Moving the Practice
FORWARD

Safe Mothers, Safe Children • Alumni Awards
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Social Work
Winter 2016-2017

MOVING THE PRACTICE FORWARD

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Dear alumni and friends:

The 2016–2017 academic year got off to a strong start at the Silver School’s Washington Square, Westchester County, Rockland County, and Shanghai campuses, as 565 new BS, MSW, PhD, and DSW students began their journey towards a deeper understanding of the human condition and excellence in the social work profession. With 1,238 students overall, we have one of our largest and most diverse student bodies ever.

As alumni and supporters, you know the Silver School has many strengths, including faculty engaged in rigorous research on the pressing social work issues of our time; an exceptional clinical training program; outstanding teaching by some of the best instructors in the field; and a resolute commitment to social justice and community service. All of those merits are underscored in this issue of Social Work newsletter, which carries the theme “Moving the Practice Forward.”

In these pages, we follow research by Dr. Michael Lindsey, Associate Professor and Director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, who is studying an intervention that could change the way services are conceived and delivered for families in the child welfare system. We report on our 2016 Alumni Awards winners, who are transforming the lives of individuals and communities in myriad ways, and profile recent alumni Lauren May (MSW ’15) and Michael Savara (MSW ’16), who are applying what they learned at Silver to help homeless people with serious mental illness. We spotlight recent School-sponsored conferences that have influenced both practitioners and policymakers, and we introduce the latest additions to our outstanding faculty, who are leading the development and implementation of evidence-based, research-informed social work practice.

Finally, in the back of the issue, you will find our annual honor roll, thanking all of our generous donors who supported the School in the past academic year. Your programmatic and scholarship gifts make it possible for our faculty, students and school to continue shaping the practice of social work for today and for the future.

Sincerely,

James Jaccard
Interim Dean and Professor; Co-director, Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health
Safe Mothers, Safe Children Study Tests Intervention for Child Welfare-Involved Mothers with Trauma Disorders
The Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Robin Hood Foundation recently awarded funding totaling nearly $800,000, renewable annually, to a team of researchers led by NYU Silver Associate Professor and Director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research Dr. Michael Lindsey to study a new intervention for child-welfare involved mothers with trauma-related disorders at high risk of repeat abuse.

Dr. Lindsey said the study, known as “Safe Mothers, Safe Children” (SMSC), is among the first to test whether treatment driven reductions in trauma and depression mediate improved parenting and reduce maltreatment risk. “This study is particularly important,” he said, “because research suggests over 50% of mothers receiving preventive services in New York City have probable co-morbid PTSD yet there are no evidence-based interventions that address the adverse effects of PTSD on parenting.”

SMSC involves the delivery of an innovative combination of interventions, including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR). The resulting intervention, developed by NYU School of Medicine Research Professor of Psychiatry Dr. Claude Chemtob, who remains involved in the study as a co-Principal Investigator, is known as P-STAIR. It is designed to treat the adverse effects of trauma disorders on parenting, strengthen parenting skills, and reduce maternal PTSD, depression and child maltreatment recidivism. The SMSC treatment initiative also involves training preventive services workers in trauma-related service skills, pairing project clinicians with preventive services workers, and providing agency staff with technical assistance in creating a trauma-informed environment. Dr. Lindsey explained, “This multimodal approach aims to increase client engagement, facilitate access to services, and increase retention for an underserved population.”

The study is being conducted in partnership with New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services as well as several well-respected and established preventive service agencies, including the Association to Benefit Children, the Children’s Aid Society, Graham Windham, and the Mental Health Association. These partnerships are facilitating co-location of the study intervention in child welfare programs and are promoting study recruitment, assessment, case monitoring and continued access to treatment for the clients.

