



**DEPAUL
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Social Work



MISSION STATEMENT:

The DePaul University Master of Social Work Program extends the university's global Vincentian mission of service to marginalized groups, particularly those in the Chicago urban community. The program offers rigorous, personalized, and responsive education, through collaboration with university and community partners in pursuit of social and economic justice. The DePaul University Master of Social Work Program is designed to foster excellence in community-based practice with an emphasis on ethics, leadership, and scholarship.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

COMMUNITIES

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2017

Letter from the Department Chair

Hello, friends

With the start of spring quarter in DePaul's Department of Social Work my mind begins to turn toward graduation this coming June. The year 2017 will see nineteen new MSWs who have worked hard over the past few years and who will comprise the program's tenth graduating class.

During this period of so much divisiveness in the country, I can think of no better time to send forth these soon-to-be colleagues who have specialized in community practice. They have developed a skillset that will allow them to bridge differences

within and across communities. These students will join our other alumni in doing amazing work. In the meantime, we in the Department of Social Work wish you well.

Happy Spring!

Noam

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Field Panels:** 2, 3
Where Do I go With Community Practice?
- **Alumni Updates**
- **Winter Holiday Pictures** 4, 5
- **Agency Profile:** 6
Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change
- **Field Mentors:**
Jae Joseph and Maddie Smith
- **Faculty News** 7
- **Community Calendar** 8

“Where Can I Go with Community Practice?”

2016-2017 panels

This academic year, selected field seminars were set aside for panels of social workers in a range of professional positions to speak and answer questions about community practice, and the ways they were able to use their expertise in this field in different career paths.

The panel on October 8 featured **Marisa Chumil**, Senior Social Worker at the **Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights**, and **Allison Lowe-Fotos**, Policy Specialist at **Ounce of Prevention Fund**. Marisa Chumil drew a comparison to clinical social work and the skills needed to engage with clients that may be organizations and systems. In a clinical setting, one frames messages, performs on-going assessments and there is creative problem-solving. It's the same in community practice except on a macro level. One should know their strengths and weaknesses, according to Allison Lowe-Fotos, “work in those areas where your strengths match.”

At the most recent panel February 4th, the panelists were **Tiffany Pryor**, Executive Director of **Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health**, and **Jim Poole**, Chief of Staff for Alderman **Ameya Pawar**. Tiffany Pryor graduated from DePaul's Masters in Social Work Program. Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) was Tiffany's second year internship placement site. Tiffany later would get hired on as staff by ICAH and eventually take on the role of Executive Director. In her role at ICAH, Tiffany works to promote health equity and access for adolescents. Tiffany's work shows the possibility of using an MSW to work in a role that combines advocacy, empowering communities, and working to enact policy change.

Jim Poole met Alderman Ameya Pawar while they were in school together pursuing their MSW. They each in their roles as Alderman and Chief of Staff demonstrate how an MSW can prepare you to serve communities

Continued on next page..



Jim Poole, Chief of Staff for Alderman Ameya Pawar, and Tiffany Pryor, Executive Director of Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

Continued from previous page..

through a political role. Jim stated while much of the work of the

Alderman is around keeping their designated ward clean and safe, they also have the opportunity to promote social justice through championing various legislative issues such as affordable housing.

For Valerie Lilley, a concentration year student who attended, one highlight of the panel was hearing about the initiative and action of Jim Poole and Ald. Pawar. She recalls: "They met while in graduate school, thought they could create a better political system to serve their community, and then ran against the incumbent for the alderman seat. In my opinion, putting words into action is Community Practice at its finest. Poole started off talking about advocating for your community for change. He said he is more likely to pay attention to a personal message and a coalition letter rather than an e-mail mass petition. He and the alderman listen to the needs of their community by maintaining communication with a network of churches and organizations. They practice participatory

budgeting by having an online vote which helps inform their budget. They plan to hold more public meetings and conversations."

