Dear Friends of the School of Social Work,

We had no way of knowing what 2020 would bring when January 1st rolled around. To say it has been momentous would be an understatement. Covid-19 has turned life upside down for all of us. We had to cancel our Spring Forum and the campus closed and all instruction moved online. Professors Snively and Woods led the faculty in moving all their courses online and they continue to work closely with faculty as we prepare for various modes of delivery in the Fall. Our entire Field program had to retrench and Professors Cary and Piester worked closely with dozens of agencies as they embraced, sometimes reluctantly, the delivery of services via the web. All of this was followed by the cancellation of graduation and sheltering in place. Then we all experienced the tragic death of George Floyd as a tipping point for our nation because we must Say Their Names. As we work through discussion and dialogue regarding systemic discrimination in our society, the SSW has committed to action and you can read about those action steps here.

But through it all, and spurred on by the challenges facing our society, our students, staff, and faculty continue to shine. Please enjoy our newsletter as we reflect on a tumultuous spring as we prepare for any challenge we may face the rest of this year.

Dale Fitch
Director, School of Social Work
Congratulations to MSW Student, Jessica Osaze

We are so proud of MSW student, Jessica Osaze, for multiple honors and awards this year!

Jessica is the recipient of the Missouri Students Association (MSA) Student Award for Resilience. The resilience award goes to an MU student who demonstrated perseverance and the ability to overcome significant challenges.

She was also awarded the Mizzou 18 award. In the spirit of service, first modeled by the University’s founding families in 1839, the Mizzou Alumni Association Student Board presents the Mizzou 18 Award. This award is dedicated to honoring 18 University of Missouri graduate and professional students in the last year of their degree eligibility.

Jessica was also selected for induction into the Rollins Society. Established in 1994 by the Graduate Professional Council, the Rollins Society recognizes graduate and professional students who have significantly advanced the well being of self-defined communities beyond the scope of their academic work. The Rollins Society recognized the very best of our graduate and professional students at the University of Missouri.

Inclusion and Advocacy Award

We are so proud to share that our MSW alum, Emily Love, is the recipient of the Inclusion and Advocacy Award. The inclusion and advocacy award goes to an MU student who actively promoted the values of diversity and inclusion at MU and made students feel safe, respected and valued.

PhD Student Published

Mackenzie Cook published a sole-authored paper in the Journal of Sexuality Research and Social Policy. You can access the paper here.

A wonderful accomplishment for a PhD student. Congratulations, Mackenzie!

MU Student Employee Appreciation Week

Congratulations to Whitney Baldridge, MSW student, for being featured during MU Student Employee Appreciation Week. Whitney was nominated by Professor Kelli Canada for her work as a Research Assistant on the Robert Wood Johnson project.

As Professor Canada noted, “Whitney recruits and consents participants for our research project. She is professional, kind, caring, empathetic, and supportive of them through the research. She is also dependable, engaged, thoughtful and reliable. She embodies Mizzou’s values and shows it to the community!” Congratulations, Whitney!
Students Show Appreciation

I don’t know if you have heard, but we have some absolutely wonderful faculty in the SSW who had to adapt their teaching mid-semester to make sure our students achieve their learning outcomes.

Apparently, our students have noticed. A big shout out to Professor Ashley Givens and Professor Christine Woods! We know your students appreciate you!

Faculty Highlights

2020 Presidential Faculty Award for Intercampus Collaboration

Congratulations are in order for Professors Ginny Ramseyer-Winter (pictured left), MU, and Sarah Pilgrim (pictured right), UMKC for receiving the 2020 Presidential Faculty Award for Intercampus Collaboration! This award recognizes faculty who engage in activities that foster collaboration across two or more campuses of the University of Missouri System. Their research examines body image and sexual health among Missouri foster youth.

Professor Robinson Elected to Board of the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work

Congratulations to Professor Erin Robinson for her election to the Board of the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work. AGESW provides leadership in the areas of gerontological social work education, research, and policy, and fosters cooperation, collegiality and an exchange of ideas among social work educators, researchers and students committed to or interested in gerontology.