Study participants are mothers receiving preventive services who have a preschool-age child, have experienced trauma, and have been diagnosed with PTSD. The first phase of the study, which is currently underway, is an open trial, without a comparison group, in which all of the participants receive the P-STAIR intervention. Phase II of the study will be a small-scale pilot randomized controlled trial (RCT) comparing the P-STAIR intervention to Supportive Counseling (SC), another active treatment. In both phases of the study, outcome data will be collected at pre-treatment, mid-treatment, post-treatment and at follow-up assessments. The study includes an evaluation of possible mechanisms of change, with a special focus on whether the acquisition of emotional regulation skills is key to improved outcomes.

Dr. Lindsey said the SMSC initiative has emerged in preliminary research as a promising evidence-based approach and if results are conclusive, it could have a substantial impact on how services are conceptualized and delivered for many families in the child welfare system. “Because the target of the SMSC initiative is child maltreatment recidivism - a key child welfare system outcome - we believe the SMSC initiative will improve the dissemination of evidence-based mental health interventions for families involved with the child welfare system, who are experiencing high levels of trauma and psychiatric issues.”
On Saturday, October 22, 2016, alumni from classes as far back as 1965 came together for the Silver School of Social Work’s annual Dean’s Luncheon and Alumni Awards Ceremony.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of the MSW Program Dr. James Martin was Master of Ceremonies for the event, which was part of NYU Alumni Day. In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Martin observed, “The people we are honoring today represent the best of social work. In the great work they have done, they have also met the aspirations of our school’s mission, in particular to contribute to the alleviation of human suffering, the vitality and caring capacity of communities, and the ideals of a humane and just world.”

The host of the event, Interim Dean Dr. James Jaccard, recounted the many successes the Silver School has had over the past academic year, including the strong performance of our graduates in the job market and on licensing exams. Dr. Jaccard, who was previously the School’s Associate Dean for Research, emphasized the School’s robust research program, which complements the School’s exceptional clinical training. He cited a number of studies now underway and said, “Our research faculty are focused on the generation of evidence-based knowledge that will help solve some of the most recalcitrant problems facing our nation and social work.”

Before the presentation of awards, Clinical Associate Professor Dr. Dina Rosenfeld gave a remembrance of Eleanore “Elly” Korman, who passed away in September 2016. In her 32 years at the Silver School, Elly served as an advisor, teacher, administrator, and acting dean. Dr. Rosenfeld recalled Elly’s many significant contributions to the School and said, “Elly was especially masterful at mentoring and guiding students who were older, from different walks of life, or the first in their families to pursue higher education.”

McSilver Associate Professor in Poverty Studies and Assistant Dean and Director of the Undergraduate Program Dr. Robert L. Hawkins began the awards ceremony by presenting the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award to Tamara Harris Robinson (MSW ’12). Ms. Harris Robinson is a pioneer in the field of divorce coaching, advising clients in the US and internationally on strategies to become better champions for themselves and their children. She is also a philanthropist, who has served on the boards of educational organizations assisting low-income and minority students, including the United Negro College Fund and the New Jersey Advocates for Education. Currently an adjunct lecturer at NYU Silver, she said, “The credentials I have earned as a graduate of the Silver School have supported me in creating my legacy.”

Dr. Hawkins also presented the Making a Difference Award to honoree Jacob Toll (MSW ’08). With his four siblings, Mr. Toll is a co-founder of the Five Together Foundation (5TF), which is based on the shared values of justice, equal opportunity, and compassion. He is also deeply involved with the organization Seeds of Peace, which inspires and cultivates new global leaders in communities divided by conflict, as well as NYU’s Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership. Mr. Toll said he was drawn to pursue his MSW because “a social work program

Honoring “The Best of Social Work” at the 2016 Alumni Awards
Michael Savara, MSW ’16, wins National Homelessness Social Work Initiative Award

Last April, Michael Savara, MSW ’16, became the Silver School’s first recipient of the National Homelessness Social Work Initiative Award (NHSWI) for his dedication to helping homeless persons through social work practice, research and advocacy. According to Professor Dr. Deborah Padgett, who joined Director for Field Learning Dr. Peggy Morton in presenting Savara his award, “Michael stands out in his singular dedication to helping homeless men and women obtain housing and a new life. Through volunteer work, field learning here at Silver and now through his employment, he has demonstrated great promise as a practitioner and future leader.”

