Impact eNews from the UW School of Social Work

RESEARCH ROOTED IN COMMUNITY
Social work research is rooted in a deep commitment to community. At the School of Social Work, our scholars collaborate with diverse, often marginalized, populations to collect meaningful data, co-create strategies for change, and develop culturally appropriate tools to measure impact.

Conversations about suicide can lead to better firearm safety
Meeting one-on-one with unexpected audiences, such as those attending gun shows, can spur behavior changes that promote firearm safety, according to new research from the Forefront Suicide Prevention. These informal conversations allow the Forefront team to engage with gun owners on a personal level, resulting in more people keeping their firearms.
celebrating the African Americans who have shaped and strengthened America, including social worker and civil rights trailblazer Whitney M. Young Jr. The first dean at Atlanta University School of Social Work, Young later served as head of the National Urban League. As an advisor to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, he strongly influenced the federal poverty programs of the 1960s. Learn more about Young's lasting contributions to racial justice work, the UW community at Black History Month events throughout February.

FACULTY NEWS

Inaugural Roffman Term Faculty Fellowships for Antiracism announced

Assistant Professor Jane Lee and Assistant Teaching Professor Justin Lerner are the inaugural recipients of the Roffman Term Faculty Fellowships for Antiracism. The new program, created in collaboration with Professor Emeritus Roger Roffman, will enable scholars to carry out personal and professional activities to enhance their knowledge and understanding of antiracism work. Said Dean Eddie Uehara: “This new fellowship program will greatly enhance contributions to the School’s education, research and service mission to prepare transformative antiracist strategies and actions.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alum Joe Thompson shares vision as new leader of Mercy Housing Northwest

Appointed president of Mercy-Housing Northwest last summer, Joe Thompson (MSW ’96) is expanding affordable housing with permanent supportive services such as child care and employment assistance so that residents can look beyond today and follow their dreams for tomorrow. “The affordable part of housing is just the first step to solving all sorts of really complicated and interconnected issues, and that’s one of the things that I just love about Mercy,” says Thompson.

IN THE NEWS

Project seeks to better tailor responses to student mental health at the UW; UW News, January 14, 2021 (Professor and Associate Dean Paula Nurius)

How WA schools can support students struggling with mental health; The Stranger, January 6, 2021 (Professor Emeritus Roger Roffman, Dean Eddie Uehara, Assistant Professor Clara Berridge)

How it feels in a pandemic where the death rate really is 20x; The Seattle Times, December 25, 2020 (Assistant Professor Clara Berridge)

We find our way- How older adults are coping with pandemic isolation; KUOW, December 23, 2020 (Assistant Professor Clara Berridge)

With so many schools closing, state mandated reports in Washington termian; The Seattle Times, December 9, 2020 (Associate Professor Emiku Tajima)

[IW study: Young whites report more illegal acts; young Blacks arrested more] KOMO News, December 3, 2020 (Endowed Professor for Prevention Kevin Haggerty)

Gun advocates take the lead in embracing suicide prevention message; The Oregonian, December 30, 2020 (Associate Professor Jennifer Stuber)

How did we know? Gun owners confront a suicide epidemic; The New York Times, December 17, 2020 (Associate Professor Jennifer Stuber)

My gun safety study; KOMO News, October 19, 2020 (Associate Professor Jennifer Stuber)

New poverty funds Washington state’s DEMOCRACY Act; The Stranger, October 21, 2020 (Emerita Senior Professor Dana Ben-Asher)

Senior sensors: Digital contact tracing wasn’t up for debate in senior living facilities; The Stranger, October 19, 2020 (Emerita Associate Professor Claire Brennan)