Program Milestones

Doctoral Degrees Earned in 2016
Yu-Ling Chang (Spring 2016)  Maria Rodriguez (Summer 2016)
Stella Gran-O’Donnell (Winter 2016)  Katie Schultz (Summer 2016)
Caroline Lanza (Summer 2016)  Miriam Valdovinos (Spring 2016)
Joseph Mienko (Summer 2016)

Doctoral Degrees Earned in 2017
Odessa Gonzalez Benson (Summer 2017)  Sara Green (Winter 2017)
Sharon Borja (Spring 2017)  Ji-Young Kang (Spring 2017)
Christopher Cambron (Summer 2017)  Jessica Rodriguez-Jenkns (Summer 2017)
Danae Dotolo (Summer 2017)  Ciwang Teyra (Summer 2017)

Doctoral Students Achieving Candidacy in 2016
Shannon Blajeski (Winter 2016)  Sarah Jen (Spring 2016)
Christopher Cambron (Spring 2016)  Katherine Querna (Winter 2016)
Christopher Fleming (Spring 2016)  Chiho Song (Spring 2016)

Doctoral Students Achieving Candidacy in 2017
Jessica Elm (Winter 2017)  Tiffany Jones (Spring 2017)
Angela Fernandez (Winter 2017)  Rebecca Rebbe (Spring 2017)

Dissertation Prospectus Approved
Sarah Jen  Chiho Song

CSSS Track Completed
Christopher Cambron  Ji Young Kang
Youngjun Choi  Rebecca Rebbe
Christopher Fleming  Ciwang Teyra
Tiffany Jones
Awards, Fellowships & Invitational Presentations

Martha Aby was selected to join the ITHS TL1 Multidisciplinary Pre-doctoral Clinical Research Program for the 2017-2018 cohort. She was also admitted to the Doctoral Scholars Institute at Rutgers University connected with the Network for Social Work Management conference in New York City in June 2017. She has been accepted to the Doctoral Scholars Institute (DSI). This pre-conference institute is focused on research in human services management and organizations. In addition to the program offer, Martha has also been invited to the 28th Annual Management Conference: The Business of Social Work – Mission, Morals, Morale & Money.

Shannon Blajeski received the GPSS Travel Award to present a poster entitled: “A Model of DUP in Northwest Oregon: Recognition, Interpretation & Intermediaries” at the International Early Psychosis Association 10th Congress in Milan, Italy.

Christopher Cambron has been awarded the CSDE Demographic Methods Graduate Certificate. He also received the West Coast Poverty Center Dissertation Fellowship. His dissertation examines the role of neighborhood contexts in adolescent and adult substance use and abuse.

Danae Dotolo was awarded the 2016-2017 Magnuson Fellowship.

Jessica Elm was accepted into the Native Children’s Research Exchange Scholars Program as part of the 2017 cohort.

Angela Fernandez received the Kath Wilham Training Grant for 2016.

Erin Harrop was selected to join the ITHS TL1 Clinical Research Training Program for 2017-2018. She was also awarded the Kath Wilham Training Grant for 2017 and presented at the International Conference of Eating Disorders and the International Weight Stigma Conference in Prague, Czech Republic.

Sarah Jen has been awarded the 2017-2018 Magnuson Fellowship.

Tiffany Jones was selected to join the ITHS TL1 Multidisciplinary Pre-doctoral Clinical Research Training Program for the 2017 cohort.

Kristin McCowan was selected to be a 2017 MAP Scholarship Recipient.

Katherine Querna received the Dissertation Award by the Smith Clinical Research Institute for her LGBT Violence Research. She was also awarded the Community Service Award by Susan G. Komen
Puget Sound as a member of the LGBT Health Advisory Board. She was also invited to teach two separate faculty/staff/graduate student-learning communities focused on contemplative pedagogy and practice in the social justice-oriented classroom for the UW community through the Center for Teaching and Learning in Fall 2015 and Summer 2016.

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.

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

**Poster & Paper Presentations**


Aby, Martha (May, 2017). *Where Everyone Knows Your Name: Primary Care in Community Mental Health*. Paper presentation at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana.


