Program Milestones

Doctoral Degrees Earned in 2018
Jessica Elm (Summer 2018)  Tiffany Jones (Summer 2018)
Christopher Fleming (Summer 2018)  Katie Querna (Summer 2018)
Sarah Jen (Spring 2018)

Doctoral Students Achieving Candidacy in 2018
Bianca Altamirano (Spring 2018)  Jessica Ullrich (Winter 2018)
Youngjun Choi (Spring 2018)

Dissertation Prospectus Approved
Martha Aby  Angela Ferndandez
Shannon Blajeski  Chiho Song

Individual Development Presentations Completed
Joel Crume  Ashley Rousson
Hazal Ercin  Yuanjin Zhou
Vern Harner

CSSS Track Completed
Asia Bishop  Sarah Jen
Introducing the 2018 PhD Graduates

From left to right: Christopher Fleming, Katie Querna, Tiffany Jones, Sarah Jen, and Jessica Elm

Christopher Fleming: Chris accepted a Postdoctoral Fellow position at the Prevention Science Institute at the University of Oregon.
Dissertation: Assessing the Impact of Community-Based Universal Prevention on Adolescent Gang Association: An Examination of the Effects of Communities That Care
Committee Chair: Sabrina Oesterle

Katie Querna: Katie accepted a Research Fellow position at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics.
Dissertation: “Whoever I Find Myself To Be”: Past, Present, and Future Selves of Bisexual Emerging Adult Men and Trans Masculine Individuals
Committee Chair: Val Kalei Kanuha

Tiffany Jones: Tiffany accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at Colorado State University.
Dissertation: Understanding Race Differences in Academic Outcomes, School Climate and Social Emotional Learning to Promote Racial Equity and Policy Reform
Committee Chair: Todd Herrenkohl
Sarah Jen: Sarah accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare.  
Dissertation: Discourses of Bisexuality among Older Women  
Committee Chair: Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen

Jessica Elm: Jessica accepted a Postdoctoral Associate position in the Department of Family Medicine and Biobehaviorial Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus.  
Dissertation: Childhood Stressors and Behavioral Health among American Indian Adults with Type-two Diabetes: A Latent Class Analysis  
Committee Chair: Karina Walters
Introducing the 2018 PhD Cohort

Emily Loerzel is a White Earth Ojibwe descendent who received her BA in Sociology at Elmhurst College and her MSW at Aurora University. Prior to receiving her MSW, she worked as a case manager in the fields of chronic mental health management, homelessness, and domestic violence. She moved her focus to working within the Chicago American Indian community as a community organizer and a clinical mental health intern at Indian Health Services. From 2016 to 2018, she managed a Department of Justice grant called Project Beacon, a pilot grant oriented towards building up direct services and outreach for urban Native American survivors of human trafficking. This allowed her to educate community members and professionals on human trafficking as well as work alongside legal professionals and law enforcement in the city of Chicago. Her current research interests are developing community based interventions against human trafficking of Indigenous people, wellness of Indigenous women and adolescents, and violence against Indigenous communities. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her dog, Nijii and learning Ojibwemowin.

Jessica Lapham received a B.A. in Communication from the University of Southern California and a M.S.W. with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership and Policy Planning from the University of Denver. While she has worked in the non-profit sector in a variety of roles for nearly ten years, it wasn’t until she began youth mentoring and teaching yoga to at-risk youth in the Boulder and Denver County Juvenile Justice Systems that her desire to pursue a career in social work was ignited. Jessica focused her graduate studies on macro practice & theory, social policy analysis & advocacy, resource development & fundraising, and applied research & evaluation. She has held internships at Centura Health - St. Anthony’s Hospital providing SBIRT tests and treatment referrals to patients, as well as the Denver Botanic Garden implementing a horticulture therapy program for post 9/11 veterans. She has worked with a number of adaptive sports programs to provide outdoor therapy opportunities for individuals with disabilities by developing wellness interventions, conducting grant writing & fundraising initiatives, and designing program evaluations that effectively measure outcomes. Currently, she works at Western State Colorado University advising nearly 300 graduate students toward successful degree completion in addition to analyzing and reporting on program data for the Colorado Department of Education. Additionally, Jessica is a freelance grant writer and development strategist that works with a variety of non-
profits to secure grant funding, design and implement effective program evaluations, report on outcomes, and consult on long-term fundraising strategies. Recently, she has been hired as an adjunct Instructor at the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Social Work, providing instruction in human behavior theory and social work framework applications to address current social justice challenges and diverse contexts. Jessica’s personal, professional and academic experiences have led to her research interests to understand and address health disparities, social determinants of health, and barriers to care as well as examine why some populations are healthier than others.