Also from Valerie: "I like what Tiffany had to say about including youth in conversations about their education. This is participatory community practice. She advocates and practices including youth voices to influence schools to change curriculums. I believe that participatory community practice where citizens' voices are heard can bring forth huge impact and meaningful change to a community. It's also easier because community people think up their own ideas that will improve their lives."

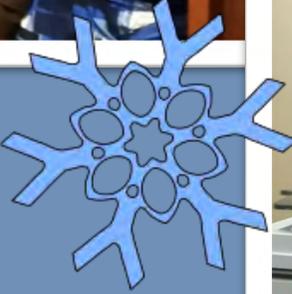
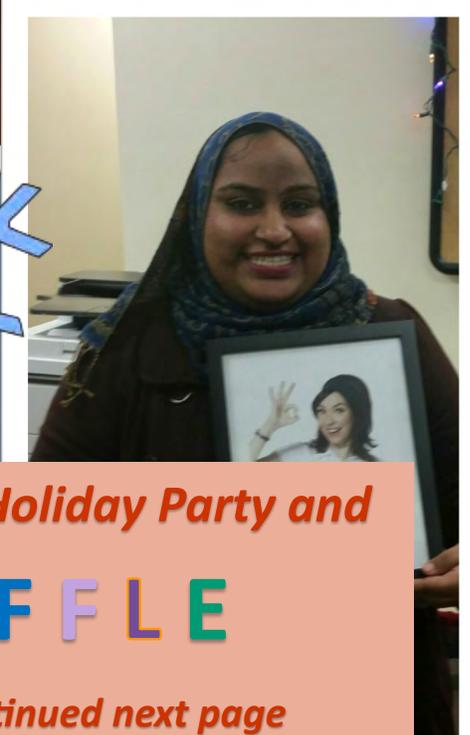
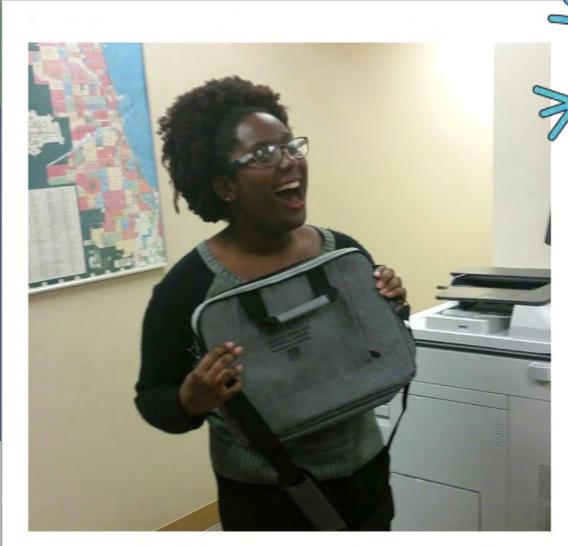
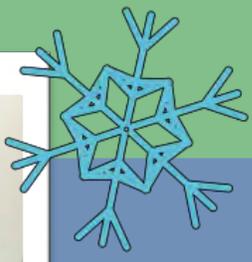
Second year, full-time students Katie Leifer and Valerie Lilley contributed to this article.



Alumni Updates

Caitlyn Graves (Class of 2015) reports that she is working as the **Transitional Care Unit Social Worker** at **Stafford Healthcare** at **Ridgemont** in **Port Orchard, WA**. **Stafford** is a skilled nursing and rehab facility for the aging population transitioning from hospital to home or wherever their next destination is.

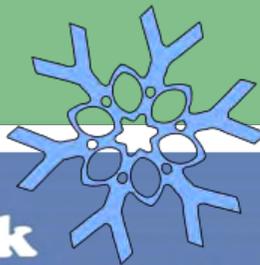
Last May **Greg O'Brien (Class of 2015)** took a position at **Teen Living Programs** as the **Manager of Program Performance and Compliance**. In this position he manages the agency's government grant contracts, ensure compliance across all programs, and manage program data and perform quality assurance tasks.



