) held its annual awards ceremony. Honored this year were the following: Jennifer Scheinert, Outstanding BSW Student; Niki Vandable, Outstanding MSW Student; Abigail Roloffski, Outstanding PhD Student; Dr. Clark Peters, Outstanding Faculty Member; and Lisa Smith, Outstanding Alumna.

In APRIL, Tom Reichardt, Executive Director of Social Work State Committee, spoke to master of social work (MSW) students to aid them in preparing for the licensure exam in our annual SSWAO Licensure Workshop.

In JUNE, MU School of Social Work Director Dr. Sable traveled to Jefferson City and met with a group of SSWAO alumni at Madison’s Café to discuss the current happenings within the school.

In SEPTEMBER, the SSWAO supported the MU Integrative Behavioral Health Clinic at MedZou at their First Anniversary Open House.

The SSWAO’s speed networking events took place in APRIL and OCTOBER.

APRIL’s speed networking event featured the following social work professionals:
- Adult Mental Health — Kathryn Oberg-Roberts, LCSW (MSW, ’02), Primary Therapist, Missouri Psychiatric Center (MUPC);
- Domestic Violence — Kim Scales, MSW, LCSW Education Coordinator, Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center;
- Geriatric Social Work — Kristi Sveum, LCSW Social Worker, Tiger Place;
- Medical Social Work — Amadi Swartz, LCSW Social Worker, University of Missouri Hospital.

OCTOBER’S speed networking event featured the following social work professionals:
- Adult Mental Health — Katie McDonnell, MSW, LCSW, Social Worker, Missouri Psychiatric Center (MUPC);
- Domestic Violence — Kim Scales, MSW, LCSW Education Coordinator, Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center;
- Macro Social Work — Virginia Mohammed, MSW, Program Specialist, Department of Public Safety, Crime Victim Services Unit;
- Medical Social Work — Cynthia Erwin, LCSW, Social Worker, St. Mary’s Hospital;
- School Social Work — Kitty Engler, MSW, LCSE, Social Worker, Columbia Public Schools.

The SSWAO is always happy to hear from alumni! If you wish to volunteer your time or your ideas, please reach out to us at muswalumni@gmail.com.

Q&A with Kristi Sveum, President of the MU School of Social Work Alumni Organization (MU SSWAO)

Q: What’s the goal of the SSWAO?
Our mission is to encourage alumni to support the School of Social Work and the university and to participate in building a greater university. In order to meet this goal, we organize several yearly events. If you would like information about future events, e-mail us at muswalumni@gmail.com.

Q: What are the benefits of SSWAO membership?
You will be automatically enrolled in your local chapter of the MU Alumni Association (MAA). Your dues are tax deductible and help support scholarships for social work students. In addition to participating in networking events, you will have privileges at the library. SSWAO/MAA members receive a 10-15% discount at the Mizzou Stores, and there is a discount program with over 100 retail and services businesses nationwide that offer members special discounts.

Q: How do the SSWAO awards work?
SSWAO award nominations for Outstanding Alumni, Outstanding Faculty, Outstanding Social Service Agency, Outstanding BSW, MSW, and PhD students can be sent at any time to the SSWAO’s awards committee at muswalumni@gmail.com.

Q: How can I join SSWAO?
Visit the Mizzou Alumni Association (MAA) website through this Social Work specific link (http://www.Mizzou.com/joinsocialworkalumni) to join both MAA and SSWAO at once. Using this link ensures a portion of your dues go to the SSWAO and that you’ll be included on our list of contacts for future events and outreach.

Q: How can I help more directly with SSWAO?
Contact us at muswalumni@gmail.com if you’re interested in volunteering your time or your ideas with SSWAO.
Keep in Touch
Help us keep track of where you are and what you’ve been up to since graduation. Send updates you’d like to share with fellow alumni to ssw@missouri.edu. Be sure to include your name, including maiden name, and graduation year. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MizzouSocialWork. Join our group, “University of Missouri School of Social Work Community,” on LinkedIn. Or continue the conversation on Twitter @Mizzou_SW

SAVE THE DATE
April 22, 2016
MU School of Social Work
Annual Spring Forum
8:30AM - 12:30PM
United Methodist Church, 204 S. 9th St., Columbia

Addressing Race & Racism in Social Work Practice
“But race is the child of racism, not the father.” T. Coates

Presenter: Dr. Larry Davis
Dean at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
Director of the Center on Race and Social Problems
Discussion Panel to follow Presentation
3 Contact Hours / 0.3 CEU Available

Same Day Event
April 22, 2016
Refresher Course for Licensure Supervision Providers
1:30PM - 5:00PM
3 Contact Hours / 0.3 CEU Available

To register for either event & view the most updated information, please visit: http://ssw.missouri.edu/news.html