MSW Alum Fosters Partnership with the School of Social Work, Extension and Great Circle

Kudos to one of our MSW Alums, John Fuller (pictured middle), who is helping to promote research-practice/field-campus connections though his work as a Field Specialist for MU Extension in Butler County. Michael Turner (pictured right) from Great Circle reached out to John for help with program evaluation for a grant application to scale-up their domestic violence program. John connected him to Dr. Sarah Myers Tlapek (pictured left) who also happened to be looking for domestic violence agencies interested in participating in a research project. A new partnership has been made between the School of Social Work, Extension and Great Circle. Nice work, John!
Professor Ramseyer Winter’s Research on Body Image

Professor Ginny Ramseyer Winter, director of the Center for Body Image Research and Policy, had her research on body image using a 3D body scanner to help young women increase their body appreciation and self-esteem featured on the Spotlight on Mizzou podcast, and as an article in Bustle magazine. Ramseyer Winter was also quoted in the March 2020 issue of Woman's Day magazine saying, "It's important to know that fat does not necessarily equal unhealthy and thin does not necessarily equal healthy… yo-yo dieting can be less healthy than being in a larger body."

In February, as part of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, Professor Ginny Ramseyer Winter and Amanda Hood (MSW/PhD student and CBIRP practicum student) led a workshop titled “Tips for Raising Children with a Positive Body Image.” Ginny also served on a panel titled “Talking Body” about body image and eating disorders along with a psychologist, therapist, and dietitian.

Professor Tlapek’s Roundtable Discussions

This spring, Professor Sarah Tlapek participated in the Rural Community Action Guide Roundtable held in Cape Girardeau with Missouri Governor Parsons and Jim Carroll, the U.S. national drug czar. In her capacity with MU Extension for SE Missouri, Professor Tlapek discussed the creation of an online learning community for partners and training for behavioral health providers.

In May, Professor Tlapek participated in a Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence roundtable on Immigrant and Refugee Services. Immigrant and refugee communities often face an increased risk of experiencing domestic and sexual violence as well as additional barriers when they seek assistance from service providers. Professor Tlapek presented her research findings from “Relational Upheaval During Refugee Resettlement: Service Provider Perspectives.”

Professor Givens Presented at Society for Social Work and Research

Hats off to Professor Ashley Givens (pictured right) who just got back from the Society for Social Work and Research where she presented her findings along with Brianna Lombardi (pictured left), U of Pittsburgh, and Lisa de Saxe Zerden (pictured middle), Senior Associate Dean for MSW Education at the U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Congratulations, Professor Givens!

Dr. Yu is Promoted to Full Professor

It is our extreme pleasure to share that Dr. Mansoo Yu has been promoted to the rank of Full Professor. Since joining the faculty in 2008, Professor Yu has worked his way up through the ranks conducting research and teaching hundreds of our students. Thank-you for all you have done for the School. Congratulations, “Professor” Yu!
Commencement Class of 2020

The School of Social Work faculty and staff congratulate our BSW, MSW and PhD graduates.

This video includes messages from our administrative team, the Director of the School of Social Work, BSW Program Director, MSW Program Director and the Director of Field Education along with select photos from SSW events during the past two years. Video link.

Did you know...Our 88 graduating MSW students completed over 72,000 combined hours of hands-on work during their MSW education! This year MSW graduates lived and worked in 8 midwestern states, including 29 counties in Missouri.

ABOUT OUR twenty BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES:

✓ 3.488 average GPA
✓ Seven first-generation students
✓ Eight graduating with Latin honors
✓ 100% have spent 1 or more semesters on the Dean’s List
✓ Over 8000 combined hours of hands-on experience

ABOUT OUR eighty-eight MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES:

WHAT DID THEY STUDY?
14 Policy, Planning and Administration in Human Services
74 Clinical Social Work

HOW DID THEY DO IT?
37 on-campus
51 online
39 advanced-standing
49 regular-standing

#MizzouMADE
**Faculty Grant Awards**

**Faculty Receive RAPID Grants Related to COVID-19**

Dr. Sarah Tlapek, Assistant Teaching Professor for the School of Social Work, received a RAPID Grant Related to COVID-19 from the College of Human Environmental Sciences (HES) for her project entitled “Strengthening protection for intimate partner violence survivors during COVID-19 through online social support groups.”

Dr. Ginny Ramseyer Winter, Assistant Professor for the School of Social Work, and Dr. Antoinette Landor, Assistant Professor at the Department of Human Development and Family Science, received two RAPID Grants Related to COVID 19 from the College of HES.

**Researchers Receive $200,000 Urban Institute Award**

A $200,000 grant from the Urban Institute and a partnership with the University of Missouri School of Social Work are fueling research aimed at helping the Missouri Department of Corrections invigorate rehabilitation for Missourians involved in the criminal justice system — ultimately elevating public safety. Missouri is one of five states chosen to join the Prison Research and Innovation Network (PRIN), which leverages research, data and evidence in fostering innovations that make prisons safer and more rehabilitative. The designation comes with a $100,000 grant for on-site prison research innovation management; a $100,000 grant to support University of Missouri (MU) research activities; and technical assistance from experts affiliated with the Urban Institute, Arnold Ventures, the network’s advisory board and peer agencies.

