

Director's Corner

During the challenges of the last year, with the strong support of the College of Behavior and Community



Riaan van Zyl, PhD
Professor & Director

Sciences, the University, our alumni, students, faculty, friends, and community partners, we stayed focused on the mission of the School. In particular, we remained committed to disrupting inequity and took steps within our School to create a safe, supportive culture and climate that fosters respect, kindness, and support. As a school community, we renewed our intention to honestly work on our own personal biases as we simultaneously join together in developing opportunities to make anti-racism work a priority. We offered various modalities of quality educational programming to our students to accommodate their needs and mitigate the risk and disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for your support, for walking the extra mile with us by being flexible with field placement arrangements, offering advice and moral support, being a responsible caring student, helping others when they are ill or isolated, participating in our fundraising campaigns, or taking on additional responsibilities to engage, educate, and empower.

Thank you,

Riaan van Zyl



School of Social Work Earns Re-Accreditation

It is with honor that we congratulate the School of Social Work, for the department's re-accreditation success. The School of Social Work received accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), which is valid for 8 years through February 2029.

Over the last 3 years, the USF School of Social Work engaged with the CSWE Accreditation Reaffirmation process and while this effort was a major undertaking by the school, it was also in partnership and collaboration with our students, alumni, community partners and their organizations, and College and University leadership. Re-accreditation supports and emphasizes our commitment to curriculum and program rigor and sustainability.

We received an abundance of positive feedback from the two CSWE reviewers who met with our stakeholders within and outside of our department:

- **Field instructors indicate that they feel very valued and celebrated** within the School of Social Work. The field faculty work hard to develop strong relationships with agencies throughout the area.
- **Students feel that the faculty model the program's competencies** and hold high expectations of student performance.
- **Students also shared that the School is a safe environment** for them to learn and grow as new social workers.
- **Dean Serovich is very pleased** with the impact the School has had not only on their students, but on the College, the University, and the communities they serve. She intends to continue to support the school so they can continue to rise in the rankings of outstanding programs of social work in the country.
- **The Professional Advisory Council spoke very highly of the BSW and MSW programs.** The members feel well connected to the faculty. They praise the programs for being a positive environment and producing competent students.

While we are delighted by these kind words, we also know our programs need to continue to stay relevant, evolve and improve, and remain focused on the mission of educating and graduating competent social workers to help meet the needs of our community and society as a whole. We feel much gratitude towards everyone who supports the USF School of Social Work in so many important ways! We are only as successful as our community of students, alumni, professionals, organizations, and supporters and we truly appreciate their commitment to excellence in social work.

School of Social Work **Points of Pride**

The mission of the School of Social Work at the University of South Florida is to prepare graduates to achieve excellence as professionals and leaders in social work practice, research, and education. Our focus is to develop generalist social workers at the bachelor's level, clinical social workers at the master's level, and social work scholars at the doctoral level and to encourage students to embrace social work knowledge, ethics, skills, and values. Beginning in our own diverse region, and extending nationally and globally, we are committed to graduating students who reflect the school's commitment to promoting social and economic justice, human rights, human dignity, scientific inquiry, and sustainable human and community well-being for all.

The USF School of Social Work enrolled its first class in 1976. The School has a strong tradition of providing an engaging social work education program to prepare students to serve as practitioners, administrators, and scholars around the globe. The BSW and MSW programs are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The School has a strong commitment to promoting social, economic, and environmental justice through all of its educational programs. In collaboration with the College of Public Health, the School of Social Work also offers a concurrent degree program (MSW/MPH) at the graduate level.

Join Us in Our Work Through

- Investing in student scholars
- Advocating for justice, equity, and human rights
- Supporting other community engagement projects such as the BRIDGE clinic and Pinellas HOPE, a homeless community.
- Becoming a student

Social Work Newsletter is published once a year and can be found on the department's website, <https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/social-work/>

Editor: Vickie Lynn

Co-Editors: Faculty, Staff, Adjuncts, Students, and Alumni

Design: Dawn Khalil



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA

College of Behavioral & Community Sciences
School of Social Work

Our Student Numbers

Current Students	Programs Offered
113	Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) <i>BSW program is coming to Sarasota/Manatee Spring 2022</i>
170	Master of Social Work (MSW) Advanced Standing MSW
144	Online MSW Online Advanced Standing MSW
6	PhD in Social Work
353	Field placements for BSW & MSW



2020 Ranking
of our Online MSW by
TheBestOnlineDegree.com



Statewide Ranking
of Social Work programs
by College Factual



Nationwide Ranking
of published peer-reviewed articles per faculty



Nationwide Ranking
of USF School of Social Work by Bestschools.org



↑ Average

ASWB Pass Rate
above the national average
for our master's students



\$3,395,413

Value given to the
community by USF Social
Work students



\$34,000+

Student Scholarship
Fund contribution after
our 4th Annual Breakfast
Fundraiser



500+

Community Partners
across 18 states.



420

Registrations for
Undergraduate Social
Work Courses



20,850

Number of hours Online
MSW students invested
in the field across 5 states
(FL, CA, SC, VA, WI)

*I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change.
I am changing the things I cannot accept.*

— Angela Davis, U.S. political activist, academic, and author

Project iSED: Advancing Interdisciplinary Services for Students with Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disorders



Project iSED aims to prepare students to serve as either School Social Workers or Board Certified Behavior Analysts who can collaboratively design and deliver evidence-based instruction and intensive individualized interventions and supports in natural environments, classrooms, and schools for children with severe emotional and behavioral disorders.

The Project iSED scholars will receive paid tuition for 3 semesters and a stipend as well as financial assistance for conference attendance and specialized training and certification. Upon exiting the program, all students receiving scholarships through this project are required to maintain eligible employment on a full-time or full-time equivalent basis and provide related services to children with disabilities in the school system for a period of two years.

Project iSED is a 5-year \$1.9 million grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (H325K200051). This effort represents the collaboration between two programs, the Masters in Social Work (**Dr. Alison Salloum**, Co-Director) and the Applied Behavior Analysis masters program (Dr. Cividini-Motta, Director and Drs. Blair and Crosland, Co-Directors). Project iSED is a partnership with three Florida school districts (Hillsborough County Public Schools, Pasco County Schools, and Manatee County Schools).

Meet the School of Social Work's first Project iSED Cohort



Ashley Irish

INTERNSHIP: Hillsborough County Public Schools
FIELD INSTRUCTOR: **Melissa Enzor MSW, RCSWI**

"I am honored to be a Project iSED scholar to learn new evidence-based practices and work alongside my peers with different specializations to assist students with a holistic approach." —Ashley

Trelecia Carpenter



INTERNSHIP: Pasco County Public Schools
FIELD INSTRUCTOR: **Kathleen Graham, LCSW**

"I'm excited to collaborate with an ABA scholar and to learn about supportive interventions through Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR) for students with severe emotional and behavioral disorders." —Trelecia

Lauren Harrell



INTERNSHIP: Pasco County Public School
FIELD INSTRUCTOR: **Abraham Knowles, LCSW**

"I am honored to be a part of Project iSED and ecstatic to collaborate with ABA scholars and learn interdisciplinary approaches to promote the well-being of students." —Lauren

Raquell Castillo



INTERNSHIP: Hillsborough County Public Schools
FIELD INSTRUCTOR: **Juanita Colleton, LCSW**

"I am delighted to be a part of multidisciplinary practices, learning more about children with emotional behavioral disorders, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and functional behavior. I cannot wait to see where this journey takes me after graduation!" —Raquell

SWIRL Lab Update

Social Work Interdisciplinary Research

Lab (SWIRL) focuses on the promotion of mental health and prevention of gender-based violence as well as HIV prevention. SWIRL has among its goals to reduce social inequities and health disparities for vulnerable women and children across the globe. The scholarship provides research-related support for 2 student Scholars of the lab whose abstracts or manuscripts are accepted for presentation or publication at high-impact venues.

