As the new Director, I am grateful to build on the School’s successes over more than forty years. As you will see in this edition of the newsletter, our USF Global Citizen’s Project is expanding, our on-line Advanced Standing MSW Program was successfully launched, and we are creating new curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students. We are excited to announce that we have several searches on the way to add faculty and instructors to our program. We appreciate the support of our alumni and community partners who help our faculty and staff to open a world of learning, discovery and service to our remarkable students.

Thank you!

Riaan van Zyl, Ph.D.
Professor and Director

Director’s Corner

School of Social Work Updates

- **Education Abroad**: Drs. Iraida V. Carrion and Manisha Joshi, along with 17 students, participated in “A Comparative Study of Socio-Cultural Context of People’s Health in Barcelona and Alicante”.

- **Enrollment**: We are honored to have over 350 BSW and MSW students along with two Ph.D. students in our program this year.

- **Research**: Social work faculty continue to be engaged in research to learn better ways of improving the lives of others. Research sponsors include: the National Institute of Mental Health, the United States Department of State and University Grants Commission (UGC) India, the Sociological Foundation Initiative, Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County, and CBCS HIV RIG Special Funding.

- **Online Program**: The Online Advanced Standing MSW Program was successfully launched with 32 students during the summer. Melissa Thompson, LCSW, Visiting Instructor, is serving as the Online MSW Field Coordinator.

- **ASWB Pass Rate**: The USF School of Social Work first-time pass rate for candidates for social work licensure taking the Clinical Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) examinations continues to be higher than the national average first time pass rate.

- **Global Pathways**: The BSW Program was accepted as part of the inaugural cohort of undergraduate degree programs pursuing the Global Pathway designation. The Global Pathway designation will provide curricular and co-curricular opportunities for BSW students to learn and practice global competencies and enable students to make progress toward a Global Citizen Award.

- **Student Scholarship Fund**: The School of Social Work established a new Social Work Student Scholarship fund and raised more than $14,000 during the 40th Anniversary School of Social Work breakfast celebration. A special thank you to our alumni, community partners, faculty, staff and students that helped make this possible.

- **Emeritus**: Dr. Marion Becker, Professor, was awarded Emeritus Status. She retired in August 2017.

- Dr. Alicia Stinson-Mendoza was named Associate Director of the School of Social Work. Dr. Stinson-Mendoza also serves as the MSW Program Chair.
Students

- **Dr. Chris Simmons** along with recent social work graduates **Joheisly Espinal**, MSW, **Gillian Penn**, MSW, **Meredith Phipps**, MSW, and **Marylyam Melgar**, BSW, presented a poster at the Society of Student-Run Free Clinics Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. They presented on the benefits of the service-learning connection between a social work undergraduate course and the training students experienced by volunteering at the USF BRIDGE (Building Relationships and Initiatives Dedicated to Gaining Equality) Healthcare Clinic. The service-learning aspect of this course provided students with an authentic connection of theory to practice and increased their understanding and insight by participating on a multidisciplinary team with students from medicine, public health, physical therapy and pharmacy.

- The Social Work Society, guided by Faculty Advisor **Lori Rogovin**, MSW, ACSW, organized several events this year including a Valentine’s Day Bake Sale, Body Image and Acceptance Educational Session and an Underwear Drive to benefit Dignity U Wear in Jacksonville, FL.

- Under the guidance and direction of faculty advisor, **Dr. Chris Simmons**, our students completed 975 volunteer hours, saw 160 patients and provided over 150 community resources through the on-campus student-run free clinic, BRIDGE. The students received 72 hours of supervision from LCSW faculty at the clinic.

- **Adina Bridges**, a recent MSW graduate, participated in a panel discussion “Legal Topics Affecting Children & Families” aired on “Manatee Educational TV”. Here is the link to the TV show and she starts speaking around 20 minutes into the show - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_RUMJOCSUU&feature=em-share_video_user

- **Katrina BreWSaquz**, a Ph.D. student, successfully defended her dissertation entitled, *An Exploration of the Relationship Between Child Welfare Workers’ Ambivalent Sexism and Beliefs about Father Involvement*. Major Professor, Alison Salloum, Ph.D.