Winter 2016 Holiday Party and
RAFFLE
pictures continued next page

Department of Social Work Holiday Gathering

Thursday
December 1, 2016
6 pm - 8 pm
in the department suite



COMMUNITIES is a newsletter of the DePaul University Department of Social Work. Contributors included Maria Ferrera, Constance Sheehan, Sharon Kohli, Katie Leifer, Valerie Lilley, Sonya Crabtree-Nelson, Caitlyn Graves, Greg O'Brien, Noam Ostrander, Jae Joseph, Neil Vincent, and this edition was edited by Lee Casteel. Special thanks to everyone who submitted photos. Please direct submissions, suggestions, and comments (including alumni updates) to [mwsprogram@depaul.edu](mailto:mwprogram@depaul.edu).

Placement Profile:

Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change

The Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change is a department in the division of Student Affairs here at DePaul. This particular internship provides the rare experience of all three levels of social work: micro, mezzo, and macro.

In her second year internship placement Jae has been able to work with students individually to provide support as needed as well as conduct a departmental assessment on student learning. This gave her the opportunity to interview all of the student leaders at the center and apply the skills learned in Program Evaluation and Community Practice classes to immediate use at her internship.

In addition to providing direct support and conducting data collection for an assessment, Jae spearheaded the development of **Ignite Leadership Retreat**. This retreat targeted 100 first year students for a two-day social change experience focused on social justice. This opportunity allowed Jae to plan the retreat using the skills she was simultaneously learning in Fund Development.

Aside from the major projects that Jae is leading, The center has a number of initiatives that serve to improve the campus community for all identities. There is the workshop series where center staff go into classrooms, trainings, and other group meetings and present on a variety of topics with

the goal of enlightening attendees or simply educating on the value of social justice and inclusion. This is just one of many ways that the center reaches the DePaul campus.

If you would like more information on the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change, please visit go.depaul.edu/change or visit the office in the Lincoln Park Student Center in Suite 105.



Jae Joseph (class of 2017) has interned at The Center for Identity Inclusion and Social Change in this, her advanced year of the two-year program

Organization Mission Statement

The Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change provides integrative educational experiences for students, faculty, and staff to facilitate critical conversations around race, gender, sexuality, social justice, and the interplay of power and identity. The Center nurtures collaborative partnerships to foster an inclusive campus environment through student engagement, community building and identity-conscious leadership development. The Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change provides advocacy and support for students experiencing interpersonal, intrapersonal and systemic oppression.

Maddie Smith (class of 2017) is also a second year student in the two-year program this year

Field Mentors

Also, Jae Joseph and Maddie Smith are **Field Mentors** this academic year. The Graduate Assistantship positions support the Field Coordinator, helping with field forms and other office work, and serve as mentors for students in the MSW Program going through the field application process. The Field assistantships generally provide tuition waivers for 4 credit hours a quarter for three quarters, and a nominal stipend. For students who will have completed one of the two internships by the end of this academic year, and are interested in applying for the GA positions next year, go to



Faculty Updates

Maria Ferrera was awarded several internal research grants both to her individually and as part of group projects, including the Provost's Collaborative Research Fellowship and PSC Community-Based Service Learning Grant for a research project entitled, "Inequality in Life Expectancy in Chicago Study" (with The Chicago Dept. of Public Health, Drs. Judith Singleton in CSH and Akilah Martin in SNL); and an URC (University Research Council) Competitive Research Grant for the project entitled, "Undocumented Immigrant Youth Mental Health Study." She has been working closely with others to build The Coalition for Immigrant Mental Health (CIMH), a community-based collaborative and research informed initiative that is a partnership between undocumented individuals and mental health practitioners, community organizers, researchers, and allies that work to promote awareness of culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services through education, advocacy, and resource sharing. In her advocacy efforts, she helped author a petition urging DePaul to become a sanctuary for undocumented students and to protect other marginalized students and their right to an environment where they feel safe to speak and exist. This petition garnered over 2000 signatures of support from faculty, alumni, and students within the university community. She also co-authored her first Op-Ed piece with Dr. Bernadette Sanchez (Dept. of Psychology) entitled, "We Have Your Back: How Educators Can Support Undocumented Students," which was printed in *Diverse Issues in Education* last February.