The SWIRL Lab 2020-2021 Student Scholars were honored at the FEF new Fellows Orientation conference at the Tampa Airport Marriott. These students spoke about their experiences as SWIRL Scholars and the relevance of these experiences to their future practice and long-term educational attainment. They had the opportunity to meet new McKnight Fellows who will inspire them to consider doctoral studies as part of their future. They were also interviewed by Ms. Reddick, for the upcoming issue of the Florida Education Fund (FEF) Magazine, *Focus*.

Dr. Lawrence Morehouse, CEO of FEF said that the FEF will renew and increase its pledge to support social work and public health students being mentored by Drs. Guitele Rahill, Manisha Joshi, and Abraham Salinas-Miranda. *The FEF has committed a \$5,000 gift for the 2021-2022 academic year.*





USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
 Gender Differences in Experience of Sexual Violence, HIV Knowledge, and Rape Empathy in a Community Sample of Urban Haiti
 Iliana Ruiz, BSW student
 Kiara Pettus, BSW student
 Hannah Jones, PhD, MPH, MSW
 Guilele J. Rahili, PhD, LCSW
 University of South Florida, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, Tampa, FL

BACKGROUND
 Sexual violence (SV) against women and HIV remain issues of global public health significance. Between 50 to 72% of women in Cité Soleil (an urban shantytown in Haiti) have endured intentionally injurious SV by multiple men who do not use condoms during assaults. Haiti has a 2.2% HIV prevalence, highest in Caribbean. Cité Soleil bears an even greater burden (4.9% prevalence). Lack of rape empathy can result in minimization of SV against women and justify male aggression towards women.

PRIMARY FINDINGS
 To our knowledge, this is the first study to clarify gender differences in experience of SV, HIV risk, and rape empathy in Haiti.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES
 To highlight and add to existing literature on gender differences in exposure to sexual violence, in rape empathy, and in extent of HIV risk among men and women within the Cité Soleil community in Haiti.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
 Social Justice Framework: Everyone, regardless of who they are or where they live deserve to live healthy lives, and Information-motivation-behavioral skills (IMB) (Fisher & Fisher, 1992)- needed to address low HIV knowledge and enhance Rape Empathy

METHOD
 • Snowball sampling approach enabled recruitment of 467 Cité Soleil residents aged 18 and older (N=257 females and 210 males).
 • Administered community survey to Cité Soleil residents between March 2015 and June 2015.
 • Stata® was used for data analysis.

Low HIV knowledge indicates a need for men's unexpected for those with SV. Urgent need among me counseling regardless. *Referen

Iliana Ruiz with her poster

Iliana Ruiz and Kiara Pettus, both undergraduate students in social work presented “Gender Differences in Experience of Sexual Violence, HIV Knowledge, and Rape Empathy in a Community Sample of Urban Haiti” at the Florida HIV CPR Conference 2021: Connecting Community, Providers, and Researchers (Virtual). The 2021 Florida HIV CPR Conference is hosted by Florida Consortium for HIV/AIDS Research and USF Health.

USF Bridge Clinic

Building Relationships and Initiatives Dedicated to Gaining Equality (BRIDGE) Healthcare Clinic is a student-run free clinic on campus that serves the area community. It consists of interdisciplinary collaboration of medicine, physical therapy, social work, public health, and pharmacy.

Our biggest accomplishment at BRIDGE this semester has been our ability to offer patients both telehealth and in-person options. As a result of the change, we have doubled the number of patients we are able to see in the medical social work clinic – roughly 7-9 patients a night. Our volunteers have been absolutely amazing in meeting patients’ needs in both formats. They are becoming confident as they increase their practice skills. Our LCSW preceptors have been key in their development.

Because many of our patients come to the clinic during distressing moments in their life, we have continued to provide mental health services in the Social Work Clinic for primary care patients. This summer we partnered with psychiatry to start seeing their patients. This partnership will increase the number of patient referrals we get and will also give our students experience with psychiatric social work.

Lastly, we welcomed our first in-person interpreter who has been helpful in not only translating but providing a personal connection that can be missing when interpreting through technology. It has been a semester for filled with great accomplishments for BRIDGE Social Work Team!

USF HEALTH
 4TH ANNUAL
 INTERPROFESSIONAL
 EDUCATION DAY 2021

...
SAVE THE DATE

**CLIMATE CHANGE:
 INTERPROFESSIONAL SOLUTIONS
 FOR A HUMAN HEALTH CRISIS**

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
 9 a.m. – Noon
 Zoom

USF Health
 Office of Interprofessional
 Education and Practice



Teaming up with Eckerd Connects

Collaborating to Improve Child Welfare

Though Covid-19 impacted how services are delivered in the field, the need for professional development has remained constant. The School of Social Work has recently lead pre-service efforts for Eckerd Connects in Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties. This new opportunity has renewed a focus on child welfare within the school. **Professor Chris Groeber**, working collaboratively with The Center for Child Welfare, colleagues in the School and other campus departments have started to collaboratively problem-solve around many of the issues being experienced by the system of care. Issues include staff turnover, court involvement, case timeframes, and implementation of the 2018 Families First Legislative mandate, which took effect October 1, 2021, in Florida.



Christopher Groeber, MSW

The new federal legislation has re-focused child welfare efforts on prevention and working towards keeping families together as opposed to increasing removals into foster care. The new federal legislation has increased pressure to include youth and family voices into the decisions made with families and their children. USF is excited about engaging with our local and Statewide System of Care and those served to positively impact Florida's children, youth, and families. The USF School of Social Work is expanding its impact to include outreach in Sarasota Manatee as they launch their BSW program.

The school is also looking forward to beginning work to expand the creation of a child welfare investigator track in addition to its certified case management track in partnership with Criminology. These relationships within our university, our systems of care, and those they serve, have real-life immediate impacts on how we view children, youth, and their families with regards to how they are experiencing our system and the future we hope to build with them. Focusing on Kinship Placements, significant connections for children and youth and primary prevention help create a world where we reduce system involvement and ultimately the trauma it can create. Collaboration has become the hallmark of our problem-solving approach in the school and we look forward to creating new opportunities that make a positive and lasting difference for our students and the lives they touch.

Attention Master's Students!

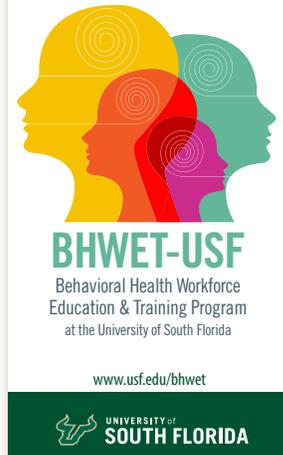
\$10,000 Stipends available!

Master's students enrolled in the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences' Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling and Social Work programs are among students eligible to apply for the new Behavioral Health Workforce Education & Training Scholar (BHWET) Program at USF.

BHWET-USF scholars receive a one-year training in the principles and best practices of integrated behavioral Health by completing didactic workshops and fieldwork experiences.

Find out more at <https://www.usf.edu/bhwet>

Providing specialized training in Integrated Behavioral Health while increasing service to underserved populations in the Tampa Bay area.



Study Abroad Is Back!

Spend Summer 2022 in Peru or Spain!

Due to the COVID-19 travel restriction the Education Abroad program for 2021 was temporarily suspended. The school will offer two Summer 2022 Study Abroad opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Applications for both programs are due January 31, 2022 and have rolling admissions. Contact **Dr. Jerome Galea** for information on the Peru Study Abroad program and **Dr. Manisha Joshi** or Dr. Iraida Carrion of the Spain Study Abroad program.