- **Kristin M. Smyth**, a Ph.D. student, successfully defended her dissertation entitled, *Understanding the Experience of Early-Onset Bipolar Disorder: A Retrospective Phenomenological Study of Emerging Adults*. Major Professor, Alison Salloum, Ph.D.

- **Melanie McVean**, a Ph.D. student, successfully defended her dissertation entitled *Physical, Verbal, Relational and Cyber-Bullying and Victimization: Examining the Social and Emotional Adjustment of Participants*. Major Professors, Anne Strozier, Ph.D. and Tiina Ojanen, Ph.D.

- **Melissa Price**, a recent BSW graduate, was awarded the designation of “Graduation with Distinction” for the Spring 2017 commencement.

- **Shawna Machado**, a recent graduate of the MSW Program at USF Sarasota-Manatee, was the recipient of the National Association of Social Workers Social Work Student of the Year Award for the state of Florida.

- **Anne Bjoerke**, a recent MSW graduate, worked with Dr. Alison Salloum on a study titled *Complicated grief, depression, posttraumatic growth and hope among bereaved youth*, which was accepted for publication in OMEGA: Journal of Death and Dying. Anne was also a co-author on a poster presentation related to this study presented at the Society for Social Work and Research in New Orleans, LA.

- **Johnnothan Babb**, a current Advanced Standing MSW student, was the recipient of a one-time grant award of up to $15,000 from the Southern Poverty Law Center based on his winning essay entitled, *The Importance of Protecting Immigrant & Refugee Rights*. 
Ariel Fisher, a current MSW student, was awarded the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Minority Fellowship Program – Youth (MFP-Y) master’s student fellowship for the 2017-2018 academic year. Ariel would like to one day open her own clinic that focuses on treatment of substance abuse and mental health for underrepresented populations.

Amanda Farris, a recent MSW graduate, attended the 30th Annual Research and Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health in Tampa in the Translational Research track to present her research titled Impacting Homeless High School Students: Evidence on Growth and Resiliency. The research was conducted in partnership with USF and the Hillsborough County Public Schools. Amanda is the principal investigator.

Lori Rogovin, MSW, ACSW, led an enthusiastic group of eighty BSW and MSW students in a 2-day service learning experience in Tallahassee for the 2017 Legislative Education and Advocacy Day coordinated by the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Hundreds of social work students and faculty members across Florida participated in this advocacy opportunity to educate elected officials on issues important to social workers and the clients they serve.

Amanda Molé, a recent MSW graduate, presented at the USF 9th Annual Research Symposium. Her poster presentation, The Effect of PTSD on Parenting Behavior of a Female Survivor of Domestic Violence, utilized a single-system design and the Parental Stress Scale to observe the impact that post-traumatic stress disorder has on parental stress and parenting behavior in the wake of an abusive relationship. Amanda completed this project under the supervision of Michele Noberini, LCSW.

Cynthia Horwitz, a recent MSW graduate, presented her research on Infant Mental Health (IMH) Uniting Grant at the USF Health Research Day and USF Graduate Research Day. The Infant Mental Health (IMH) Uniting Grant is a comprehensive effort to improve mental health for children ages 0-3 in Hillsborough County by strengthening and expanding the IMH system of care through increased interagency collaboration, improved services, and more effective referrals.

Cynthia Canales, MSW, was selected to present at the National Center for Creative Aging 2016 The Creative Age: Global Perspectives on Creativity and Aging Conference. Cynthia completed her field placement with the Alzheimer’s Association-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. During her time there, she worked on the Timeless Tunes project (www.timelesstunes.org). This project seeks to implement the therapeutic power of music in the treatment of people with dementia. After an anonymous generous donation of MPS players Cynthia and her colleagues were able to give MP3 players that are loaded with culturally appropriate music to families and Nursing Homes throughout the counties served by the Alzheimer’s Association-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter.
Quincy Clowe, MSW, was selected from hundreds of applicants to serve in the Peace Corps Youth in Development Program in Thailand. As part of her service, Quincy is tasked with working with youth (ages 11-15) within a rural remote community in Thailand. Quincy is working to empower the youth in the community to become healthy engaged adults through promotion of education, leadership and connections with the adult community.

