

# SALEM STATE — NOW UNIVERSITY!

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

### E-NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010



Greetings! We will be issuing a brief e-newsletter during the academic year so you can feel connected to what is happening in the School of Social Work community. We will note the accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff. Each issue will have a special focus on a particular faculty member, their work and contributions. We hope you enjoy this way of staying in touch with what's happening in the SSWK!

## DEPARTMENT NEWS/CHANGES

We are pleased to welcome **Erika Griffin**, LICSW, as our MSW admissions coordinator. Erika is a 1999 graduate of Simmons College School of Social Work and comes to us with experience in Early intervention programming and elementary schools as well as outpatient mental health clinics and residential treatment. Erika works out of the university's graduate admissions office, now located in Central Campus. We are delighted to have Erika join us.

Professor **Yvonne Ruiz** has assumed the role of MSW coordinator.

Professor **Patricia Connolly** has assumed the role of BSW coordinator and field education coordinator while Professor Shannon Mokoro is out on maternity leave.

**Naomi Dreeben** has joined the field education office as field education specialist. She specializes in older adults and their service systems.

## GOOD NEWS/ACHIEVEMENTS BY PROFESSORS

**Elsbeth Slayter** published two peer-reviewed journal articles:

Slayter, E. (December 2010). Clinical and demographic characteristics of adults with intellectual disabilities in a Medicaid population. *Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities*. Volume and issue to be announced. Volume 48, Issue 6, 462-473.

Slayter, E. (October 2010). Medicaid-covered substance abuse treatment utilization among people with intellectual disabilities: Evidence of disparities. *Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities*. Volume 48, Issue 5, 312-330.

Dr. Slayter also has had some recent peer-reviewed presentations:

November 2010, Suicidality among transitional-aged youth with disabilities. American Public Health Association. Denver, Colorado.

October, 2010, Brainstorming Applications of Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Approaches to Child Welfare Education Research: Don't Run for the Exit Yet. Council on Social Work Education. Portland, Oregon. (with Dr. Cheryl Springer).

July 2010, Permanency planning and foster care outcomes for children with and without intellectual disabilities. 3rd National Child and Policy Conference, Bridgewater State College.

July 2010, When family caregiving responsibilities are transnational: Implications for social service programming with new immigrants to the United States. 3rd National Child and Policy Conference, Bridgewater State College (with Katrin Kriz, PhD, Emmanuel College).

**Susan Goldman** and **Carol Owen** will be presenting at the School of Education's "Best Practices in Education Conference" on November 13, 2010. The title of their presentation is: Children, Trauma, and Upsetting News Events: How Teachers Can Help.

**Shelley Steenrod** has had a manuscript accepted for publication in the *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*. It is titled "Supervision and substance abuse services: What do social work students learn in field work?"

Dr. Steenrod has been invited to speak at the annual "Treating the Addictions" conference at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, March 4-5, 2011. The conference is sponsored by Harvard Medical School and the Department of Psychiatry at Cambridge Health Alliance.

Dr. Steenrod also presented a paper titled "Perceived Competence of Supervisors to Educate Students on Substance Use Treatment" at the Sixth International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision at Adelphi University on June 12, 2010.

**Camille Raquel**, BSW Student, has been hired to work with Dr. Steenrod to evaluate the impact of Health Peabody, a community coalition that works to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth in the city of Peabody.

**Jeff Driskell** has a recently published article:

Safren, S.A., O'Cleirigh, C., Skeer, M., Driskell, J. R., Goshier, B.M., Covahey, C., & Mayer, K. H (in press). Demonstration and evaluation of a peer-delivered individually tailored HIV prevention intervention among HIV-infected MSM in care. *AIDS and Behavior*.

Dr. Driskell was also an invited speaker at the Friends of the School of Social Work "Enhancing Professional Competencies In Working With Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders" in September, and presented in October in Portland, OR at the Council on Social Work Education entitled "Lessons learned: Converting a face-to-face course into a hybrid model".