Moore, M., Cristofalo, M., and Dotolo, D. (accepted for January 2017). The Role of Social Work in Providing Mental Health Services and Care Coordination in the Urban Trauma Center Emergency Department. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.

Moore, M., Cristofalo, M., and Dotolo, D. (October 2016). When high pressure, system constraints and a social justice mission collide: a social-structural analysis of emergency department social work services. Oral presentation at the annual Qualitative Health Research Conference of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, Kelowna, BC.


LaMarre, A. & Harrop, E. N. (2017). The “face” and “place” of eating disorder recovery: A critical discourse analysis of eating disorder treatment center promotional materials. Paper presentation at the Academy of Eating Disorders Conference, Prague, Czech Republic.


Publications


Alumni News

Since graduating in 2014, Kari Gloppen has been working as a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. Kari has accepted a research scientist position at the Minnesota Department of Health.

Committee Events

On May 25, 2017 the PhD Social Justice Committee together with the SSW Equity Council hosted the successful, standing-room only event, “Local Panel Igniting Social Change.” Prominent leaders within public institutions in Seattle engaged the UW SSW community in vibrant conversations as they shared their insights about institutional challenges to social change, equity tools, resources, and success stories.

The Student Speaker Series Committee organized a Panel Discussion entitled “Organizing Promise Neighborhoods” on February 23, 2016. Invited panelists included Dr. Wanda M. Billingsly, Dr. Donald Felder, Dr. Charles M. Payne, Anita Rocha and Anthony Shoecraft. This event was hosted in co-sponsorship with the UW School of Social Work, Communities in Action, the West Coast Poverty Center and the Graduate School and was moderated by PhD student Martha Aby.

Recruitment Events

The PhD Program in Social Welfare hosted an Open House on October 27, 2016. During this event, 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 38 attendees, including community members, current MSW students and prospective applicants.

The 2015 PhD Cohort, led by Matt Ignacio, hosted a PhD Meet and Greet on May 5, 2016 open to all School of Social Work students. The objective of the event was to provide a general overview of the PhD program for those interested in applying and to build community between degree programs. The PhD Meet and Greet hosted 30 attendees.
Personal & Family News

[Picture of baby]

Erin Harrop and Jared welcomed baby Jason into the world 3 months ahead of schedule at 1lb 11oz. He is now a happy, feisty little dude.

[Picture of couple]

Martha Aby and Alejandro Rodriguez are planning a wedding winter of 2018.

[Picture of woman]

Katherine Querna completed both a 200 hour yoga teacher training through the social justice oriented Samarya Center (12/2015) and an additional clinical training in neuroscience and using yoga (11/2016) for working with people who have experienced trauma. Katie also started teaching adaptive yoga in January 2015 through the Seattle Parks Department Specialized Programs.
Maria Rodriguez welcomed baby Elias Glenn Rodriguez Greenland into the world on March 16, 2016.

Yu-Ling Chang welcomed baby Iris Chien into the world on July 25, 2016.

Bianca Altamirano and her partner Matt got engaged in August 2016 and plan to get married in March 2018.
PhD Graduates 2016

From left to right: Katie Schultz, Miriam Valdovinos, Yu-Ling Chang, Maria Rodriguez

**Yu-Ling Chang:** Yu-Ling is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley.
Committee Chair: Marcia Meyers

**Maria Rodriguez:** Maria is an Assistant Professor in the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College.
Dissertation: Foreclosure Counseling with Hispanic households: Policy assumptions in a changing demographic landscape
Committee Chairs: Jennifer Romich and Lynne Manzo
**Katie Schultz:** Katie is a postdoctoral fellowship with the Center for Mental Health Services Research at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.  
Dissertation: Native Women, Intimate Partner Violence, and Drug Use and Consequences: Prevalence and Associations Among Tribal College and University Students  
Committee Chairs: Tessa Evans-Campbell and Karina Walters

**Miriam Valdovinos:** Miriam is an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut (UCONN), School of Social Work.  
Dissertation: Cultivating Care: Understanding Intimate Partner Violence Experiences of Undocumented Latinas  
Committee Chair: Tess Evans-Campbell
PhD Graduates 2017