Even before coming to the Silver School, Savara demonstrated his commitment to working with the homeless in his hometown of Portland, Oregon. He explained, “It’s the stories and the heart of the amazing men and women who I met during my time as an outreach worker and housing specialist in Portland that inspired me to choose social work. It’s the tragedy and vulnerability of the homeless experience that drives me to seek out solutions to chronic homelessness, especially among individuals with mental illness.”

With his new degree and the skills he developed at the Silver School, Savara has returned to Portland as an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team member at Central City Concern, Inc., a nonprofit agency serving single adults and families in the Portland metro area who are impacted by homelessness, poverty and addictions. ACT is team-based treatment intervention for people with serious mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, that provides multidisciplinary, flexible treatment and support in every aspect of their lives. While Savara is now in direct service, he said he is also interested in policy, leadership, and research within the field, and is considering a PhD to focus on the innovative Housing First model for ending homelessness.

NHSWI was launched by the National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services (NCEHS) at the University at Albany School of Social Work, and is funded by the New York Community Trust. In 2016, NCEHS named the Silver School as a participating partner in its mission to expand curriculum content, field learning opportunities, and research in homelessness services.
Alumni Spotlight: Lauren May, MSW ’15

Lauren May currently works as the Housing Advocate in the Client Advocacy Program at the Coalition for the Homeless in Manhattan and as the Homeless Shelter Coordinator at The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York. The Silver School awarded Lauren the Silver Citizenship Award in recognition of her ongoing work with the New York homeless community.

Q. Can you tell us a little about your current work in advocacy for people experiencing homelessness?
A. I hold two positions right now. I work full-time as the Housing Advocate in the Client Advocacy Program at the Coalition for the Homeless where I help single homeless adults with serious mental illness diagnoses apply for supportive housing and other services. I work with clients to complete applications, which are required to access supportive housing, help clients prepare for housing interviews, make referrals to other programs, and accompany clients to various appointments.

My second job is in the evenings at the First Presbyterian Church. I am the Homeless Shelter Coordinator. I recruit, organize, and schedule volunteers for a seasonal respite shelter in the church.

Q. What drives you to do this work?
A. I’ve been working and volunteering with homelessness issues for almost eight years now, and it all started with a conversation when I was 17. I remember walking past a panhandler with my pastor and asking him, “How do people become homeless?” His response: “Sometimes, they just fall through the cracks...”

I was plagued with questions — What cracks? Why aren’t people helping them? Why aren’t we fixing the gaps in the system? Whether it was due to a lack of medical or psychiatric care, familial breakdown, or a failed connection with educational or vocational training, I was baffled by the myriad of ways one could become homeless. I found that those who were experiencing homelessness had been failed by every possible safety net and preventative measure.

This drew me to meet people where they were and inspired a personal commitment to finding ways to support and empower homeless individuals. I wanted to help people to reach their personal goals, with housing, or with the simple things like obtaining new clothes or a meal.

Q. In what ways did Silver inform your first year out as an MSW?
A. I am so thankful for my clinical training at Silver. Truly listening and engaging a client are the most essential skills I learned at Silver and I utilize what I learned every day in my work to build strong bonds with clients. Many clients experienced unfathomable traumas before coming to my office, so being able to hold the space with them has made my clinical work stronger.

Q. What’s the biggest challenge you face in your work?
A. Burnout is real. I have had to be very mindful of not letting the issues and experiences of my clients weigh so heavily on me. I realized that I cannot do the work I need to do to empower my clients if I do not set boundaries and leave my caseload at my office. I struggle with it still, but I know that finding a balance and fending off burnout will benefit me and my clients.