- **SOW 4930 USF Peru:** Global Health and Mental Health Practice in Peru (3 credit hours)
- **SOW 6931 USF Peru:** Global Health and Mental Health Practice in Peru (3 credit hours)
- **SOW 4930 / 6931** Socio-Cultural Context of People's Health in Alicante and Granada, Spain I
- **SOW 4930 / 6931** Socio-Cultural Context of People's Health in Alicante and Granada, Spain II





Legislative Education and Advocacy Day

The Florida Chapter of NASW sponsors Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD) each year to bring hundreds of social work students from around the state to Tallahassee, the state Capitol during the legislative session. LEAD is a two-day event where students, social work professionals, and other stakeholders meet to advocate for equitable, effective, and sustainable policies that are reflective of the NASW Code of Ethics. This year the Florida Legislative session began on March 22-23, 2021, and Lori Rogovin, MSW, ACSW led a group of social work students virtually, advocating for priority bills including legislation focusing on mental health and behavioral health services, child welfare, and social justice. Students had the opportunity to meet their legislators and sit in on House and Senate Committee meetings.

LEAD 2021 Student Agenda

Monday – March 22, 2021

- 12:00 St. Leo's Univ/USF Joint Welcome & Overview
- 12:30 Roundtable with Southern Poverty Law Center
- 2:00 Legislative Training/Orientation by NASW-FL
- 3:15 Breakout Sessions for Review of Key Legislation and Preparation for Meetings with Legislators

Tuesday – March 23, 2021

- 9:00 SLU/USF LEAD Day FL Virtual Rally
- 10:00 Committee Hearings/Meetings
- 10:30 Meeting with Representative Learned
- 12:00 Meetings with Legislators
- 2:40 Meeting with Representative Mariano and other legislators
- 4:00 Debriefing

2021 Bills of Interest

The 2021 legislative bills the NASW and students followed that passed were signed or scheduled to be reviewed by the Governor. We are happy to report, this is the most LEAD bills ever passed. They include:

- **HB1** Combating Public Disorder (opposed)
- **SB 80** Child Welfare (supported)
- **HB183** Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (*supported*)
- **HB 231** Services for Veterans (supported)
- **SB 590** School Safety (supported)
- **HB 701** Behavioral Health Care Services (supported)

A very special thanks to NASW-FL's Legislative Committee, the 2021 LEAD Planning Committee, and the 700+ LEAD participants.

The 2022 Legislative session begins on January 11, 2022 and LEAD is scheduled for February 7-8, 2022.

Interprofessional Education (IPE) Day

The USF Health 3rd Annual IPE Day focused on the value and importance of working interprofessionally, to address and learn from the COVID-19 global health crisis to be better prepared for future global pandemics. Congratulations to the winning student team (see below) for earning this year's USF Health IPE Day 2020 trophy for their contact tracing presentation on a simulated new emerging virus.

The winning student team was selected out of 12 teams competing for the win during the invitation-only virtual afternoon session to encourage collaboration among student learners. The event was held virtually on Nov. 18th. The morning session included international and national speakers and congratulations to Dr. Amber Gum, a professor in the Department of Mental Health Law & Policy for her presentation. We also want to congratulate and thank our students (list below) for their participation and faculty facilitators, Dr. Kimberly Johnson and Dr. Linda Callejas for facilitating the afternoon events and judging the students' presentations.

CBCS and Social Work Were Well Represented

- Ashton Pennington, *BSW Social Work*
- Molly Buck, *MSW Social Work*
- Catherine Cadotte, *MSW Social Work*
- Cole Foust, *MSW Social Work*
- Mary Goldsworthy, *doctoral student Behavioral and Community Sciences*
- Dr. Robb Holley, *MSW Social Work*
- Carolina Ledford, *MSW Social Work*
- Rolando Trejos Saucedo, *MPH with a concentration in behavioral health*
- Sarah Stefanick, *Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling*
- Shannon Heller, *Marriage and Family Therapist program*
- T. Freeman Gerhardt, *doctoral student Behavioral and Community Sciences (Winning Team)*
- Gaileanne [Alianna] Timmins, *MSW student Social Work*

IPE Day 2021 – Save the Date

November 10 USF Health will sponsor the 4th Annual USF Health Interprofessional Education (IPE) Day focusing on climate change. See ad on page 4.

School of Social Work Field Department

The School of Social Work utilizes more than 200 field agencies (with access to nearly 300 placement sites) within the region, state, and nation. Currently, both bachelor's and master's level students are placed in Citrus, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Manatee, and Sarasota counties, in the areas of:

- Family
- Gerontology
- Medical
- Homelessness
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Youth Services
- Criminal Justice System
- Schools
- Medical

New Partnerships

Our Field department continues to develop new partnerships with community agencies giving our students additional opportunities. This year we partnered with an additional 19 agencies throughout the state of Florida and the nation. These partnerships are essential to expanding how and what our students learn, and we are pleased to announce partnerships with the following agencies:

- 4Kids of South Florida
- Agency for Community Treatment Services (ACTS)
- AuSable Valley Community Mental Health
- Better Care Counseling
- Camelot Community Care
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice
- Child & Family Counseling
- Children's Home Association of Illinois
- Community Connections for Life
- Delta Family Counseling, LLC
- Families Matter
- First Choice Counseling & Wellness Center
- Garden Grove Unified School District
- Guardian Ad Litem for Children 13th Circuit
- JAFECO
- Lapka Counseling & Consulting
- Lutheran Services Florida
- Milestone
- More Too Life

Field Placement by the Numbers

- 353** Students participated in placements for face-to-face programs
- 133,520** Field internship hours last year
- \$25.43** Estimated value of a volunteer hour based on Independent Sector.org
- \$3,395,413** School of Social Work student's value given to the community last year
- 20,850** Number of hours Online MSW students invested in the field across 5 states (FL, CA, SC, VA, WI)
- \$530,215** Value given to the community by our Online MSW students

Director of Field

Fairwell Teri Simpson

In Spring 2021 we celebrated the retirement of Teri Simpson, Director of Field Education, and honored her years of service to our field program and students. Teri first came to the School of Social Work in Spring 2011.



Welcome Melissa Thompson, MSW, LCSW

It is with great pleasure we welcome Melissa Thompspon as our new Director of Field. Melissa received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science as well as her Master of Social Work degree from the University of South Florida.



Before entering the field of Social Work, she spent four years working in state government and nonprofit agencies.

Field Instructor of the Year

It is a tradition for the School of Social Work to choose a "Field Instructor of the Year" for the undergraduate and graduate programs. This year both of our Awardees serve as field instructors for both programs and both are or have been adjuncts for the school as well.

We couldn't do what we do without these valuable volunteers! Thank you both so much.

Reginald Vilmenay

Reginald Vilmenay owns S.T.E.P. Counseling Center in Brandon. He has been mentoring students for 8 years and teaching as an adjunct for 6 years. Reggie has a long history in the mental health field as well as community work.



Ruth Tilden

Ruth Tilden has been serving as a field instructor for almost 40 years! Her illustrious career has included private practice, adjunct professor, and BSW Chair. Ruth continues to serve the social work community by providing oversight and mentoring to students placed in agencies without a social worker on staff.





Doctoral Students

Incoming Doctoral Students

Welcome and congratulations to our outstanding incoming doctoral students. We wish you all the best during your doctoral journey.

Tara Matta



Tara Matta earned both her BA in psychology and her MSW from the University of South Florida. Her professional experience includes extensive clinical social work in the geriatric and neuroscience fields, from working in various congregate living facilities to geriatric behavioral health to providing psychotherapy, education, and resources to caregivers of and individuals diagnosed with Memory Disorders. Tara has also developed a broad inpatient program to identify and assist these caregivers upon admission to the hospital that is still operating today. She also owns and operates her own private practice providing psychotherapy to multiple populations including young adults and older adults who may struggle with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, relationship concerns, or caregiver burnout.

Tara's passion for social work started as a child, as she knew she always wanted to help people more than anything else. As she grew older, she found social work to be an evidence-based field that offered both microscopic and macroscopic opportunities to elicit change. When social work faculty presented one day about the field of clinical social work in her undergrad practicum course, she knew she had found her path and her people.

Tara is excited to again be part of USF because USF offers diversity, inclusion and promotes evidence-based practice. It also houses extensive amounts of staff both knowledgeable about and involved in the intersection of geriatric care and neuroscience.