From left to right: Danae Dotolo, Jessica Rodriguez-JenKins, Ciwang TeYra (Mei-Yi Lee), Sharon Borja, Christopher Cambron, Ji Young Kang, Odessa Gonzalez Benson

**Odessa Gonzalez Benson:** Odessa accepted an appointment as Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2017-2018 and as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in 2018 at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. Dissertation: Refugee-driven and Policy-driven Resettlement: Examining Socio-economic Integration Through Placement patterns and Community-based Organizations
Committee Chair: Marcia Meyers

**Sharon Borja:** Sharon accepted an assistant professor appointment at the University of Houston. Dissertation: Longitudinal Implications of Intergenerational Adversity on the Parental Capacities of Latina and African-American Mothers and Their Children’s Wellbeing
Committee Chair: Paula Nurius
Christopher Cambron: Christopher accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with the Center for Health Outcomes and Population Equity (HOPE) in the Population Health Sciences department at the University of Utah.
Dissertation: An Examination of Neighborhood Contexts and Substance Use Across the Life Course
Committee Chair: Richard Catalano

Danae Dotolo: Danae is joining our University of Washington School of Social Work faculty as a full-time lecturer.
Dissertation: “It’s Always in the Back of Your Mind”: LGBTQ Partners’ Experiences of Discrimination in Healthcare for Serious Illnesses
Committee Chair: Taryn Lindhorst

(Not pictured) Sara Green:
Dissertation: Examining the Role of Place-based Interventions in Supporting Military Families: A Qualitative Study of Family-centered Therapeutic Landscapes
Committee Chair: Paula Nurius

Ji Young Kang: will be working as a research affiliate for West Coast Poverty Center.
Dissertation: Social Policy Contexts, Family Well-being and Gender Equality from a Comparative Perspective
Committee Chair: Marcia Meyers

Jessica Rodriguez-JenKins: Jessica will be joining the Portland State University faculty as an assistant professor.
Dissertation: Supporting Latino Families Vulnerable to Child Welfare Involvement
Committee Chair: Maureen Marcenko

Ciwang Teyra (Mei-Yi Lee): Ciwang accepted a faculty position as an assistant professor at the National Taiwan University Department of Social Work.
Dissertation: Culture and History Matter: Historical Trauma and Cultural Protective Factors on Alcohol Use Among Truku Tribal People
Committee Chair: Tessa Evans-Campbell
Introducing our 2017 Cohort

Anna Constantino-Pettit completed a BA from Washington University in St. Louis (’12) and subsequently a Masters in Social Work (MSW) from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University (’14). Anna focused her graduate coursework on clinical approaches to reducing emotional and behavioral dysregulation, with an emphasis on intergenerational effects of traumatic stress. She also completed the certificate with the WU Center for Violence and Injury Prevention, which afforded her the opportunity to collaborate with Washington University researchers in both the Schools of Medicine and Social Work. Following her graduate studies, Anna assumed the role of clinical research coordinator for the Washington University Perinatal Behavioral Health Service (PBHS), which provides education, screening, and intervention for mothers with perinatal mood, anxiety, and substance use disorders at Barnes Jewish Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine, and St. Louis Children’s Hospital. In her ongoing work with PBHS, Anna provides both therapy and case management services for women with infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, has written several successful grant applications to secure financial support for the program, has advocated for universal trauma-informed screening within the hospital system, and has collaborated on scholarly papers and academic presentations of the program’s innovations and impact. She was awarded an inaugural fellowship in advanced practice of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) by the STL Center for Family Development, and works intensively with adolescents in the transition to adulthood who can benefit from this evidence-based intervention. She hopes to dedicate her research career to advancing trauma-informed clinical interventions for mothers during the perinatal period in order to interrupt intergenerational cycles of traumatic stress and promote healthy attachment and infant development.
Jessica De Larwelle is a Ronald E. McNair Scholar who earned a BS in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh in 2012. Throughout her education, she has worked with children and adolescents as a caretaker, a mentor, and a positive role model. Jessica earned her MSW concentrated in mental health from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee in 2014. While there she worked on a SAMSHA funded study which evaluated outcomes of adults who were homeless and have a dual diagnosis of mental health and substance use. Jessica’s research interest prompted her to study abroad in Bristol, England to compare U.S. policies to those used in the United Kingdom for youth aging out of foster care and their likelihood of securing stable housing. In addition to her practical experience, she has worked closely with professors on seven research projects which led to publication in two academic journals. After earning her MSW, Jessica began working as an inpatient clinical social worker with children and adolescents struggling with mental illness. Her personal experience of aging out of foster care has inspired her research interests to explore risk and protective factors that contribute to youth successfully transitioning to adulthood. Specifically she would like to evaluate interventions for youth involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice system and their likelihood to pursuing higher education, securing employment, receiving adequate mental health treatment, and maintaining stable housing as they age out of care.

