Prepare to build a better world

SSW celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2016–2017, and we want you to join us!

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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF SSW,

I’m writing this letter two days after the U.S. presidential election, and I’m compelled to share these ideas with you. Yesterday, in a speech carried on public radio, Beverly Daniel Tatum, former dean of Spelman College, asked those present at her talk to pretend that someone had just taken a picture of everyone in the room. “What would you look for,” she asked, “as soon as you got the picture?” The answer, of course, is you would look for yourself.

But in the face of the November 8 election, many—some more than others—find a picture of America where there is no space for them or for those they love.

Last night, a student in my community and organizational change class sent me an e-mail asking to be excused from attending class because she wanted to stay home in the safety of her family. Two students in the class, while we were discussing the impact of the election, expressed concern about working with clients. One of the students told us about a 61-year-old woman who, on her way to the clinic, had been yelled at and told to get out of the country. She was frightened, thought that she might lose her Social Security, and just no longer felt safe. “What can I do for her?” the student asked. “I can tell her she is safe with me, but what do I say that gives her assurance when she goes back to her family?”

The road to social justice and to a society inclusive of all often takes turns that are confusing and confounding, but it is at such times that our School and our various communities must come together, lean on each other, and take strides toward building a better country.

We at the School are a very diverse group, and our relationships reach into many different circles that will be affected by this election. I have asked our faculty not to pretend that nothing has happened. In the light of these events, we are dedicated to three important matters: 1) that we continue to build a safe but constructive environment that allows us to understand that we are not alone; 2) that we provide learning opportunities in our School based on this event (such as discussing the challenges faced by the students in my class), and 3) that we all learn to advocate with a strong and compelling voice for social justice for all. We have an opportunity now to reaffirm our collective purpose, one that is reflected in the values of the professions we represent or aspire to.

Please accept this fall edition of Outlook. As we move toward 2017, our 100th year, we have given our School and its programs a new tag line, PREPARE TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD. The faculty, students, and stories therein certainly reflect its meaning.

James Reinardy, Ph.D.
Director, School of Social Work
For social work doctoral student Tanya Bailey, animals are partners in creating a healthy campus

Bailey developed the PAWS program with Gary Christenson, M.D., chief medical officer at the University of Minnesota’s Boynton Health, in the fall of 2013 out of concern for the emotional health of college students.

“Nationwide, mental health is the number-one public health concern for today’s institutions of higher learning,” she says. “Campuses struggle to meet the increasing mental health needs of students, who are the least likely group to seek help.”

“Leaving home and entering college separates students from their pets,” Bailey explains, “a task many young people experience as more difficult than saying good-bye to other established forms of support.”

PAWS began with weekly sessions at Boynton Health on the East Bank campus. Then bi-monthly sessions on the St. Paul campus were added, then weekly sessions on the West Bank campus, then monthly sessions at the Rochester campus. In academic year 2015-16, PAWS received more than 14,000 visits.

“We’ve obviously tapped into something!” says Bailey. But she has been concerned about the lack of scientific research to support emerging practices. That’s why she is laying the groundwork to study programs like PAWS for her dissertation. Her research will be useful not only to universities across the country but also to other organizations—such as businesses, nursing homes, schools, or hospitals—that are looking to improve the well-being of people they serve.

“We need animal-assisted therapy programs that are grounded in evidence-based research and training,” she says.

Bailey remembers a first-year student who came to a PAWS session. She made a beeline toward a golden retriever named Boudie and his human, Wayne. Tears flowing, the student told Wayne that her family dog—who looked exactly like Boudie—was very sick, and she wasn’t able to make the trip back home to say good-bye. Wayne expressed compassion as the student wrapped her arms around Boudie, who rested his head on her shoulder and let her cry. Before the student left that day, she thanked Bailey for the PAWS program.

“PAWS was there for her when she needed it,” says Bailey, “at a time when she might not have been able to share with anyone else the depth of the sorrow she felt over the death of her own dog back home.”
During his distinguished career, Hollister received many awards, but the latest one, the 2016 University of Minnesota President’s Award for Outstanding Service, sums up his career. This University-wide award each year honors up to 12 faculty or staff members who have gone well beyond their regular duties and have demonstrated an unusual commitment to the University community, two things that Hollister did pretty routinely.

“He volunteered for nearly every School of Social Work related task because of his attention to the needs of students,” says Professor Elizabeth Lightfoot, who has known Hollister since the time she was an M.S.W. student and he was director of the school.

“He not only attended every committee meeting, colloquium, practice job talk, teaching workshop, student potluck, listening session, or student orientation session in the School of Social Work, but...”

Jan Goodno

Last August, after 48 years of working in the School of Social Work, Goodno hung up her advising hat. Though she was never trained as a social worker, she had all the skills of one.

Goodno’s career was remarkable, and not just because she spent its entirety working for the same employer. It was remarkable because in all that time, she never lost the ability to treat each student as an individual deserving of respect and courtesy.

Goodno knew the fine points of degree requirements and of the workings of the University, and she had the ability to help students recognize their options, empowering them to make decisions to meet their academic needs and career goals.