As a Ph.D. student, Tara plans to focus her research in the areas of geriatric mental health and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease, Lewy Body Demetia, and Parkinson's Disease. When not in classes, Tara enjoys yoga and exploring multicultural cuisines.

Omar Ali



Omar Ali earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work from the University of South Florida. His professional experience includes working as a licensed clinician at a children's Baker Act receiving facility providing therapeutic services and crisis intervention for children and adolescents. Omar developed his passion for social work based on personal life experiences and volunteering at multiple non-profit organizations within the Tampa Bay community. He has always had a passion for being of service to others. Omar is excited to join the USF Social Work Ph.D. program to advance his skill set to become a leading voice in research for children's mental health treatment. As a doctorate student, Omar plans to focus his research on examining the impact of childhood trauma on lifespan development. Omar is currently a McKnight Doctoral Fellow and member of the USF Black Leadership Network. When not working or focused on his studies, Omar enjoys spending time with his family and friends, painting, and cooking, and trying new foods.

Current Doctoral Students

Caroline Muster



FCIC Trainee, Caroline Muster, selected as Intern for NASI's Eileen Sweeney Graduate Internship in Disability Policy

Caroline Muster, a doctoral student in Social Work and trainee with the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities, has been selected for the National Academy of Social Insurance's (NASI) Eileen Sweeney Graduate Internship in Disability Policy. As a recipient of this prestigious internship, she will spend 12 weeks in Washington, D.C. working for a notable organization connected with disability policy and working under the supervision of an Academy Member. NASI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization devoted to furthering knowledge and understanding of social insurance programs. Only outstanding graduate students aspiring to a career in social policy with a focus on disability issues are considered for selection. Congratulations, Caroline! For more information about NASI please visit <https://www.nasi.org/>.

Caroline's work was integral to the updating of an important report on states' managed long-term services and support (MLTSS) programs and provided recommendations for improving the courses related to cultural competence in ADvancing States' IQ Online Learning Center. Additionally, Caroline updated ADvancing States' database on all 50 states' Medicaid waiver programs and helped to launch the organization's Advancing Equity and Rural MLTSS workgroups.

More recently, Caroline secured full-time employment with Armor Correctional Health and, will serve as Behavioral Health Director for the two jail facilities operated by Lee County Sheriff's Office. This position supports Caroline's research interests on the intersection of criminal justice and disability justice. As a third-year Ph.D. student, Caroline is also serving as an adjunct faculty member for USF's School of Social Work and is currently teaching a section of the online MSW field instruction course.

School of **SOCIAL WORK**

Apply Now
PhD in Social Work

More Information
Dr. Sondra J. Fogel
usf.edu/cbcs/social-work/programs
(813) 974-8416

The USF School of Social Work offers a full-time interdisciplinary program leading to a PhD in Social Work. The program provides a course of study to prepare graduates for academic and research careers and to provide leadership in research and education committed to excellence in social work practice.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL & COMMUNITY SCIENCES

Stephanie Rosado

Congratulations to our doctoral student Stephanie Rosado who has been asked to be a panelist for a drug development workshop co-sponsored by the FDA and the Arthritis Foundation. This is a one-day virtual osteoarthritis drug development workshop convened on June 22nd, 2021. The workshop provided a forum for open discussion between osteoarthritis experts in academia, industry, non-profit sector, patients, and government with the hope of expediting the development of safe and effective treatments for osteoarthritis. Some key objectives were to identify study designs and clinically meaningful clinical trial endpoints (relevant supplement attached) that can be used to demonstrate long-term clinical benefit to patients with osteoarthritis and discuss the role of biomarkers in drug development for the disease. Stephanie was a panelist for the Q&A session in "Assessment of OA Disease and Progression and Long-term Benefit."



Stephanie Rosado was recognized by the USF Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) and Status of Latinos (SoL) Committee during the 2021 Hispanic Heritage Month Awards on October 14th. In addition, Stephanie served as the video editor for this year's virtual awards ceremony, moderated the YouTube video premiere, and arranged for the live raffle. Her work is inspiring and we are proud to have her as a doctoral student.

Amy Nourie

Congratulations to Dr. Riaan van Zyl, Dr. Kerry Littlewood, and doctoral student Amy Nourie who co-authored a technical report with Lodi Lipien (Child and Family Studies) and others, on a study funded by the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, titled: COVID-19 Workforce Disruptions: Implementation Drivers to Promote Change, a Follow-up Study on Child Welfare Workforce Retention.



Shelton Gilyard

Shelton Gilyard earned his BSW/MSW from the University of South Florida. His professional experiences include work as a funding Contract Manager for a local funder, an Autism Consultant at CARD-USF, and a Case Manager in USF Pediatrics. Shelton's passion for social work started during his undergraduate studies, when he volunteered in the rehabilitation hospital which had provided comprehensive care and support for his grandmother. Shelton is excited to again be part of USF because this University provides opportunities for all, embraces diverse skill sets and interests, and is built on a firm research reputation. As a Ph.D. student, Shelton plans to focus his research in the area of community health outcomes and access to behavioral health services among special populations, including athletes. When not in classes, Shelton enjoys working out and coaching youth athletics.





Undergraduate Student Highlights

Joseph Heger

Joseph Heger, an undergraduate student in our School has been awarded a CBCS Research Assistantship, through the Dean's office. The program is established to enable students who are pursuing a major in CBCS to gain more research experience. Mr. Heger is assigned to Dr. Guitele Rahill, Director of the Social Work Interdisciplinary Lab (SWIRL). His assignment to Dr. Rahill is based on their shared interests in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). This Research Assistantship was obtained through a rigorous and competitive process. So far, Mr. Heger has been entering data and developing research questions from the first ACE study completed in Haiti, Associations of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) with Substance Use, Health access, Non-Intimate Partner Sexual Violence, HIV/AIDS, Mental Health, in Urban Haiti.

Michael Chartier

Michael Chartier, an undergraduate student assigned as a BSW intern to the Volunteer Wilderness Alliance (Swamp Apes) non-profit organization is a Veteran who has been working tremendously hard to set up and co-facilitate confidential virtual Listening Sessions for Veterans with Dr. Rahill. We were greatly encouraged to also learn of post-traumatic growth in our Listening session participants and of the tremendous work they are doing to regulate their own emotions, help their buddies do the same, and foster collaborations in their networks! We are also establishing connections with other Clinical social workers, case managers, and veterans around the country, to facilitate additional Listening sessions for Veterans.

Michael has always been personally involved in preparing documents geared at obtaining humanitarian visas for Afghanistan interpreters and their families who are still in Afghanistan.

Reflection Letter by Michael Chartier

My name is Michael Chartier. I am a 2nd-year undergraduate student in the USF School of Social Work. I am also a Veteran of the United States Army, having served 2 deployments, one to Iraq in 2004, and the second to Afghanistan in 2007.

When the recent situations in Afghanistan started taking place, I felt shocked and hopeless. I was shocked because I did not know what was happening; nor did I know that negotiations regarding the recent withdrawal had taken place with the Taliban over a year ago. I never expected our government to leave in the manner they did. The hopelessness I experienced was from my initial feeling that there was nothing I could do. My feelings were not dissimilar to many veterans who participated in "Listening sessions" which I co-facilitated in my role as an Undergraduate social work intern for the Swamp Apes/ Volunteer Wilderness Alliance (<https://www.facebook.com/swampapes/>). These events were upsetting to me and those I served with, as we always lived by the policies, "Never leave anyone behind," and, "never negotiate with terrorists."

Nevertheless, I was compelled to action when I thought about our interpreters that were in Afghanistan, especially about the man who saved the life of one of our soldiers during an ambush that happened in Shemgal valley, near our base in Nuristan, Afghanistan. On August 15th I reached out to a couple of Veterans who I had deployed with and I soon discovered that some of them had been writing letters for these interpreters in an attempt to help them with their Special Immigrant Visas (SIV's). At that point, several of us all got together in a Facebook messenger group to see what else we could do to help people like him.