Taurmini Fentress earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Oregon. While completing this degree, Taurmini worked in the anthropology department on projects relating to food insecurity, poverty, culture, policy, and food choice in district elementary and middle schools. This research was dedicated to deepening the understanding of the relationships between food choice, food education, and school district policy and the impact this has on the health and wellbeing of children. After leaving the University of Oregon, she continued this work with a comparison study in Oviedo, Spain. Taurmini then came to the University of Washington where she completed her MSW and MPA while also working towards a graduate level certificate in Global Public Health specializing in women, adolescents, and children. She has been employed at the West Coast Poverty Center for the last three years where she has had the opportunity to continue working to bridge the gaps between research, policy, and practice. Taurmini’s long-term research interests are in stress and its effects on the body and mind across generations; she hopes to use stress as a through line linking individual experiences to culture and societal structures while exploring how interventions can be made at the population level. She is committed to transdisciplinary, multi-level, and impact-oriented work.
Ian Johnson received a B.A. in Sociology/Gender Studies from Ithaca College and an M.S.W. with a specialization in Gerontology from CUNY Hunter. He began working with older adults as a nurse’s aide in an assisted living facility while in college and developed a research interest in the intersections of gender and aging. In the past seven years, he has worked as a clinical social worker in community-based organizations aimed at addressing the mental health needs of older adults across New York City. Most recently, he supervised home-based mental health, peer services, case management, and nursing for older adults with severe mental illness living in the supportive housing system. His current research interests include marginalization and stigma within senior communities, LGBTQ older adults, and the development of mental health and substance use interventions for aging populations.

Angie Malorni received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the Ohio State University and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Washington. She has been a youth worker for over 8 years and worked with the City of Seattle to design and facilitate Youth Participatory Program Evaluation for teen programs. She currently works for an after-school and OST intermediary organization, School's Out Washington, managing over 75 school-age and youth serving organizations through continuous program improvement processes, facilitating peer-learning meetings, and supporting capacity building across the youth development field. She is also designing and facilitating a Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) project as a model for the City of Seattle's service-learning programs. She is looking forward to building on her experiences at UW's Social Welfare PhD program. She is interested in utilizing mixed methods, CBPR and PAR to explore the ways SEL can support critical consciousness development in youth and young adults. She is also interested in contributing to the ongoing work of critical youth studies and centering social science research methods in social justice.
Faculty Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Doctoral Awards Committee, we are delighted to announce that Dr. Tessa Evans-Campbell is the recipient of the 2016 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 Tessa capture reasons for her selection. To highlight just a few comments from their beautifully crafted letters:

Dr. Evans-Campbell’s mentorship provided me with a sense of belonging and support that allowed me to build on my knowledge and strengths as an indigenous practitioner and scholar within the academy.

She understands the importance of having congruence with our personal values, relational commitments, and scientific training.

Tessa was honored at the School’s Graduation Ceremony on June 9, 2016 in the Alaska Airlines Arena.

We would also like to recognize and honor the other award nominees - Dr. Susan Kemp, Dr. Paula Nurius and Dr. Karina Walters - for their commitment to quality mentoring and teaching.

Please join us in congratulating both Tessa and the nominees of the 2016 Lewayne Gilchrist Doctoral Mentor Award!
Dear all,

On behalf of the Doctoral Awards Committee, I am delighted to announce that Dr. Susan Kemp is the recipient of the 2017 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. Susan’s mentoring and teaching exemplify a combination of rigorous educational standards with her passionate commitment to students’ personal and professional development.