Nicole McCutchan, MSW, received a Social Work Rural and Underserved Inter-professional Postgraduate Fellowship. She worked for the past year at the Joint Ambulatory Care Center in Pensacola (which is a community-based outpatient clinic within the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System); she provided counseling 3 days a week, attended seminars one day a week, and was engaged in research one day a week.

Larry Cooper, LCSW, was named Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers Tampa Bay Unit. Larry also has served as an Adjunct Faculty member this past year. Larry was recently promoted to Chief of Prevention and Intervention Services at The Children’s Home, Inc.

Dr. Guitele Rahill provided mentoring support to Haiti-based social service organization OREZON (Organization for the Renovation and Education of the Cite Soleil Zone) with the outcome that they received an $8000.00 grant from Geohazards International (GHI). She advised, trained and served as consultant both to GHI and OREZON personnel. As part of this effort, she taught OREZON how to revise their resumes into biosketches and included in their biosketches their contributions to her previous work. These efforts strengthened their application and they were able to obtain the grant. Dr. Guitele Rahill worked with OREZON administrators post-award to prepare their deliverables.

Dr. Chris Simmons continues his work on the USF evaluation team of the Making Connections for Mental Health and Wellbeing Among Men and Boys in the U.S. Initiative. Making Connections is a national initiative which uses prevention strategies to improve community conditions that impact mental health and wellbeing of men and women.

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boys, particularly men and boys of color, military service members, and veterans. The initiative is funded by the Movember Foundation and coordinated by the Prevention Institute.

- BSW Program Chair and Field Coordinator Lori Rogovin, MSW, ACSW, was the recipient of the 2016-2017 Dean's Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.

- Alicia Stinson-Mendoza, Ph.D., LCSW, was awarded the National Association of Social Workers Tampa Bay Unit Educator of the Year Award.

- Dr. Rahill did a presentation at Tampa General Hospital entitled, *Picuriste (Injectionist) Practice among Haitian Immigrants: Implication for Research and Intervention*.

- Professor Lori Rogovin was selected by the National Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD) to serve on its Field Committee.

- Dr. Manisha Joshi and her Graduate Assistant Amy Brown were invited by the Intimate Partner Violence Coordinator for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda, CA to provide feedback on a pilot project (Intimate Partner Violence Outreach website) that the VA Center is developing. They reached out to Dr. Manisha Joshi and Amy Brown as a result of reading their publication – “Intimate Partner Violence Among Female Service Members and Veterans: Information and Resources Available Through Military and Non-Military Websites”.

- Lori Rogovin, MSW, ACSW, was selected to participate in the USF Service-Learning Boot Camp in May. The program was an intensive interactive class focusing on the philosophy, goals, and best practices of service learning, along with the experience of developing a service-learning syllabus in the participants’ respective programs.

- Dr. Chris Simmons was an ad hoc reviewer for the *Clinical Supervisor and Families In Society*.

- The School of Social Work Faculty and Staff sponsored a Self-Care Week to provide students various opportunities to take a break and instill the importance of self-care into their practice.

- Dr. Guitele Rahill traveled to Haiti to continue laying the foundation for OREZON members to establish a clinic that will be a site for medication disbursement. The clinic will avail access to HIV medications and medications to treat opportunistic infections for Cité Soleil residents who are HIV reactive and who live in a resource-constrained but high HIV prevalence area. A big part of that effort was partnering with long-standing partners at OREZON (John Wesley Placide and Paul Phycien) and with new partners at USAID and Chemonics, to conduct a training that permitted 10 members of OREZON to obtain their human subjects protection certificates from Family Health International. The latter training was conducted by Prof. Jean Denis Lys of the Université d’Etat d’Haiti, who is a S.H.A.R.E. Haiti Scholar.

- Dr. Manisha Joshi was awarded the Global Citizenship Fellowship for Spring 2017 to convert the undergraduate level - Introduction to Social Work course into a Global Citizenship Project certified course.