Constance Sheehan was invited to be part of a roundtable on A Mindful Dialogue on Mindfulness-Based Practice at the Society of Social Work Research conference in New Orleans this past January. The roundtable sought to provide for increased understanding of the issues around MBP as well as appraisals of the possibilities of MBP for social work practice.

Noam Ostrander presented at APHA in Denver in October 2016 on Seasons of Violence: *Seasonal fluctuations of violent crime in U.S. cities*, a paper co-authored with Jessica Bishop-Royse of DePaul's Social Science Research Center.

He has also been accepted to present at a conference in Greece in July 2017 as part of this collaboration.

Sonya Crabtree-Nelson had an article published this past fall in the journal *Social Work*. The article, *A Call to Action: Domestic Violence Education in Social Work* was co-authored with Susan Grossman and Marta Lundy from Loyola University.

She also has been accepted to take part in a panel, along with her RTI collaborators, at the AERA (American Education Research Assn.) meeting this April in San Antonio. The panel will present on the importance of informal spaces for social justice education.

Sonya also collaborated on an article with Peter DeYoung, NC USN, RN-BC, CEN, MSN, Active Duty Emergency Trauma Nurse, Joint Base San Antonio FSH, Texas, and it was published February 2017 in the *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Mental Health Services*. The article, *Enhancing Resilience in Active Duty Military Personnel* deals with the need to develop resilience in military personnel prior to times of crises, in light of rising rates of suicide and PTSD in those who have experienced combat.

She continues her research and scholarship in the areas of trauma, ethics, and clinical supervision.

Neil Vincent's work as part of a collaboration with Arab-American Social Services was accepted at the Midwest Muslim Mental Health conference in Dearborn, MI. He will take part in a Vulnerable Populations Panel with among others Itedal Shalabi, MSW, Executive Director of Arab American Family Services and Khadijah Khudiera.

He has been granted research leave Fall 2017 for a project involving Chicago Survivors. The project will be looking at developing best practices protocols for survivors' mediation meetings with homicide detectives, support for families experiencing intimidation/harassment, and for assisting families attending court proceedings.

Also, a paper of Neil's has been accepted by *International Journal of Leadership and Change*; it will cover the quantitative component of his study on faculty perspectives on academic leadership.

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of Social Work



14 E Jackson Boulevard

Suite 900

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312-362-7325

Fax: 312-362-7327

E-mail: socialwork.depaul.edu

Web: las.depaul.edu/msw

Information and applications for programs beginning in
2017 available online at

<https://las.depaul.edu/departments/social-work>.

Programs include:

2 year program (students begin primarily in the Fall
Quarter—applications are due April 15, 2017).

4 year program (limited option to start in quarters other
than Fall—applications are due July 1, 2017).

Information session and open house details

are at:

www.depaul.edu/mswevents.

Community Calendar

NASW-IL Advocacy Day

April 4, 2017

Prairie Capital Convention Center
1 Convention Center Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

Info at: [http://www.naswil.org/
calendar/events/4435/](http://www.naswil.org/calendar/events/4435/)

DePaul's Vincentian Service Day

Saturday May 6, 2017

-Details to come-

MSW Program Networking

Event:

**"Mind, Body, and Taking Care of
Our Relationship with Stress"**

Friday April 28, 2017

9:00 am — 12:00 pm

Cortelyou Commons
DePaul University
Lincoln Park Campus

*Alumni and field instructors invited,
rsvp at mswprogram@depaul.edu*

LAS Graduate Open House

Thursday, May 11, 2017

5:00 PM — 7:00 PM

Lincoln Park Campus
Student Center
Room 120
2250 North Sheffield Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614