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

In our collective history as students and professional social workers, we have never encountered a mentor who has so actively engaged with us as a collaborator in learning.

Susan has provided support to me in three principal capacities: intellectual growth, connection to other scholars and as a model of professionalism...Indeed, Susan is the embodiment of an intellectual scholar and teacher.

The academic path is a difficult one... A mentor like Dr. Kemp means having a companion along the way.

Susan will be honored at the School’s Graduation Ceremony on June 8 in the Alaska Airlines Arena. While we regret that she will be 7,000 miles away from the ceremony, we look forward to loudly applauding for her across the miles!

We would also like to recognize and honor the other award nominees - Dr. Taryn Lindhorst and Dr. Paula Nurius - for their commitment to quality mentoring and teaching.

Please join me in congratulating both Susan and the nominees of the 2017 Lewayne Gilchrist Doctoral Mentor Award!

With warm regards,

Nancy Hooyman
Transitions – A Note From the Dean

Dr. Susan Kemp will be on partial leave and will spend a significant part of the academic year at the University of Auckland. As Visiting Professor of Social Work at Auckland, she will assist the University to develop and expand its social work program and develop the UW-UA partnership. Susan notes that she will begin working in New Zealand at an exciting time for the University of Auckland’s social work program, which has a growing interdisciplinary and international reputation for culturally grounded, research-informed practice. She and our Auckland social work colleagues are eager to share and benefit from the UW-SSW’s experience as a top-flight, highly innovative, collaborative, research-intensive school. Susan and I look forward to providing faculty and students future opportunities to engage in exchanges and collaborative projects with our colleagues from New Zealand!

Susan will continue to provide leadership for selected SW/UW activities during this period, including UW’s Urban@UW and the social work grand challenge, Create Social Responses to a Changing Environment. She will also maintain close engagement with key educational and strategic planning activities, such as our “Innovation-to-Impact” initiative. However, Susan will be unable to continue as Director of the PhD Program.

Despite the many gains associated with our new partnership, I know we will all deeply feel the loss of Susan’s time on campus and in leadership in the doctoral program and the School over the next three years. At the same time, we are profoundly fortunate that Dr. Nancy Hooyman, Hooyman Endowed Professor of Gerontology and Dean Emerita of the School of Social Work, has graciously agreed to step up to the PhD program director role. Nancy and Susan will begin immediately to prepare for a mid-May transition in the director position. Both Nancy and Susan expect a very smooth transition in leadership. I daresay: no school of social work will have nearly as much academic and decanal firepower behind their doctoral program as will ours.

Very warmest regards,

Edwina S. Uehara, MSW, PhD
Professor and Ballmer Endowed Dean in Social Work
School of Social Work
New Staff

**Solana Rollolazo** has served as the Program Coordinator for the PhD Program since March 2017. She first started her journey at the School of Social Work in the third year of her undergraduate degree as a trainee for Māhina, a 12-week international indigenous health research training program in New Zealand offered by the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute (IWRI). Upon her return from Māhina, Solana worked for IWRI as the web and technology assistant until she graduated. Solana continued working within the School of Social Work after graduating as the Interim Admissions Program Coordinator. Once her interim appointment with Admissions concluded, Solana shifted into her current position as the Program Coordinator for the PhD Program. As Solana plans to complete her appointment with the PhD Program in July, she will prepare to relocate to Anchorage, Alaska in August to begin her 11-month Nuka Primary Care Fellowship at Southcentral Foundation (SCF). SCF is an Alaska-native non-profit health care organization serving nearly 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage and surrounding rural villages. During her fellowship, Solana will be working with senior leadership, management and committees to develop and redesign systems and processes to improve the overall effectiveness of SCF.

In the short amount of time that Solana has worked with the doctoral program, she has had a lasting impact through her revising and streamlining of the doctoral program website, updating of critical documents and crafting of the e-newsletter. We are most appreciative of all that she has contributed to the doctoral program and will greatly miss her calm, competent, and efficient work style as well as her positive attitude. For those of you who know Solana, please join us in wishing her the best as she embarks on her exciting Fellowship in Alaska.

Warmest regards,
Nancy Hooyman and Chanira Reang Sperry