- Recent MSW graduate, JJ Beggs, worked with Dr. Simmons and Innovative Education to convert SOW 6931 Cognitive Behavior Therapy to an online format.

- Dr. Rahill and Dr. Joshi are now the proud recipients of the first pilot grant funded by the CBCS HIV RIG Special Funding Opportunity. The proposal targets female victims of non-partner sexual violence in Haiti’s Cité Soleil, who are at high risk for HIV. Building on long-term engagement with partners at OREZON, they will assess the feasibility and acceptability of adapting an evidence-based intervention for HIV called RESPECT, pairing it with OraQuick®, a RAPID HIV test. Among the primary objectives are to enhance victims’ awareness of risk, offer a RAPID HIV test to screen for antibodies, and provide risk reduction counseling in order to reduce the risk of
HIV in future, consensual sexual liaisons. Another focus in that context is to mitigate trauma symptoms endorsed by victims in a previous study, as these symptoms may be obstacles to the uptake of RESPECT. Trauma-Informed Care principles will be introduced to victims and local health providers via a psychoeducational model. If successful, Dr. Joshi and Dr. Rahill will produce a Haitian Kreyól draft of RESPECT that will avail HIV prevention and testing and risk reduction counseling to an at-risk population with limited HIV testing resources, and who live in a neighborhood that is disproportionately impacted by non-partner sexual violence, in a country with a high HIV prevalence.

USF Bulls (Los Toros) landed in Spain this Summer. The School of Social Work under the leadership of Drs. Carrion and Joshi organized an Education Abroad to Spain. Undergraduate and graduate students engaged in a comparative study of socio-cultural context of people’s health in Barcelona and Alicante, Spain. Students engaged with professionals in the former Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau and La Casa Dels Xuklis “The Butterfly House” for children with a terminal illness and their families. Dr. Estape at the Federation for the Education and Information of Cancer in Barcelona educated the students about cancer and its impact on older adults and their families. Students also visited a School of Social Work in Barcelona and learned about their emphasis on social action and the macro perspective. In Alicante, the students lived with host families and through daily interaction learned about the culture, traditions, values and foods of the family members. The education abroad courses in Spain were extensive and the engagement included interaction with the Proyecto Hombre - an inpatient holistic addiction recovery facility, Centro Especializado de Atención a Los Mayores - a state sponsored senior-citizen prevention facility, and a social services center within the Cathedral and Caritas Parroquial Nuestra Senora de la Misericordia. While at the San Juan Hospital and Medical School in Alicante, Dr. Carrion, as well as four students, were invited to “go on air” by the director of the radio broadcast studio affiliated with the university. You can see their impromptu dialogue at https://youtu.be/xLP04hQ9X5Y and their blog at https://usftorosenespana.wordpress.com/.

Awards


Dr. Kerry Littlewood: Connecting kinship caregivers with community resources improves family resiliency, social support and caregiver self efficacy was selected as the Honorable Mention winner of the 2017 Aetna Award for Excellence in Research on Older Women and Public Health.

This award will be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association in Atlanta, GA.

The Research Team and Institutions included:

- Abhishek Pandey, MD, University of Arizona Medical Center
- Angelique Day, Ph.D., MSW, Washington University School of Social Work
- Liliana Hernandez, MSW, MPP, US Children’s Bureau
- Julie McCrae, Ph.D., MSW Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
- Michelle Rosenthal, Ph.D., Data with Purpose, Inc.
- Joselyn Howard, Pinellas County Health Department.
- Lawrence Cooper, MSW, LCSW The Children’s Home Network, Inc.


**Guest Editor of Special Journal Issues**


**Books & Chapters**

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

Alison Salloum, Ph.D., LCSW
Training contracts with the Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County.
The goal of these two training grants was to provide training to case managers, child advocates, and community therapists on trauma-informed care and evidence-based practices for young children after trauma.