Her advising skills, however, went far beyond academics. “She could tailor her role to students’ needs,” says Sue Rickers who received her M.S.W. and Ph.D. from the School of Social Work and is now assistant professor and chair of the social work department at Bemidji State University. Though Goodno does not have a degree in social work, “she has the skills of a professional social worker in listening, assessing...”

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Ron Rooney

Author of the most widely used social work practice textbook, Professor Rooney retired in December 2015.

Rooney is co-author of Direct Social Work Practice, the most widely used social work practice textbook, now in its 10th edition. He is also the author of Strategies for Work with Involuntary Clients, which is in its second edition.

Rooney grew up in Kansas, and graduated from high school in Andover, Massachusetts, where he attended the Phillips Academy. (His most famous classmate, George W. Bush, went on to become the 43rd president of the United States.)

In 1968-70, he served his country as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador. In 1971-73, he served his country in another capacity as a draftee in the U.S. Army, where he received his introduction to social work.

Rooney’s special areas of scholarship and research relate to work with reluctant and involuntary clients in a variety of settings, including public child welfare.

For 10 years, he was a consultant to the Teen Parent Support Network and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, providing training and participating in evaluation with teen parents who were wards of the state of Illinois.

Throughout his academic career, Rooney worked with a variety of educational technologies to increase access for students and to help them reach their learning goals.

The tools included interactive television courses and, more recently, blended learning courses that included interaction between students and international experts through Adobe Connect and Google Hangouts.

Rooney’s wife, Glenda Dewberry-Rooney, is a Ph.D. graduate of the University of Minnesota School...
The University of Minnesota School of Social Work is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2016–2017, and we want you to join us!

Join Our 100th Anniversary Celebration!

Throughout the coming year, we will be offering free continuing education programs and social gatherings for alumni and friends. We will end the year in 2017 with a conference on Friday, October 6 and a gala celebration on Saturday, October 7.

We will continue to add details of activities and events to our 100th anniversary web page at cehd.umn.edu/ssw/100th as they become available.

You might also want to fill out the form on the 100th web page so you can receive information from SSW and reminders about 100th anniversary events.

We are proud of the many great leaders in social services and youth work who are our alumni and faculty members. We want this celebration to mark their 100 years of building a better world and to motivate future students and educators to continue that work.

We hope to reconnect with you this coming year!

> Visit our 100th anniversary web page at cehd.umn.edu/ssw/100th.
Lee Receives CDC Grant for App to Aid HPV Vaccine Completion

Professor Hee Yun Lee is principal investigator for a $450,000 Special Interest Project Research grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The grant will fund a mobile application intervention for low-income Hmong adolescents to facilitate completion of the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine series.

The research team includes community co-principal investigator Kathleen Culhane-Pera, MD, medical director of the Westside Community Health Services, and co-investigator Jay Desai, Ph.D., research investigator at HealthPartners.

The team will use community-based participatory action research to design an app tailored culturally and cognitively to low-income Hmong adolescents aged 11-17 years and their parents. HPV causes several types of cancers, but vaccines can prevent infection with the most common types of HPV. The vaccine is given in three shots over seven to eight months.

The app will be highly interactive, with multiple levels of participation. The researchers will also test the app’s effectiveness and establish a protocol to aid health care providers in identifying and engaging Hmong adolescents and their parents in its use.

New Faculty Member Jeff Waid

His research focuses on preventing child maltreatment, preserving family bonds, and promoting child and family well-being.

Jeffrey Waid joined the School of Social Work as an Assistant Professor this fall.

Waid first began his journey into social work as a child welfare caseworker. Working with families in their communities, he sought to prevent the recurrence of child maltreatment and placement of children into foster care.

“While foster care placement is sometimes necessary to ensure the safety of children experiencing abuse and neglect, lengthy stays in care have a detrimental impact on a child’s development.” Foster care placement is “a short term, child-focused solution to what are inherently family problems,” he says.

Nearly a decade of direct practice led Waid to a program of research focused on strengthening family relationships. His primary research interests are in the prevention of child maltreatment, preserving family bonds when foster care placement is required, and the development of novel intervention approaches to promote child and family well-being.

“I found that when children entered the foster care system, they often did better when they maintained contact with family members. Having relatives and siblings in their lives made a significant positive impact,” he says.

Waid has examined factors associated with foster care placement instability, the impacts of separation on child and family well-being, empirically informed family assessment approaches, and harnessing the potential of data to inform child welfare program and policy improvements.

His current projects examine the role of kin and sibling relationships for youth in substitute care. He is the principal investigator for a multi-state and international program that provides short term, camp-based reunification for siblings separated by foster care, and is an affiliate investigator for a National Institute of Mental Health-funded intervention study designed to enhance sibling relationships.

Waid received his Ph.D. in social work and social research from Portland State University, and his M.S.W. from the University of Pittsburgh. He was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Two from SSW on Grand Challenges Grant Teams

Two School of Social Work professors are on teams that were awarded Grand Challenges Research grants by the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

The grants are part of a $3.6-million investment to fund 29 research collaborations that span the university.