## “WHAT FACULTY DID LAST SUMMER”

During the Summer I semester, Professor **Carol Owen** and seven MSW students enrolled in the Political Action and Health Care Advocacy for Social Workers elective course spent six days in Washington, D.C. studying legislative and implementation processes surrounding health policy formation. They met with think tank representatives, public health bureaucrats, members of national advocacy organizations, Congress members and Congressional staff members, and attended a Congressional hearing on the proposed repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Specifically, they met with Senator Scott Brown, Congressman John Tierney, Senator Kerry's legislative aide for health policy, Congressman John Conyers' health policy aide. A major focus of the course was on health care payment and delivery reforms initiated by the recent health care reform entitled Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act.

**Elsbeth Slayter** and her partner Murat Recevik visited Turkey for six weeks just as the Mavi Marmaris/Gaza crisis was unfolding, which made for an interesting time. They first visited the city of Urfa, a religious pilgrimage site for Muslims, Jews and Christians alike. Moving on to the city of Gaziantep, they learned firsthand about the positive impact of the Ataturk Dam on the reduction of the poverty rate as a result of agricultural improvements in that region. An exploration of Hatay (also called Antakya) followed, with a visit to a massive mosaic museum and lots of French-Arabic cuisine. Elspeth then continued studying Turkish on an island in the Aegean and began work on a book manuscript related to the implementation of the dignity of risk around sexuality and substance use for people with intellectual disabilities.

**Mary Byrne** presented a workshop at the June, 2010 Annual Youth at Risk Conference, Endicott College: Preserving resilience for helpers in a risky world.

Professor **Lisa Johnson** presented a paper in July at the National Conference on Child and Family Programs and Policies at Bridgewater State University. The focus of her presentation was based on work she did in Kentucky—evaluation of the effectiveness of an anti-racism training in impacting the knowledge and attitudes of community partners in the child welfare system.

## AWARD/RECOGNITION SECTION

BSW students **Jason Thomas** and **Alba Mora** were selected as BSW Child Welfare Scholars for Academic Year 2010-2011. The BSW Child Welfare Scholarship Project provides \$12,000 for tuition, fees, and expenses to BSW seniors who have been competitively selected and who complete their senior field education practica at Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. Salem State University School of Social Work is very proud to be one of twelve social work programs in the United States to be awarded five-year funding from the U.S. Children's Bureau National Child Welfare Workforce Institute. Salem State's award is used to support the BSW Child Welfare Scholars Program at Bridgewater, Westfield, and Salem State universities in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families Child Welfare Institute. For additional information on future awards and funding, see Dr. **Lisa Johnson**, project coordinator or Dr. **Cheryl Springer**, director of the School of Social Work and the project's principal investigator.

**Yilin Ji**, an international concentration year MSW student, will receive the Marguerite Rosenthal Excellence in Social Welfare Policy Award on Wednesday, November 10 at the Graduate School Honors reception. Several students will also be honored for maintaining high grade point averages at mid way through their MSW studies. Yilin's paper was the winning submission for her study of the history of Chinese Immigration to the US, as a SWK 702 History of Social Welfare Policy paper.

**Marissa DeCoppage**, a May 2010 graduate of the MSW program, won the Judith Holm's Memorial Prize (for Advanced Year students), a national competition for a clinical paper.

We also want to recognize 2009 graduate **Kate Audette**, whose advocacy in her recent role at NASW has resulted in successful passage of the new Chapter 12 legislation. This will result in changes to social workers' role in mental health crises situations. Go Kate!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SSWK SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD STUDENTS!

The following students were honored at the SSU Scholarship Recognition Reception at the Danversport Yacht Club on October 14, 2010. Each of the students was congratulated by President Meservey in the company of family and friends as well as many donors of the scholarships and awards.

Daniel Aaron Collins Memorial Scholarship:

**Luz Garay** (BSW) and **Nicole Page** (MSW)

Mary Polestand Sr. Human Service Award, William J. Vaughan Memorial Scholarship, Francis McGrath Scholarship, Arthur Gerald Jr. Scholarship:

**Emily Bardales**

Judith and Barry Josephs/Francis Glovsky Emmerman Scholarship:

**Jayna Doherty**

Ettinger Family Memorial Scholarship:

**Randall Rogers**

Pharnal Longus Scholarship:

**Camille Raquel**

Elaine S. Marks Award:

**Joseph Ambrose**

Patricia Roderick Scholarship:

**Michelle Fleming**

## SPOTLIGHT ON: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SANDRA YUDILEVICH ESPINOZA

### BACKGROUND:

Born and raised in Santiago, Chile, Professor **Yudilevich Espinoza** moved to the US when she was ten and a half years old. Since then, she has lived all over the country, including New York, Georgia, New Mexico, Washington state (Seattle), and now here on the North Shore. After getting her undergrad at Stony Brook University in New York, Professor Yudilevich Espinoza worked as a school teacher. She then worked as a waitress until the AIDS epidemic brought her into social work. Now she is back to being a teacher/professor.