Jessica Ramirez is a first-generation Xicana/Chicana college student from Oxnard, California. She completed her undergraduate studies in public health at California State University, Northridge and received a dual Master’s Degree in public health and social work from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has worked with Children, Youth and Families of Color in various settings—including community centers, public housing communities, and schools. Because of her education, clinical experiences, and personal observations, she is passionate about and committed to social justice. More specifically, her interests revolve around working with underrepresented and underserved communities who are affected by incarceration, substance abuse, and violence. Her goal is to return to her community or communities alike to help shed light on and address the many social injustices that affect the well-being/health of underrepresented and underserved Communities of Color.

Committee Events

On May 15, 2018, the PhD Social Justice Committee coordinated the Spring Town Hall & Anti-Oppression Workshop presented by Dr. Anu Taranath. Dr. Taranath is the Founder and Director of A.T. Consulting: dialogues for justice, specializing in services that deepen people’s comfort with uncomfortable topics and work toward equity and social justice. Approximately 35 students, faculty, and staff participated in this important event.
PhD Workshops

Drs. Susan Kemp, Todd Herrenkohl, and Nancy Hooyman hosted for faculty the Mentoring: Building Effective Relationships Workshop on October 23, 2017 and another mentoring workshop for doctoral students on October 3, 2017.

Graduate Funding Information Service (GFIS) hosted the Strategies for Finding Funding Workshop on October 10, 2017.

PhD Gatherings

Vern Harner coordinated the PhD Fall Gathering on November 9, 2017 at Shultzy’s.

Recruitment Events

The PhD Program in Social Welfare hosted an Open House on November 2, 2017. Current students provided an overview of the PhD program, from the decision to consider doctoral studies through career outcomes after graduation. The Open House hosted 50 attendees, including community members, current MSW students and prospective applicants. The 2018 PhD in Social Welfare Open House is scheduled for Thursday, November 1st from 5:00pm – 6:30pm in Room 305AB.

Guest Visits

Dr. Donna Shalala, board member and former president and CEO of the Clinton Foundation, visited the School of Social Work and met with doctoral students and staff on October 9, 2017.
Awards & Fellowships

Martha Aby was selected to join the ITHS TL1 Multidisciplinary Pre-doctoral Clinical Research Program for the 2017-2018 cohort. Martha also received the Kath Wilham Training Grant for 2018.

Bianca Altamirano received the 2018-2019 Magnuson Fellowship.

Shannon Blajeski received the J. Scott Briar Award for 2018.

Erin Harrop was selected to join the ITHS TL1 Clinical Research Training Program for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Matt Ignacio was awarded the National Institute of Health (NIH) Diversity Supplement.

Jessica Lapham received the Graduate School’s Top Scholar Award for Spring Quarter 2019.

Emily Loerzel received the Graduate School’s Top Scholar Award for Fall Quarter 2018.

Kristin McCowan was selected as a recipient of the 2017 MAP Scholarship.

Araceli Orozco-Hershey received the CSWE MFP Award for 2018-2019.

Jessica Ramirez received the GO-MAP Graduate Opportunity Program Research Assistantship Award for 2018-2019.

Rebecca Rebbe was selected to join the ITHS TL1 Clinical Research Training Program for 2018-2019.

Jessica Ullrich received a CSWE Minority Fellowship Program renewal for 2018-2019.

Claire Willey Sthapit was awarded the 2017-2018 Graduate School Boeing International Fellowship for her dissertation research in Pokhara, Nepal.

Yuanjin Zhou received the University of Washington Population Health Initiative’s Graduate Student Conference Travel Award to attend the “Alzheimer’s Association International Conference 2018” in Chicago, IL. Yuanjin was also selected as the recipient of the 2018-2019 Graduate School UWRA Fellowship in Aging.
2018 Lewayne Gilchrist Doctoral Mentor Award

On behalf of the Doctoral Awards Committee, we are delighted to announce that Dr. Nancy Hooyman, Endowed Gerontology Professor, Dean Emeritus, Director of the PhD in Social Welfare Program is the recipient of the 2018 Lewayne Gilchrist Doctoral Mentor Award! This award was established to recognize doctoral program faculty who have dedicated their careers to the promise and success of their students – as was true of Dr. Gilchrist’s extensive and exceptional mentoring of students.

The student letters nominating Nancy capture reasons for her selection. To highlight just a few comments from their beautifully crafted letters:

Nancy embodies what a social work faculty member should be: someone who models humility, generosity, and integrity in all of her interactions and demonstrates a commitment to social justice as a person, professor, and administrator.

She has been one of the most responsive, available, attentive, and invested mentors with whom I have had the honor to work, and many students seek her support in addition to their own faculty mentors.

Nancy was honored at the School’s Graduation Ceremony on June 7, 2018 in the Alaska Airlines Arena.