The Grand Challenges Research grants are part of the campus strategic plan – Driving Tomorrow.

Professor Hee Yun Lee is co-principal investigator in a project called “Keys to preventing cancer: Unlocking barriers to HPV vaccinations in low-income countries.” She and her co-principal investigator Nicole E. Basta of the School of Public Health’s division of Epidemiology & Community Health received a $50,000 grant.

The other four people on the team include two more from Epidemiology, one from the Philosophy Department in the College of Liberal Arts, one from the Child Health & Development Center at Makerere University in Uganda.

Social Work Professor Priscilla Gibson is co-principal investigator in a project called “Art of healing: Embedded storytelling as resistance and practice.” The eight-member team received a $110,000 grant.

Her seven co-PIs come from the University’s College of Design, College of Liberal Arts and the Academic Health Center. They are Abimbola Asojo, Design; Housing & Apparel; Ananya Chatterjea, Theater Arts & Dance; Jigna Desai and Lena Palacios, Gender, Women, & Sexuality Studies; Roli Divvedi and Madhuri Shors, Community-University Health Care Center; and Catherine Squires, Communication Studies.
In 1975, he was one of a small group of social work and social development leaders, he says.

Hollister, who was vacationing in Arizona last spring as part of his phased retirement, showed up at a presentation in Peters Hall that Lightfoot had arranged for Ph.D. students to talk with Ph.D. alumni. “He came because he thought he might have something to learn and something to offer students, and, of course he did!”, she says.

Because of Hollister’s mentorship abilities, he was the most popular Ph.D. advisor in the school, says James Reinardy, director of the school. He advised 33 students to completion of their doctoral degrees, about three times the average number for a faculty member. He and his wife Georgiana endowed a fellowship that is awarded each year to an incoming doctoral student. He often served as mentor to assistant professors working toward tenure.

“It was not unusual for him to invite a newly hired faculty member to his home for a meal and to experience his hospitality,” Reinardy says.

Hollister’s research and teaching focused on immigration and refugee resettlement and on international social work and social development. In 1975, he was one of a small group of social work educators who founded the International Consortium for Social Development, the aim of which is to bring about economic and social improvement in the lives of people through capacity building.

His work had an impact on the social work curriculum in the school, particularly in the areas of community practice and social development perspectives. He played a key role in developing dual-degree programs between social work and three other master’s degree programs at the University: urban and regional planning, public policy, and public health, and he taught a course on neighborhood revitalization at the Humphrey School for 13 years. He also advocated for the international specialization that was added to the M.S.W. curriculum when it was redesigned in 2012.

Even in retirement, Hollister will continue to be active in the school. He is continuing as advisor to doctoral students, to M.S.W. dual-degree students, and to a Humphrey International Fellow from China.

His international work will continue with a trip to Cuba in November to learn about the Cuban economy, politics, health and education systems, as well as Havana’s architecture and historic preservation programs.

Professor Mike Baizerman speaks at Hollister’s retirement lunch in Peters Hall. Baizerman noted that he was wearing a suit, a rare sartorial choice for him, in honor of his colleague.

A clear testament to the depth of student appreciation for Goodno came several years ago when students organized “Jan Goodno Day,” and surprised her with a party in Peters Hall, with admirers wearing T-shirts displaying her likeness and officially canonizing her as the “Patron Saint of Peter’s Hall.”

After 48 years of helping students navigate their way around financial obstacles, Goodno chose to celebrate her retirement by endowing a fund that will make the lives of future students and her successors easier. The Jan Goodno Fund for Student Financial and Professional Support is aimed at providing M.S.W. and Ph.D. students with funds to buy books, pay student fees, attend conferences or help with other expenses to finance their course of study or advance their professional development.

Even in retirement Goodno continues to care about the school’s students.

Make a gift to the Jan Goodno Fund at cehd.umn.edu/ ssw/ giving.

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Of Social Work and is a retired faculty member of the Social Work Department at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Their son, Chris, runs a technology consulting business in Chicago. Some students are familiar with their miniature Schnauzer, Tinker, who has been a guest in some class sessions.

In retirement, Rooney is enjoying have more time for his family and his hobbies, which include going to Timberwolves games, playing bridge, biking, swimming, handball, spinning classes and work with a personal trainer.

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SSW’s 2016 Alumni of the Year is Tracy Crudo, supervisor in the Child Safety and Permanency Division at the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Before joining the state department in 2015, Crudo was director of outreach for the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW), which is housed in SSW.

In bestowing the award, the school recognized her work at CASCW and at the state department where she led the Child Safety and Permanency Division’s Professional Development Workgroup that was part of implementing the training system reform recommendations of the Governor’s Task Force on the Protection of Children.

In her acceptance remarks, Crudo focused on the importance of collaboration, which she believes is fundamental to social work at every level:

“My career in social work has been a labor of love, working alongside colleagues who have come to be family and who are driven by the mission to make the world a better place for vulnerable kids and their families. I swear not one day of it has felt like work.”