*Yudilevich Espinoza*

Within the field, Professor Yudilevich Espinoza has worked in several arenas. She has been a clinical social worker in a home hospice, a community health center, an adult ER, an adult heart transplant program, in a children's hospital, and she coordinated a small mental health clinic for Latino patients. In addition, Professor Yudilevich Espinoza spent many years volunteering across the range of HIV/AIDS services, dating back to the inception of the epidemic. Tying her experience together is a commitment to health care (both physical and mental health); her area of expertise is in the area of the social determinants of health across populations, with a particular focus on children, women, and the elderly.

Professor Yudilevich Espinoza received her doctorate from the University of Georgia in Athens. Her dissertation was titled, "Living with HIV/AIDS: Exploring Latino women's narratives." With her Ph.D. in hand, Professor Yudilevich Espinoza came to Salem State University when the opportunity presented itself because it offered an opportunity to balance teaching, research, contributing to the profession, and making a difference in the community and the world at large.

### CLASSES SHE TEACHES:

Professor Yudilevich Espinoza teaches Practice III and IV and HBSE II within the Health/Mental Health concentration, as well as being a faculty liaison for field seminar. Next semester, she will teach her first class in the Older Adults concentration, the elective Death and Dying.

### INTERESTS:

Professor Yudilevich Espinoza's research interests are HIV/AIDS in women of color (Latino women in particular), gerontology, and social determinants of health. She enjoys reading and spending time at the ocean. When not working at home, she can be found watching *Law & Order*, *Bones*, HGTV, and *Sunday Morning*.

To get to know Professor Yudilevich Espinoza better, contact her at:

Email: [syudilevich@salemstate.edu](mailto:syudilevich@salemstate.edu)  
Office: AB-001-C

## A CHANCE TO NETWORK

"Salem State University's MSW Graduate Organization (G.O.) is very excited to be in the planning stages for a Social Networking event for MSW students. The event will be held at a to be determined restaurant/pub and we are working on having it as soon as we can!

We also are in the early planning stages of an event for early second semester with help from the MSW Alumni Association!

Please be on the lookout for flyers and announcements once dates have been set for these two great events! Our hope is with early planning these events will be appealing to our commuter friendly program to attract a bigger crowd!"

## NASW-MA'S TASK FORCE ON MAXIMIZING SOCIAL WORKER SAFETY: SSU SSWK

### PROFESSORS PRESENT RESEARCH

On November 19, 2010, Drs. **Elsbeth Slayter** and **Jenn Zelnick** presented their research findings on social worker safety in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in FY 2009. This work was conducted as part of the NASW-MA's Task Force on Maximizing Social Worker Safety. The study included two parts. First, an anonymous group of agencies across the Commonwealth were surveyed about incidents in which social worker safety was a concern. A total of 1,049 incidents were reported. Direct-care social workers (most at Bachelor's level) were more likely than clinical social workers (MSW level) to experience restraint-related incidents (10 times higher likelihood of visiting the ER ( $p < .001$ ) and 4 times higher likelihood of missing work as the result of being injured in a restraint ( $p < .05$ )).

While non-restraint-related incidents involving a range of physical assault were 5 times more likely among direct-care social workers ( $p < .01$ ), clinical social workers were 2 times more likely to experience verbal threats ( $p < .004$ ). Implications for research relate to the need for consistent measurements of various types of incidents experienced by social workers. Implications for practice relate to the need to create a culture of peace and safety for both clients—and the social workers involved in agency-based work. Also important is the need not to construct social work practice as dangerous, given the actual incidents of these events. This gathering was part of the NASW, private-public agency and university consortium, the "Safety Summit". This group continues to promote social worker safety, education and assistance to agencies in creating safety prevention for social work staff and clients.

### Questions, comments, or suggestions for future newsletters?

Contact Mary Byrne at:  
[mbyrne@salemstate.edu](mailto:mbyrne@salemstate.edu)