Q. What advice would you give to graduating MSW students?
A. Don’t feel locked into certain jobs or areas simply because of previous training, work or volunteer experience. I almost didn’t apply to my current job because I had never worked in housing issues before. My background was in emergency shelter settings and case management. I went for it any way, and I can honestly say I have never been more excited to go to work than I am now.

Q. Anything you would like to add or anyone from the Silver community you would like to thank?
A. I have to thank my first year practice class. I could not have asked for a more compassionate cohort with whom to begin my NYU tenure.

I also owe Dr. Deborah Padgett a huge thanks, as she taught an outstanding seminar on homelessness issues which I took at the end of my time at NYU and built my confidence before heading out into the field. She is an amazing resource.
Recent Social Work Conferences

Social Work with Military Service Members, Veterans and their Families

NYU Silver partnered with a number of experts on Military and Veterans Social Work, including Hope for the Warriors and Touro College Graduate School of Social Work, to present a conference for social workers who strive to help those who serve or have served in our nation’s Military and their loved ones. Over two days, attendees heard from experts on topics including Military Cultural Competence, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, moral injury, substance use, family stress, homelessness, and alternative paths to care. The event also featured a screening of Almost Sunrise, a documentary about two former soldiers’ literal journey to healing from the trauma of their combat experience. The conference concluded with NYU President Andrew Hamilton presenting an award to New York City Department of Veterans’ Services Commissioner Loree Sutton, a retired Brigadier General, who gave the final keynote on the city’s ThriveNYC mental health services for Veterans.

The conference was generously supported by a private donation from Nancy H. Edelman, MSW ’89.

Making Extended Care Work for Foster Youth in Transition: The State of the Evidence

Silver School Associate Professor Dr. Michelle Munson and University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration Professor Dr. Mark Courtney co-hosted the first national conference to examine the enormous potential of extending foster care to young people aging out of the foster care system. Panels at the conference on Making Extended Care Work for Foster Youth in Transition: The State of the Evidence covered finding employment, education, accessing health services, youth voice and youth engagement in services, parenting, and social relationships. Panelists presented research that shows the enormous impact that extending services has on improving outcomes for foster youth transitioning to adulthood.

NYU Silver and the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration co-sponsored this event, which was generously funded by The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.
At the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, NYU Silver said farewell to a key leader at our Westchester Campus with the retirement of Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Robin Miller. Dr. Miller joined the Silver School as a faculty field advisor at the Westchester campus in 2001, and became a clinical assistant professor and assistant coordinator of the Westchester campus in 2010. She was a practicing social worker for many years before she transitioned into social work education. In addition to her administrative responsibilities as assistant coordinator of the Westchester campus, she was responsible for arranging field placements for all NYU students who live in Westchester and Putnam counties as well as all of Connecticut, and for recruiting students for the Westchester campus and for the Silver School in general. She also chaired the School’s Diversity Committee and taught the Diversity, Racism, Oppression and Privilege course in the MSW program as well as the Seminar in Field Instruction for licensed social workers. We are grateful for her years of service to the School and wish her all the best in her retirement.

In fall 2016, NYU Silver welcomed six new faculty members:

Clinical Instructor and Assistant Coordinator, Westchester Campus Cora de Leon received her MSW from NYU and her MPH from Columbia University. Her clinical work focused primarily on depressive disorders and child bereavement. She is interested in how research informs policy, particularly in the area of tobacco use. Ms. de Leon has been a member of multiple research teams, examining such topics as rates of affective disorders in primary care facilities for men, effectiveness of short term treatments for depression, effectiveness of a cognitive behavioral intervention among active drug users, and associations between movement disorders and affective disorders. Ms. de Leon is also a current community member of the Sarah Lawrence Institutional Review Board.

Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Kirk James received his DSW from the University of Pennsylvania and his MSW from Hunter College of The City University of New York. Dr. James focuses on deconstructing issues of mass incarceration – specifically as it pertains to trauma, cognitive development, culpability, and the examination of systems that foster and perpetuate racial injustice. He also launched the Silver School’s monthly Mass Incarceration Conversation Series, which brings people impacted by mass incarceration together with academics, activists, policy makers, and practitioners to create a more informed understanding and subsequent response to mass incarceration.
Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Nicholas Lanzieri received both his MSW and PhD from NYU and received psychotherapeutic training in eating disorders and body image at the Center for the Study of Anorexia and Bulimia. Dr. Lanzieri is mainly focused on addiction research and on providing cognitive behavioral counseling and motivational interviewing to patients from the Veterans Administration and Bellevue Hospital. Among his previous positions, he worked at NYU School of Medicine as program manager in the section on Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use, and within the Student Affairs office of NYU’s Gallatin School of Individualized Study where he worked with students experiencing mental health issues.

Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow Dr. Proscovia Nabunya received her PhD from the University of Chicago and her MSW from Saint Louis University. Dr. Nabunya’s primary research interests focus on three major areas of inquiry: economic strengthening programming for poor and vulnerable children and their families in developing countries and how such programs impact children’s developmental outcomes; social capital and social support systems available to poor and vulnerable children and their families; and the intersection between economic strengthening, social support systems and public health outcomes for poor and vulnerable children – including those affected by HIV and AIDS in developing countries.

Assistant Professor Dr. Lailea Noel received her PhD in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis and holds an MA in Social Service Administration from The University of Chicago. Dr. Noel’s research seeks to understand the impact of social and economic factors on cancer treatment practices for vulnerable populations, especially those living in residentially isolated and low-SES communities. She collaborates with community and academic partners to create and implement both clinic-based and community-based interventions aimed at reducing barriers to the delivery and receipt of quality breast cancer services.

Professor and Coordinator of the Global MSW Program at NYU Shanghai Dr. Qingwen Xu holds a PhD from University of Denver and LLMs from New York University and Peking University. Dr. Xu’s research is situated at the interaction of globalization, community development, and social welfare. With a better understanding of the community perception and behavior among vulnerable groups of people, including ethnic minorities and/or migrant groups of people in the US and abroad, she has been searching for innovative community practices and initiatives to improve the health and mental health of vulnerable groups of people.
Professor Vincent Guilamo-Ramos Named a Presidential Leadership Scholar

Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health (CLAFH) Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos was one of 61 individuals from broad sectors across the country invited to participate in the 2016 class of the Presidential Leadership Scholars program, a partnership between the presidential centers of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson. Scholars were chosen based on their leadership growth potential and the strength of their personal leadership projects aimed at improving the civic or social good.

For six months, Dr. Guilamo-Ramos and his fellow scholars traveled once a month to participating presidential centers to learn from former presidents, key administration officials, and leading academics. They studied and put into practice varying approaches to leadership, developed a network of peers, and exchanged ideas with mentors and others. For his leadership project, Dr. Guilamo-Ramos further developed his Fathers Raising Responsible Men pregnancy and STD prevention intervention, which engages Latino and African American fathers as a unique source of influence on the sexual behaviors of their 15- to 19-year-old sons.

Dr. Guilamo-Ramos graduated from the elite program this past July in a ceremony attended by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, among many other dignitaries. As a result of the experience, he is even better equipped to improve the health and well-being of Latino adolescents and families locally and globally.

The NYU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Student Center awarded Associate Professor Dr. Alison Aldrich the Arnold Grossman Outstanding Faculty Service to the LGBTQ Community Award.

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Child Welfare Track conferred The Career Achievement in Child Welfare Award on Associate Dean for Research Dr. Trudy Festinger during CSWE’s 62nd Annual Program Meeting.

Institute for Community Living (ICL) presented Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos the agency’s 2016 Leadership Award.

New York University named Assistant Dean and Director of Undergraduate Programs and McSilver Associate Professor in Poverty Studies Dr. Robert L. Hawkins as a recipient of the 2015-2016 Distinguished Teaching Award.