These interpreters had become like brothers to us and served side by side with us in Afghanistan. One of my favorite memories with them was when we were invited into their tent during Ramadan. Everyone sat in a circle with a feast in the center. It immediately became more like a family meal, similar to a family reunion, which



made me briefly forget where we were and everything that had taken place around us. We have all stayed in touch over the years, just like we have with most we have served with. It became our mission to do whatever we could that could assist in their success with leaving Afghanistan, as all their lives were threatened by the Taliban.

We immediately contacted our old commander who is now the Admiral for the Pacific fleet (Admiral Samuel Paparo). He coordinated with his staff to have letters of recommendation for all those we could vouch for in Afghanistan. My role, for the most part, was a supportive one. The outcome was that one of the interpreters was successful in getting his family and himself out of Afghanistan in recent weeks and is safe in London. A second interpreter who lives in the United States was able to get 9 of his family members out safely. I was on the phone with him, communicating through Facebook messenger, as they were at the North gate of the airport. They were able to leave Afghanistan on the same day of the August 26th bombing at the Kabul airport that killed at least 13 American service members and injured 18 more. The gate had closed as they were there waiting. His relative's names were taken at the front gate and despite being so close to getting through, they were sufficiently terrorized that they wanted to leave. I encouraged him, saying that if his relatives did leave the gate at the Kabul airport, it would be hard to get back in and that it is important for them to stay. I told him since their names had been taken by the US servicemen that were at the gate, that it was highly likely that they would get through. An hour later, they were admitted through the gate, and a couple of days later, they were on a flight to Qatar.

Since that time, I have been able to network with a state department employee (or former employee) that hired one of the interpreters that worked for our PRT. This information was given to me by one of the interpreters we had served with. The person I was in contact with informed me that we could submit Humanitarian Parole applications on their behalf and submit their SIV packets along with it, along with instructions on how to do so. This was meant to help expedite their SIV process. Since then, that is what I have been doing. So far, I have completed packets for 10 families that equal approximately 50 people. I have also kept track of their progress on a spreadsheet that contains all their information with their names linked to another sheet on which all their SIV application documents are recorded. I still have information for more of their family members for packets I will be doing as I continue.

For the Veterans in the Swamp Ape's organization, we have been conducting listening sessions to gauge the feelings of how the events unfolded and even were able to conduct a listening session for a couple of the interpreters in Kabul.

What compelled me to take action the most was the story of the interpreter that saved my friend's life. We had an element on patrol and while on their way back to the convoy, they were ambushed by the Taliban in a valley not far from our base. As they broke contact out of the valley, the last person in that formation was hit from behind. The soldier that was hit was not a small man, but despite this, this interpreter picked him up, carried him out, all while using this soldier's weapon to fire back at the Taliban so they could make their escape.

The narrative that they "...did not have the will to fight back," was not my experience. I had realized that not only did this specific interpreter do an amazing thing against amazing odds for my friend and the rest of the patrol, but that any one of those interpreters that we had served with, would have done the same thing. They have all cemented themselves as part of our "Band of Brothers," which will forever be part of who we all are today.

We are now hoping for a miracle. These interpreters know there is no guarantee that anything we do, will get them out, but their response this entire time has been, "We know, but we appreciate anything you do, and we appreciate you at least trying." They need our support, even if it means hoping for a miracle.



Working to help get trusted interpreters out of Afghanistan



Field Student Highlights

On October 14th, 2021 the University of South Florida's Status of Latinos Committee (SoL) held its annual USF Hispanic Heritage Celebration Awards. The event celebrates Hispanic heritage and awards deserving students and staff of USF for their contributions to the university and to the Hispanic community.

Yma Campozano

Yma Campozano, a current student in the Master of Social Work program, is an intern for the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and was a recipient of this year's Status of Latinos Committee (SOL) Award.



Yma Campozano began her internship with CARD by learning about their mission and familiarizing herself with the services and resources available to the autism community in the Tampa Bay region. She collaborated with CARD consultants to provide direct support to families and individuals with ASD, and co-led community trainings for educators, autism-friendly business partners, law enforcement and other systems of care.

Yma is a co-host on CARD's La Hora del Cafecito show, a weekly live public awareness, and training resource geared toward the Spanish-speaking autism community. She immerses herself in learning about the needs of our communities and always respects families' cultures and rights for self-determination while keeping family empowerment at the forefront of all of her interactions.

She conceived and developed a new program that engages individuals on the autism spectrum to examine how autism is portrayed on television and film. Her *Let's Talk About It* program meets monthly to watch and discuss selected film and television clips and examine issues of bias, stereotypes, assumptions, and self-advocacy. The program has created a forum for individuals to meet and learn from others, share ideas, learn self-advocacy skills, and develop a broader sense of community.

Yma mentors a young adult on the autism spectrum helping him to develop independent living skills and social-emotional understanding. She collaborates with The Learning Academy (TLA) at USF to teach a college preparation course to high school graduates and has researched evidence-based practices and now runs a mindfulness program for young adults to help relieve the common anxiety, self-regulation challenges, and physical stressors.

Yma Campozano is a woman of Ecuadorian heritage. She grew up in Queens, NY with her family and has a younger sister with an intellectual disability. Yma has a physical disability herself. Her mother always encouraged her to overlook her disability and approach life with vigor and a "can do" attitude. With the guidance from her mother and the intention to help Yma face the challenges in life, Yma has grown to become an advocate for people with disabilities. In addition to excelling in her academics and being deeply committed to the disability community, Yma is also a mother of two children.

We are so proud of Yma and all that she has accomplished and continues to contribute to the CARD/TLA team.

Congratulations Yma!

Alumni Highlights

Daniel Schadrac

After completing his dual master's degree in social work and public health, with a concentration in maternal and child health, Daniel Schadrac went on to work with champions for children in Tampa Bay, Florida. Working as their program coordinator for their Fatherhood Resource and Networking Community (FRANC), Daniel had the opportunity to teach parenting classes to new fathers and fathers completing case plans within the Hillsborough county area. Now a father to his first child, Daniel is working remotely with Moffitt Cancer Center as a Clinical Research Liaison. "Being able to utilize both of my degrees both at Champions for Children and now Moffitt Cancer Center such a short amount of time is something I am very grateful for. I am so excited to see how my career continues to grow in serving individuals and families!"



New Faculty

We are pleased to welcome our new faculty members, and appreciate the expertise they bring to our school. We also want to congratulate faculty promotions; their leadership inspires us.

Dasha Rhodes, PhD, MSW

Dr. Dasha Rhodes is our new Assistant Professor in the USF School of Social Work at the Sarasota-Manatee campus. She received her MSW ('14) from the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, and her PhD ('21) from Morgan State University School of Social Work.



Dr. Rhodes' primary research interest considers the effects of policing on the community. She is specifically interested in examining the mental health of Black Americans who experienced or witnessed a police encounter and the impact of social work in policing. She has worked on research projects that included police and community engagement efforts in Baltimore City, community evaluation of proposed police technology, and police social workers.

Further, Dr. Rhodes is a Licensed Master Social Worker in Texas and has worked as a hospice social worker. She is a former recipient of the Council of Social Work Education Minority Fellow Program and Frederick Douglass Institute Teaching Fellow. She serves as a board member for The Institute for Civility in Government, a non-profit agency that encourages the reduction of polarization in the political process in public and private sectors through respect and teaching.

Her research interests include police and community relations, psychological distress among Black/African Americans, community violence and public health, police and social work.

Akanke Adenrele, MSW

Akanke Omorayo-Adenrele is an Instructor and Field Coordinator for the Online Master of Social Work Program at the University of South Florida's School of Social Work.

Akanke Omorayo-Adenrele received her Master of Social Work degree Hunter College School of Social Work, and a bachelor's in social work from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Omorayo-Adenrele worked with the Center for the Education of Women: "Women of Color in the Academy Project," developing programs for female faculty and graduate students of color. Omorayo-Adenrele served as an MSW Field Coordinator for the Face to Face and Online Master Social Work Program at the Indiana University School of



Social Work. Prior to returning to Online education, she was the MSW Field Director at the University of North Florida.