We would also like to recognize and honor award nominee, Dr. Paula Nurius for her commitment to quality mentoring and teaching.

Please join us in congratulating both Nancy as the recipient of the 2018 Lewayne Gilchrist Doctoral Mentor Award and Paula as the award nominee!
In the Press

Erin Harrop worked extensively with Michael Hobbes, a reporter for the Huffington Post, on a ground breaking article about “obesity,” weight stigma, and the critical need for a paradigm shift. The article, *Everything You Know About Obesity Is Wrong*, was published on September 19, 2018.

Photo by Finlay MacKay
Pictured: Erin and son, Jason

Poster, Paper Presentations, Invited Presentations


Harrop, E. N. (2018). Recruiting participants for a longitudinal mixed-methods study of Atypical Anorexia: Baseline characteristics, demographics, and eating disorder severity. Poster presented at the Association for Size Diversity and Health Conference in Portland, OR.


Jen, S. (2017). *Sexuality, intimacy, and aging.* Course: Geriatric Audiology (Speech and Hearing Center)


Kevin Haggerty, Amy Salazar, & Kristin McCowan (2017). Presented on some of the qualitative work they have been doing, particularly using focus groups with foster parents of LGBTQ2S youth who have aged out of foster care. SDRG Science Wednesday.


Rebecca Rebbe presented at an invited webinar to Canada’s Practice and Research Together (PART) membership regarding her research on Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Youth Aging Out of Foster Care.


Publications

Aby, Martha J. (2018). All over the map: A case study of Minnesota’s Cultural and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Grant. Minnesota Department of Human Services, Mental Health Division.


Yuan, N.P, Goforth, K., Howell, K., Miller-Graff, L., Querna, K., Schulz, K. & Wamser-Nanney, R. (2017, April). The conundrum of promoting community-based participatory research on violence, trauma, and...
resilience, while facing barriers to achieving success. Moderated panel session presented at the Resilience Conference, Nashville, TN.


**Querna, K.** (2017). *Assessment and intervention of non-physical aggression.* Family Court of King County, Seattle, WA.


**In Progress Publications**

Aby, Martha J. (Under Review). “This is a decade process”: A case study of integrated care in community mental health. *Journal of Community Mental Health*.


Song, C. (under review). Does doubling up mask poverty? Examining how change in household cohabitation contributes to change in estimates of young adult poverty over the Great Recession. Social Service Review.


Personal & Family News

**Tracy Brazg** welcomed baby Lev Brazg Shwab into the world on October 3, 2017.

**Bianca Altamirano** and **Matthew Kelly** got married in March 2018.

**Martha Aby** and **Alejandro Rodriguez** got married in February 2018.

**Ashley Rousson** is expecting her first baby on September 26, 2018.
In Memory of Dr. Lewayne Gilchrist, 1942-2018

Lew died suddenly and peacefully at her home on January 25, 2018. As Director of the Doctoral Program from 2000-2003, and a faculty member for 18 years, Lew worked with more doctoral students than any other faculty in the history of the School. Indeed, at her retirement party, she was given a quilt with every patch contributed by doctoral faculty, staff, students and alumni. She derived tremendous satisfaction from such mentoring and collaborating.

Given her profound impact on our doctoral students, the School’s Doctoral Mentor Award bears her name in recognition of her exemplary commitment to doctoral education. This commitment is also reflected in her exceptionally generous gift, prior to her death, to create the C. Wayne Dorman Endowed Fellowship for Doctoral Support. This fund, with additional gifts from her husband James Gilchrist and from Dean Uehara, will be used to provide additional supports to doctoral students who might not otherwise be able to complete their doctoral education.

The School held a celebration of her life on March 4, 2018, where faculty, staff, doctoral students and alumni shared memories, which brought both tears and laughter. Some of the heartfelt memories shared by Lew’s former doctoral students include the following:

“It is hard to imagine the planet without Lew on it! She was such an amazing scholar, mentor, teacher, and all around person. She inspired excellence, fortitude, and kindness – her spirit lives on in all that she inspired in me.”

Nicole Nicotera, PhD LICSW

“She saw the best in people and never gave up on them, even when they doubted their abilities. For me, the word that keeps coming to mind when I think about Lew is grace. She was the embodiment of elegance and kindness, and truly a blessing in my life. I will miss her.”

Darrel H. Higa, PhD, MSW

“My dearest mentor Lew who taught me how to be a scientist, how to be strong but yet open minded person, and most of all how to embrace who I am and what I am. I admire you, respect you, and miss you from the bottom of my heart.”

Jungeun Olivia Lee

No matter what challenges she was facing in her faculty or administrative roles, Lew often closed her emails with an uplifting “Onward!” And so all of us who have benefitted from her innumerable contributions to the School and to our lives, we will move our School community “onward”, as one way to honor Lew and extend her great legacy.