Name of funder: National Institute of Mental Health [1R01MH107522-01]
Timeframe of award: 2015-2019 (Aug-Apr)
Title of grant/contract: Stepped Care for Children after Trauma: Optimizing Treatment
Purpose of the study: To examine how to optimize the efficiency (e.g., via matching children to appropriate treatment dosage at baseline, utilizing second-stage tailoring variables, and identifying mechanisms of change) and cost-effectiveness of Stepped Care TF-CBT. Total amount: $2,185,618
Role: Principal Investigator

Manisha Joshi, PhD, MPH, MSW; Iraida Carrion, PhD, LCSW; and Guitele Rahill, PhD, LCSW
Title of grant/contract: India-US 21st Century Knowledge Initiative Awards
Name of funder: United States Department of State and University Grants Commission (UGC) India
Timeframe of award: 2016-2019
Total amount awarded: $190,000
Role: Principal Investigator

Social Work Student Scholarship

The Social Work Student Scholarship was developed in 2016 as part of the celebration of 40 years of social work education at USF. The scholarship will ensure that awards are made to USF social work students who will carry the social work profession forward to boldly engage in improving the well-being of individuals and society. Make a difference today for a social work student and your gift will keep giving as they make a difference in the lives of many others. Please visit http://www.usf.edu/cbcs/social-work/about/donate.aspx to make a donation. For additional information or other giving options, please contact our Development Officer Lisa Isenbeck at lisenbeck@usf.edu or 813-974-2327.
International Presentations


Meyrs, B. Lawental, M., & Kirtadze, I. (2017, June). Global perspective on women’s access to treatment: Stigma, discrimination and other critical issues (roundtable discussion host). International Women’s and Children’s Health and Gender Group Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

* Bjoerke, A., Joshi, M., Carrion, I.V. (2017, November). Child discipline practices and perceptions about abuse among indigenous communities in Northeast India. Paper accepted for poster presentation at the American Public Health Association’s conference, Atlanta, GA.


Rhode, S., Rahill, G., Joshi, M. (2017, November). Trauma Symptoms that accentuate the need for contextual adaptation of an evidence-based HIV intervention for victims of non-partner sexual violence in Haiti. Paper accepted for presentation at the American Public Health Association’s conference, Atlanta, GA.


Simmons, C. (2016, October). The entrepreneurial mindset: A transformative approach to prison programming. Effects of Incarceration on Offenders, Families, and Communities. Tampa, FL

*Denotes student co-author or co-presenter
Mission

The mission of the School of Social Work 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.

Thank you to the Professional Advisory Council

Bob Blackwood, Chief of Social Work Service at James A. Haley VA Hospital
Marsha Lewis Brown, President/CEO of Northside Mental Health
Susan Bruno, Director of Social Work Practice at Suncoast Hospice-Empath Health
David Chamberlin, Supervisor of Student Services at Pasco County School District
Tari Connell, Managing Officer of School Social Work at Pinellas County Schools Student Services Department
Nikki Daniels, Private Practice Therapist
Cheryl T. Harrell, Employee Assistance Counselor at J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.
Patricia Henderson, Outreach Manager & Community Liaison at Senior Connection Center
Myrna Hogue, Supervisor of School Social Work Services for Hillsborough County Public Schools
Susan Wade-Infanzon, TGH Healthpark Social Work Clinical Supervisor
Emery Ivery, Tampa Bay Area President at United Way
Charlotte McHenry, CEO of Senior Connection Center
L. Harrison Reeder, Chief of Social Work Service at The Bay Pines VA Health Care System
Joseph Rutherford, CEO of Gracepoint
Lorita Shirley, Chief of Program Operations at Eckerd Kids
Jack Smith, Chair of the NASW Tampa Bay Unit
April Steen, Business and Operations Manager at Florida Medical Clinic
Mary Turney, Manager of Patient and Family Services at Moffitt Cancer Center

Thank you to our staff

- Amy Weisz, LCSW, whose wisdom and commitment as our Senior Academic Advisor is a true asset to our students and School.
- Raymond Budd, MA, Undergraduate Program Specialist, for his instrumental support of the BSW Program and our School.
- Dorothy Keiser, Graduate Program Specialist, for her ongoing excellent support of our Graduate Programs and our School.
- Yvonne Wallace, Academic Program Specialist, for her steadfast commitment to the Field Education Program and our School.