Omorayo-Adenrele emphasizes clinical and critical thinking are both essential social work skills when working at any level of practice. She uses her skills to work on her macro social work interest. Her work and service interest are factors affecting immigrant and refugee women within social, political, and economical contexts. Lately, she is committed to unpacking anti-racism practice in social work. Omorayo-Adenrele serves on the NASW-FL and CSWE sub-committee on diversity and inclusion and efforts to focus on macro practice.

Breun Belcher-Roemmich, MSW

Breun Belcher-Roemmich is a Visiting Instructor in the USF School of Social Work. She has a BS in Psychology from the University of Florida ('99) and an MSW from the University of South Florida ('05). She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of Florida.



In her post-MSW career, she has worked in child welfare settings in intervention support services for children and adolescents. She spent six years working in targeted and child-specific adoption recruitment with foster children in Hillsborough County, Florida. Her work in field education and teaching began in 2011 and these experiences solidified that her next path in social work would be through teaching and research. She has taught various courses in both BSW and MSW programs.

Her clinical experiences continue to inspire pursuits and interests related to evidence-informed practices in foster care and adoption that are most responsive to the needs of children and families. She is committed to and passionate about working with students and field instructors to ensure every field placement is successful and conducive to each student's overall learning and growth. As an active-duty military spouse, she also has a personal understanding of the challenges military families face.

Sarah Guadalupe PhD, LMSW

Sarah Guadalupe is an Instructor and Field Coordinator at the USF School of Social Work Sarasota-Manatee campus. She received her MSW ('02) from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and her Ph.D. ('20) in Early Childhood Education from Oakland University in Rochester, MI.



Dr. Guadalupe is a Licensed Master Social Worker in Michigan and has worked as a social worker in various settings including emergency departments, a crisis intervention center, and a public school district. Further, Dr. Guadalupe has experience working in higher education having served in an administrative role as



director of Disability Support Services at a public university, and as an adjunct faculty member in the fields of social work and education. She served as a board member and vice chair for Oakland Community Health Network, a community mental health service provider in Michigan.

Dr. Guadalupe's research interests include: the impact of culture on the identification and treatment of autism spectrum disorder, Mother-child relationships in the context of a cancer diagnosis during pregnancy and Understanding career development pathways of college students with disabilities.

Faculty Promotion

Chris Simmons, PhD, LCSW

Dr. Simmons is our new Associate Director for the School of Social Work. Dr. Simmons also serves as the Faculty Director of the Social Work Clinic at the BRIDGE Healthcare Clinic. He received his BS in Psychology from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, ('94), received his MSW from Louisiana State University, ('97), and received his PhD in Counselor Education from the University of South Florida, ('08).



Maayan Lawental, PhD, MSW

Dr. Lawental is our new MSW Chair and assumed this role on August 9th, 2021. Dr. Lawental has extensive experience in admissions, the curriculum, and College-related processes. We are looking forward to her leadership and congratulate her on the new position!



Doris Boateng, PhD

Dr. Boateng, a School of Social Work courtesy faculty and former post-doctoral fellow to the USF from the University of Ghana have just been promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer at the Department of Social Work, University of Ghana, Legon. Dr. Boateng's promotion is the direct result of her three-month stay for a post-doctoral fellowship in May 2018 at USF. As an early-career faculty at the University of Ghana, Dr. Boateng won a BANGA-Africa grant to spend three months at the School of Social Work, USF, under the mentorship of Dr. Sondra Fogel to prepare manuscripts for publication in top-tier international journals. These publications and other lessons learned from the mentoring relationship were the basis for Dr. Boateng's assessment and subsequent promotion.



Faculty Highlights

Iraida Carrion, PhD, LCSW

We are proud to announce that in November 2021, Dr. Carrion will receive the Annual Service Award from the Association of Latina/Latino Social Work Education of CSWE.



Dr. Carrion was awarded the Minority Travel Scholarship to attend the ECOG-ACRIN Semi-Annual Meeting in April 2021. ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group is a multidisciplinary, membership-based scientific organization that designs and conducts biomarker-driven cancer research involving adults who have or are at risk of developing cancer. The Group is dedicated to its stated purpose, which is to achieve research advances in all aspects of cancer care and thereby reduce the burden of cancer and improve the quality of life and survival in patients with cancer.

Dr. Carrion was selected and served on Chapters Health Bioethics Committee in 2021. She is also a member of the Latino Social Work Organization National Conference Faculty Committee.

Dr. Carrion was invited and served on the Association of Latino and Latino Social Work Educator (CSWE) National Scholarship Committee.

Dr. Carrion was selected as a Scholar by the Cobb Scholars Program of the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute funded through the NIH Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity. The Cobb Scholar program is led in collaboration with distinguished leadership from the Morehouse School of Medicine's National Research Mentoring Network (and the Association for Academic Minority Physicians). As a Cobb Scholar, she will engage in intensive mentorship and participate in specialized programming to advance her research portfolio and professional goals.

Alison Salloum, PhD, LCSW

Congratulations to Dr. Salloum for presenting a workshop on Stepped Care for Children (SC TF-CBT) on May 6, 2021, sponsored by the School of Social Work and the Crises Center of Tampa Bay. The virtual workshop was well attended (180+ participants) and it seemed clear that participants found it very helpful, enjoyed it, and wanted more.



Jerome Galea, PhD

Dr. Galea was accepted for participation in the Early Career Reviewer (ECR) program at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR), National Institutes of Health. This acceptance speaks to the quality of Jerome's scholarly work.



Kerry Littlewood, PhD, MSW

Congratulations to Dr. Littlewood whose manuscript "The Children's Home Network Kinship Navigator Program Improves Family Protective Factors" was accepted for publication in *Children and Youth Services Review*. It publishes the results from the full sample for protective factors from an RCT. This will certainly bring Kerry and her collaborators one step closer to achieving Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) review status.



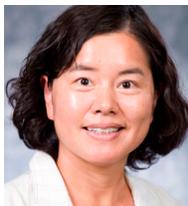
Dr. Littlewood was recently selected for the research affiliates program with the Center for Applied Research on Vulnerable Children and Families. This is a large international faith-based organization. The new research program will help network and disseminate her work to broader audiences.

Dr. Littlewood also had two abstracts accepted for the Kempe's 2021 Call to Action to Change Child Welfare conference held in October 2021:

- Utilizing Culturally Responsive Equitable Evaluation Approaches for Kinship Centered Design of UWCA was held on October 5th
- The Grandfamilies' Outcome Workgroups National Study of Grandfamilies During COVID-19: Wave 2 Findings October 6

Nan Sook Park, PhD, MSW, MS

Congratulations Dr. Sook Park who was notified by the Florida Department of Health that she received the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program Award (\$80,000) for the project led by her with the title "Building Dementia Care Network and Community Capacity for Older Asian Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency in Florida."



Dr. Park was featured in the 83 Degrees as one of the Asian American leaders in the Tampa Bay area (May 11, 2021): Meet 6 Asian-American leaders you should know in the Tampa Bay Area.

Sondra Fogel, PhD, ACSW, LCSW

Dr. Sondra Fogel has been awarded the University of Illinois School of Social Work Alumni Association 2020-2021 Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is presented to a School of Social Work Alumnus who, throughout their career, has consistently demonstrated exceptional contributions to the profession, the community, and/or social work education. Wynne Korr nominated Dr. Fogel for this award and had this to share about her work: "Sondra Fogel has made outstanding contributions to social work practice, research/knowledge dissemination, and education throughout her career. She exemplifies the leadership we expect from doctoral graduates of our School. In her community (Tampa, FL, and its county) and beyond, she brings the benefit of her research and practice to serve others. She has encouraged engagement of students from her university in addressing pressing social problems, e.g., how to improve services to the homeless in their community. She is an innovative, dedicated, social work leader."