MU School of Social Work researchers will lead PRIN research projects focused on effective remediation for long-term behavioral change and rehabilitation, an approach widely supported by a growing body of corrections practitioners and researchers, based on nationwide experience through several decades of policy implementation and practice. “We are excited to partner with the Department of Corrections in this important work,” said team lead Kelli Canada, Associate Professor of social work and co-founder of the University of Missouri Center for Criminal and Juvenile Justice Priorities. “This collaboration speaks to the land grant mission of the University of Missouri, as our research findings will be put to use to improve lives in communities across the state.” Other University of Missouri researchers involved with the project include Ashley Givens and Clark Peters from MU, Beth Huebner from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Janet Garcia-Hallett from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

**Grant Awarded to Support Research on Prenatal Substance Exposure in Western Cape, South Africa**

Congratulations to Dr. Mansoo Yu who has been collaborating with Dr. Maria Florence at the University of the Western Cape since 2016. They have recently received funding from the National Research Foundation in South Africa to conduct a research project titled “Prenatal Substance Exposure in the Western Cape, South Africa: A Prospective Cohort Study.” The investigators will collect information about substance use and psychosocial well-being from a longitudinal sample of women who use primary health care clinics in Cape Town in three waves: during pregnancy, 6 months postpartum, and 12 months postpartum. The University of Missouri System South African Education Program and the University of Missouri College of Human Environment Sciences Margaret Mangel Grant supported Dr. Yu’s collaboration with Dr. Florence, and the pilot study.

**Richard Wallace Grant & Margaret Mangel Research Catalyst Award**

Congratulations to Professor Kathy Preble on receiving a Richard Wallace grant, “Labor Trafficking in Missouri: An exploratory study of count, demographics, and challenges to service delivery and trafficker prosecution”; and Professor Ginny Ramseyer Winter on receiving the Margaret Mangel Research Catalyst award, “Examining Healthcare Utilization among Women with Low Body Appreciation.”
Staff Spotlights

Shannon Mezzanotte

Congratulations to Shannon Mezzanotte for 10 wonderful years contributing the SSW and being the friendly, smiling face people see when they get off the elevator.

Bryon Smith

Proud to let folks know we get to see Byron Smith almost every day here on the 7th floor (before the pandemic). And we are very proud of what he has contributed to the community through his work as an artist.

COVID-19 Support

The Family Access Center (FACE) of Boone County Pays for Free Counseling Services During COVID-19 Pandemic

FACE of Boone County will pay for free counseling services for Boone County youth and families during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Boone County families with a child (aged 0-19) who are struggling to cope with stressors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic can now get access to FREE counseling. With support from the Boone County Community Services and the Boone County Children’s Services Board (BCCSB), FACE will connect Boone County families with a child aged 0-19 to a local provider for up to 6 hours of FREE counseling services to learn new coping, parenting, or stress management skills to better manage stressors due to COVID-19.

“Increased stress and anxiety resulting from COVID-19 is normal and affects both children and adults,” says FACE Director Adielle Ehret, “stressful reactions may include excessive worry about your health and that of your loved ones, changes in sleep or eating patterns, difficulty sleeping or concentrating and excessive irritation or emotional outbursts,” among other concerns.

With family and child stress expected to increase during this pandemic, FACE is committed to connecting Boone County families in need by providing families with a menu of local provider options, supporting family access by scheduling appointments and addressing any barriers to accessing the services families choose—including paying for up to six hours of therapeutic services for families struggling with COVID-19 stressors and are unable to pay.
Dear Students and Alums - let us know what you are doing to support people during the pandemic.
Send your stories to ssw@missouri.edu so we can share your efforts with others.

MU School of Social Work
#Tigersonthefrontline

Hannah Knott is a 2019 graduate of our online MSW program. She works at Community Counseling Center in Southeast Missouri, where she is providing mental health services to five counties. Hannah is providing telemed services to adolescents struggling with fear, anxiety, isolation, and lack of support. She also assesses people in hospitals and jails who may be suicidal or homicidal in her role as an Emergency Services Specialist.

MU School of Social Work
#Tigersonthefrontline

Harly Blumhagen is a 2016 graduate of our MSW program and a 2015 graduate the BSW program. Harly is an LCSW at MU Health with the pediatric psychiatric unit. Harly is working hard right now helping families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MU School of Social Work
#Tigersonthefrontline

Amanda Lake is a 2009 MSW graduate and the Deputy Warden at the Moberly Correctional Center. Amanda is working every day to protect the staff and residents of the Moberly Correctional Center.