The American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (AASWSW) has elected Interim Dean, Professor, and Co-Director of the Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health Dr. James Jaccard as a Fellow of the Academy.

The National Academies of Practice (NAP) named Silver School Associate Professor Dr. Judith Siegel as a Distinguished Scholar and Fellow.

The CSWE Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education honored Associate Professor Dr. Victoria Stanhope for her outstanding mentorship through its Mentor Recognition Program.

NYU Silver faculty regularly publish in journals and write and edit books. For a list of recent faculty works, visit: socialwork.nyu.edu/our-faculty/faculty-works
Class Notes

Carl L. Algood, MSW ’76, is currently an associate professor of social work at Bowie State University after obtaining his PhD from Howard University School of Social Work. Prior to Howard University, he served as an assistant professor of social work at Shaw University and South Carolina State University.

Yvette Cuenco, MSW ’06, has been an international school counselor since 2011. She has lived in Uzbekistan, Thailand, and now China where she is the middle school counselor at Shekou International School. She blogs about her expat and international school counseling experiences at www.yvettecuenco.com.

Arnold Korotkin, MSW ’72, is sociology professor at Montclair State University, and winner of the 2016 American Federation of Teachers Everyday Hero Award - AFT Higher Education division.

John F. Leis, MSW ’71, died on February 15, 2016, of heart failure. He began his notable social work career, spanning more than 30 years, as a caseworker for the New York City Agency for Child Development (ACD). He became Assistant Commissioner for ACD facilities, followed by an appointment to Assistant Commissioner/Bureau Director for Building Information Facilities at the New York City Human Resources Administration’s Office for Facilities Operations. Throughout his life, Mr. Leis remained an active member of the NYU Silver alumni community.

Priscilla Levine, MSW ’88, is currently Director of Disabled Student Services at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA.

So-Young Park, PhD ’15, recently received the Council on Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity (CRECD) award for her paper, “The long-term effects of depression and suicide ideation among Asian American youth” at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 62nd Annual Program Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

Kingsley Rowe, BS ’02, MSW ’06, serves as the Re-entry Program Administrator at NYU’s Prison Education Program and was featured on dnainfo.com for his lobby to “Ban the Box” - eliminate a checkbox on college applications asking about a criminal record.

Kathleen M. Wade, MSW ’84, received the Ida M. Cannon Award for outstanding contributions to the leadership of social work in a health care setting from the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care. Dr. Wade is currently Associate Hospital Administrator and Director of Social Work at the University of Michigan Health System as well as the Assistant Dean for Hospital Social Work and LEO Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Michigan School of Social Work.

Four Silver School alumni were honored by the National Association of Social Workers, New York City Chapter at their 10th Annual Leadership Awards. Mary Pender Green, MSW ’74, received a Top Leader in the Profession award, Linda Mathew, MSW ’01, received a Mid-Career Exemplary Leader award, and Kenton Kirby, MSW ’11 and Ikechi Nwankwo, MSW ’13, received Emerging Social Work Leader awards.

Please send class notes to socialwork.nyu.edu/alumni/classnotes

Spring 2017 Continuing Education Events at NYU Silver

Earn NYSED and ACE approved continuing education hours with the Office of Global and Lifelong Learning. Discounts available for Alumni, Field Instructors, Veterans, and three or more staff from the same agency.

SAVE THE DATE:

» Through May 2017: Free Monthly Series: Mass Incarceration Conversational Series (MICS)
» April 17, 2017: Dialectical Behavioral Therapy
» April 18, 2017: Family Building Options and the Role of the Clinician

2017 Seminar Series

» January 27 | Trauma Focused CBT
» February 24 | Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
» April 28 | Criminal Justice 101 for Social Workers
» May 26 | Trauma Informed Criminal Justice Work
» June 23 | Work with LGBTQ Clients

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* Signifies a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council.
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Do you have news or updates about your professional activities?  
We want to hear from you! 

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