Dawn Brown, MSW

Dawn Brown and Shimon Cohen, LCSW spoke on the Doing the work Frontline Stories of Social Change podcast on October 5, 2020, Episode 34. Dawn discussed activities and strategies social workers use to engage in legislative advocacy and how NASW-FL has LEAD (Legislative Education Advocacy Day) every year where social work students go the Florida Capitol to meet with lawmakers and attend committee hearings. They talked about the importance of voting what voting means to her as a Black woman, and stressed that voting is important at all levels of government – national, state, and local. She explained that voting is just the beginning, and that we need to hold elected officials accountable, build relationships with them to push for a social justice agenda, and support candidates for office who are aligned with the goals of racial, social and economic justice. Dawn's work in policy helps to make a difference in our students and community, we are inspired by all she does.





Spotlight on Adjunct Faculty

Jennifer Henius, LCSW, MSW

Jennifer Henius LCSW, MSW is a healthcare consultant, social impact entrepreneur, and Adjunct Instructor for the School of Social Work. Jennifer has worked with the US Department of Veterans Affairs for nearly 20 years in various roles from direct clinical practice (i.e., geriatric primary care, hospice, emergency room) to a C-Suite healthcare administrator, to leading national policy and programs for VA Central Office in Washington, DC.



Jennifer is passionate about health innovation, health equity, patient advocacy, and provider burnout. She currently serves as a Health Practice and Systems Advisor for the Center for Government Effectiveness and Modernization, Veterans Affairs Health Innovation, and Central Office Division at MITRE Corporation. She also owns the Ananda Impact Group LLC where she serves as a health and social impact consultant, caregiving media expert, and publisher.

Spotlight on Staff:

We want to highlight and congratulate our staff and the amazing things they do in the department and the community.

Noelle Sanchez

Originally from Orlando, Florida, Noelle joined the USF School of Social Work last year in November. Before joining us, she pursued an undergraduate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and immediately began working with her alma mater, the University of Central Florida in 2016. Noelle pursued her passion for helping students at UCF for three years by contributing to the development of a revolutionary app for undergraduate student program tracking, being involved in the creation of educational media outlets for introductory courses, and her favorite, co-leading the PhD student procession on graduation day. Her dedication to the community continued in her volunteer work at Florida Hospital, Nemours Children's Hospital and the annual Autism Speaks Walk, which she helped organize with her team as group leader. Today she continues to pursue her passion for community and higher education as the Academic Program Specialist for the Tampa MSW, Sarasota-Manatee MSW, and School of Social Work PhD program.



A Fond Fairwell



Amy Weisz

Amy Weisz was hired in 2005 and for the next 16 years, she served as the School's academic advisor. It is rare to find a student in our school who does not know Amy or has not been positively impacted by her. With an unmatched and deep commitment to each student's educational journey and academic success, Amy's warm, empathic, strengths-based style of connecting with students has served students, the School of Social Work, the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, and USF incredibly well.

As Amy moves toward retirement, her work as an academic advisor and member of the School of Social Work advising teams will forever leave a footprint of academic advising excellence as well as thousands of successful and grateful graduated social workers within and beyond the Tampa Bay community. With abundant gratitude for her service, we wish Amy much good health and joy as she moves on to the next phase of her life.

Grant News

Grant to Study Asian Intimate Partner Violence

Subadra Panchanadeswaran, Professor in the Adelphi University School of Social Work, and a Senior Scientist with SWIRL at USF, and **Dr. Manisha Joshi**, Associate Professor in USF'S School of Social Work and Associate Director of SWIRL, recently received an Internal grant from Adelphi University (\$4,800) to conduct a study titled, *“Access and utilization of services by immigrant South Asian female survivors of intimate partner violence: Implications for social work practice, policy, and research.”*



Dr. Manisha Joshi

In this study, they will collaborate with the Hindu Family Support Services (HFSS), a non-profit in Tampa, FL to examine how South Asian immigrant women (n=30) in Hillsborough County subjectively define intimate partner violence (IPV), resist and respond to violence, and seek help from informal and formal sources of help. The study will also document women's perceptions of the help they received and the gaps in service provision. Additionally, this study will explore the perspectives of service providers (n=20) who provide support and services to immigrant women and highlight their perceived challenges to service provision especially to immigrant South Asian women survivors of IPV.

CBCS Faculty Receive USF Sarasota Manatee Campus Interdisciplinary Research Grants

USF Sarasota Manatee campus Interdisciplinary Research Grants support projects that address complex problems, specifically those that benefit from analysis from the perspectives of multiple scholarly disciplines. This internal award is poised to support convergent research, leverage lab facilities, and is well-suited to support the endeavors of faculty with diverse backgrounds and project interests. PIs who accept an Interdisciplinary Research Grant (IRG) award commit to the pursuit of external funding for the collaborative effort within 18 months of receiving IRG funding.

Jessica Grosholz, PhD (Criminology), Sandra Stone, PhD (Criminology), and **Sondra Fogel, PhD, ACSW, LCSW** (Social Work) received funding for their project titled “Understanding the Reentry Experiences of Older Formerly Incarcerated Individuals.”

A Study on the Impact of Incentives on Clinical Trial Participation

Jerome Galea, PhD

Dr. Galea is collaborating with researchers at UC-Riverside, UNC, and the HIV+Aging Research Project-Palm Springs to conduct a two-year study entitled “Evaluating the impact of incentives on clinical trial participation.” Guided by an External Advisory Board (EAB) comprised of 10 men and women who are key stakeholders in HIV research (either living with HIV, an HIV researcher, or an IRB member/bioethicist) from Palm Springs, CA, Los Angeles, CA, and Tampa, FL. The project will first characterize how key stakeholders view and assess incentives using formative mixed methods. Next, the research team will reach a consensus among stakeholders on the factors to be considered when choosing incentives and their relative importance. The EAB will help develop a pilot test using vignettes for incentive decision-making. MSW student Karah Greene is the Graduate Assistant student coordinator for this multi-site project.



Vickie Lynn, PhD, MSW, MPH

Dr. Lynn, worked with NIH/NIAID at the United States Conference on HIV and AIDS 2020, October 19-21st, to present and introduce the NIAID HIV Language Guide. The guide includes language suggestions for communicating about HIV and other health-related topics. Suggestions include using preferred less stigmatizing and person-first language. This guide was created by the NIAID Office of Communications & Government Relations (OCGR) News & Science Writing Branch (NSWB) with input from the Division of AIDS (DAIDS) Workforce Operations, Communications, and Reporting Branch (WOCR) and the community of people living with HIV. The guide is a living document, subject to change as language/terminology standards in various fields evolve.





Grants and Contracts

Dr. Nan Sook Park

Sponsor: Florida Department of Health

6/17/2021-4/30/2023

Amount: \$80,000

Building Dementia Care Networks and Community Capacity for Older Asian Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency in Florida

Dr. Nan Sook Park is Principal Investigator on the project entitled “Building Dementia Care Network and Community Capacity for Older Asian Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency in Florida.” The project was funded by the Florida Department of Health via the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer’s Disease Research Program (21A25) for the period of June 2021 to April 2023. The goal of the study is to increase knowledge, access to care, and community capacity in Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias among older Asian Americans with limited English proficiency.

Dr. Nan Sook Park, Co-Investigator

PI: Yuri Jang, PhD

Sponsor: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (R21DE029579)

August 2021 - July 2023

Oral Health Education and Navigation Program for Older Immigrants with Limited English Proficiency

The goal of this project is to assess oral health knowledge and needs among older immigrants with limited English proficiency.

Dr. Nan Sook Park, consultant

PI: Yuri Jang, PhD

Sponsor: Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute (SC CTSI)

January - December 2021

Challenges of Older Immigrants Living Alone during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Two Wave Prospective Study on Social Capital and Mental Health

The purpose of the study is to explore how older immigrants living alone experience and respond to the challenges associated with COVID-19.

Christopher Groeber

Sponsor: Florida Department of Children & Families

7/1/2020-6/30/2021

Amount: \$34,880

DCF Family Safety Consultation and Supervisory Support

The PI will work with Florida’s Department for Children and Families Supervisory and Administrative staff to address ongoing supervisory issues. He will work with/facilitate their training and quality staff to ensure that practice changes occur and are undergirded by identified best practices. The PI will facilitate meetings and provide training to administrative level staff focused on structured supervision and creating healthy work cultures.

Grants and Contracts

Dr. Jerome Galea

12/7/2020 - 12/31/2022

Amount: \$31,710

A Solution to Halt Further Isolation of People Aging with HIV During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Jerome Galea, Assistant Professor of School of Social Work, is collaborating with researchers at UC-Riverside, USC, and the HIV+ Aging Research Project-Palm Springs to conduct a two-year study entitled “A Solution to Halt Further Isolation of People Aging with HIV During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Guided by a Community Advisory Board comprised of 25 men and women aged 50+ and living with HIV (PLWH) from Palm Springs, CA, Los Angeles, CA, and Tampa, FL, the project will begin by characterizing and prioritizing issues related to the isolation experienced by aging PLWH (depression, isolation, meeting basic needs) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Next, a “Virtual Village” will be designed and pilot-tested to help aging PLWH connect with peers, share resources with one another, and access community service providers. MSW student Karah Greene is the Graduate Assistant student coordinator for this multi-site project, with assistance from BSW student Daniel DiEva.

Dr. Jerome Galea

Sponsor: University of California, Riverside

12/27/2020-12/31/2022

Amount: \$82,004

Evaluating the Impact of Incentives on Clinical Trial Participation

The overall objective of this project is to investigate the impact of incentives on clinical trial participation. Little is known about the topic, and while some ethics guidance exists on payment in research, there is no understanding of how key stakeholders (study participants, researchers, and IRB members) view and consider incentives in research projects. Considering its robust, historical commitment to social justice, and our own expertise in HIV research, the HIV community is the ideal group in which to initiate this work; however, the tools we develop, and lessons learned will be transferable to other areas of research. Our specific aims are to: 1) characterize key stakeholders’ views on and assessment of research incentives, 2) reach consensus among stakeholders on the factors to be considered when choosing incentives and their relative importance, 3) using hypothetical vignettes, pilot test an incentive decision making algorithm.

Dr. Michiel Adriaan Van Zyl

Sponsor: Florida Institute for Child Welfare

3/15/2021-9/30/2021

Amount: \$13,265

COVID-19 Workforce Disruptions: Implementation Drivers to Promote Change, a Follow-up Study of Child Workforce Retention

The purpose of project is to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on child welfare workforce in Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties in Florida. Turnover among child welfare staff is common due to the difficult nature of the work, which typically involves serving children and families in crisis. Although some turnover is unavoidable or involuntary, organizations need to retain productive workers to survive. In this region in Florida the average rolling year staff turnover rate is 66%, but the monthly turnover rate for April 2020 was the lowest since reporting began in 2013 and at the same time productivity appears to be higher. The pandemic has provided a window of opportunity to study and improve retention and productivity for child welfare workers. The archival study on remote work, interviews with child welfare workers, and listening sessions with leadership will help to develop a comprehensive set of workforce retention guidelines.



Book Chapters:

- Conyers, L., Chiu, J. Y. C., Rueda, S., Misrok, M., **Lynn, V.**, & McKinney-Prupis, E. (2021). Employment as a Social Determinant of HIV Care and Prevention Outcomes. In *AIDS Updates-Recent Advances and New Perspectives*. doi:10.5772/intechopen.98418
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Journal Articles

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*denotes student



Presentations and Workshops:

- Fogel, S. J.**, Grosholz, J. & Stone, S. (2021, November). Understanding the reentry experiences for older formerly incarcerated individuals. Presentation at the American Society of Criminology, Nov. 17, 2021. Chicago, IL
- ***Greene, K.**, Nguyen, A.L., Polonijo, A.N., Yoo-Jeong, M., Ruiz E., Christensen, C., Taylor, J., **Galea, J. T.**, Brown, B. (2021, September). Co-designing a digital intervention to alleviate social isolation of people aging with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Poster presentation accepted at the International Workshop on HIV & Aging, [Virtual].
- Jang, Y., Choi, E. Y., Franco, Y., **Park, N. S.**, Chiriboga, D. A., & Kim, M. T. (2021, November). Racial and ethnic diversities in cognitive health appraisals: Findings from the HCAP. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting [Virtual].
- Jang, Y., Choi, E. Y., Park, J., Cho, Y. J., **Park, N. S.**, & Chiriboga, D. A. (2021, January). Social isolation in Asian Americans: Risks associated with socio-demographic, health, and immigration factors. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research [Virtual].
- Jang, Y., Powers, D. A., **Park, N. S.**, Chiriboga, D. A., Chi, I., & Lubben, J. (2021, January). Performance of an abbreviated Lubben Social Network Scale (LSNS-6) among three ethnic groups of older Asian Americans. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research [Virtual].
- Kosyluk, K., Baeder, T.C., Tran, J., Egan, M.M., **Galea, J. T.** (2021, September). Using a Chatbot to Address Psychological Distress Among First Responders. Poster presentation accepted for the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) 2021 Annual Conference, [Virtual]
- Lawental, M.**, Williams, D., Blay, Y., & Shoval, G. (2021). Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Improving Emotion Recognition among Individuals with Substance Use Disorders: A Randomized-controlled Pilot Study in a Naturalistic Setting. Psychiatry Research, 114220.
- Lynn, V.**, (2020, May). Understanding the Implementation of Integrated Care: Staff and Patient Perspectives. National Conference of Social Work and HIV/AIDS. [Virtual].
- Lynn, V.**, Conyers, L. (2021, April). National Working Positive Coalition Research Working Group Focus and Research Goals. The National Convening on HIV & Employment. National Working Positive Coalition (NWPC), presented in partnership with Penn State and the U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus. [Virtual].
- ***Matta, T.** (2021, November). Treating Caregiver Grief With Narrative Therapy. Gerontological Society of American 2021 Annual meeting.
- Park, J., Jang, Y., Yoon, H., **Park, N. S.**, Chiriboga, D. A., & Kim, M. T. (2021, November). Health risks posed by social and linguistic isolation in older Korean Americans. Symposium presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting [Virtual].
- Park, N. S.**, Chung, S., & Chiriboga (2021, January). Intergenerational differences in the effect of social relationships on loneliness among Korean adults. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research [Virtual].
- Park, N. S.**, Jang, Y., Chiriboga, D. A., & Yoon, J. (2021, January). The relationship of social isolation with mental distress among older Korean Americans: The role of positive social environment. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research [Virtual].
- Park, N. S.**, Jang, Y., Chung, S., Chiriboga, D. A., & Haley, W. E. (2021, November). Living/eating arrangement, loneliness, and mental distress among older Korean immigrants: Gender difference. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting [Virtual].
- *Rosado, S., **Fogel, S. J.**, Kratz, D., & **Nourie, A.** (2021, October). Former college athlete women and Covid-19. Alliance of Social Workers in Sports, [Virtual].
- Sweetland, A., Nava-Ruelas, R., Sreenivisa, P., Basham, A., Fijiwara, P. and **Galea, J. T.** (Moderators). (2021, October). TB and Mental Health: Integrating Mental Health into TB Services for Person-Centered Care. Symposium proposal accepted to the 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health, [Virtual]

*You may encounter many defeats,
but you must not be defeated.
In fact, it may be necessary to
encounter the defeats, so you can
know who you are,
what you can rise from,
how you can still come out of it.*

—Maya Angelou

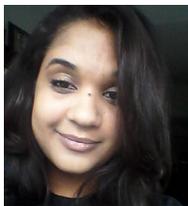
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Thank You to Our Staff

We would like to express our immense gratitude to our staff, **Noelle Sanchez**, **Michele Moore**, and **Yvonne Wallace**, who at a time of need stepped forward to assist us with the tremendous changes we went through throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate their patience and understanding and we want them to know their commitment makes a difference in the department, to our students, and to our faculty. We appreciate all their hard work they do to help us fulfill our educational mission.



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