

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

BEGINNING OCTOBER 29, 2014 AT THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

REACH



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF "CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY: A CENTURY OF SOCIAL WORK IN TORONTO" EXHIBIT AT THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM.

2014!

Join the FIFSW in celebrating 100 years of excellence in social work education, practice and research.

ROM EXHIBIT TO FOCUS ON FACULTY'S 100 YEARS OF SOCIAL IMPACT

We're turning 100 and we plan to celebrate. For an entire academic year! We will be holding a series of exciting events, culminating in a final event in June 2015. Our celebrations begin on October 29 when an exhibit that demonstrates our Faculty's impact over the last century opens at the Royal Ontario Museum. We invite all alumni and friends to join us for the opening at the ROM as we toast our Faculty's last 100 amazing years and the century to come.

"Classroom to Community: A Century of Social Work in Toronto" runs until April 2015 in the ROM's second floor Special Exhibits Room. It examines the essential role that 100 years of social work has played in the city of Toronto. Using photographs, artwork, archival objects, interactive maps and interviews, the exhibit is organized around a series of significant moments that illustrate social impact.

The exhibit shows how the Faculty and the community have worked together and positions our Faculty as a significant generator of social change in Toronto, reinforcing the values of community engagement and citizenship. Its underlying message is that social work education and practice have had an important impact on people and communities in Toronto for the past century.

This exhibit is the result of a collaboration between our Faculty, U of T's Faculty of Information and two important Toronto institutions also celebrating their 100th birthdays: Family Service Toronto and the ROM. Marjorie Johnstone, a PhD candidate at our Faculty studying Toronto's social work history, Brian Porter, Director, Marketing & Communications of Family Service Toronto, and two Masters of Museum Studies candidates from U of T's Faculty of Information, Desiree Fuller and Nora Venezky, worked on the exhibit.



In Honour of our Faculty's 100th Anniversary. Donate to the Distinguished Speakers Series



Meet some amazing FIFSW field instructors and their students



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

FACTOR-INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
University of Toronto

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We are only a few months away from officially launching our Faculty's 100th anniversary celebrations and the excitement continues to build. We start the celebrations off on October 29 at the Royal Ontario Museum with an exhibit highlighting our Faculty's role as a major force for social change in Toronto over the past century. The exhibit – held in Canada's foremost museum which is also celebrating its 100th birthday and organized with another important 100 year-old institution, Family Service Toronto – is an inspiring way to lead into all of the exciting events we have planned. It acts as a powerful reminder of the important role social work has played for a century in transforming lives across Toronto and it makes me proud to be a member of our profession.

This exhibit and all of the great activities we are planning are a wonderful way to honour our Faculty. You are a crucial part of these celebrations and we invite all alumni and friends to join us. If you want to help us plan events or make a donation, please contact swa@utoronto.ca or call us at 416-978-8405. We have an important legacy to celebrate and a great deal more to accomplish, as we stand on the threshold of our next phenomenal 100 years.

Best wishes,

Faye Mishna
Dean, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of
Social Work
University of Toronto

FIELD OF DREAMS THE PRACTICUM

LEARNING BY PRACTICE

Modern dance pioneer Martha Graham's comments still ring out powerfully as a clarion call to the fundamental importance of practice. What people like Graham have always known about how we learn is confirmed by our new understanding of the brain. We learn by practice and by reflecting on our actions. The practicum is where MSW students do exactly that. It is the cornerstone of the MSW education – the single most important learning experience for generation after generation of students.

In their placements, students apply the theory they've learned to situations with clients who need help. Working with clients in placements ranging from hospitals, community agencies, clinics to countless other situations, MSW students build confidence as they develop the skills and competence they will need as they come into their own as social workers.

OUR EXTRAORDINARY FIELD INSTRUCTORS MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN

Social work is a professional education requiring students to accumulate numerous hours of direct field experience. This could not happen without the unsung heroes and heroines of the MSW educational experience: our amazing field instructors who give of their time to work with students. Their contribution is critical not only to the students' education, but to the future of the profession itself.

Field instruction is a process through which field instructors help students analyze and integrate practice skills with the knowledge and values of the profession to develop students' competence. Field instructors are crucial in facilitating students' development into competent and effective social workers. They link the student, the organization and the Faculty; teach practice knowledge and skills; and serve as mentors and role models.

PASSING THE TORCH

Many field instructors discover that they learn and grow right along with their students. They find the experience invigorating and enjoy being challenged to think critically about their practice.

Students can help field instructors stay fresh, connected and current by keeping them informed of the latest ideas and trends in social work practice. Working with students can also offer a meaningful way to give back and pass the torch to the next generation. Our students, after all, are our future field instructors.

Stay Connected

We want to stay in touch. We want to keep you informed about all the activities and events that are taking place at the Faculty. Please be sure to update your alumni profile on the Faculty website by going to "Alumni + Friends" and clicking on "FIFSW Alumni Information Update Form."

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"I BELIEVE THAT WE LEARN BY PRACTICE. It is the performance of a dedicated precise set of acts, physical or intellectual, from which comes shape of achievement, a sense of one's being, a satisfaction of spirit. Practice means to perform, over and over again in the face of all obstacles, some act of vision, of faith, of desire."

—Martha Graham

GROWING PROFESSIONALLY

Our Faculty is enormously appreciative of the amazing contribution made by field instructors. The Practicum Office is committed to providing these dedicated women and men with support and high quality opportunities for professional development. Our field instructors receive many benefits, among them U of T library privileges. Importantly, by making a commitment for three consecutive years, they receive Adjunct Lecturer status at the Faculty.

The Practicum Office offers approximately ten professional development events for field instructors and students each year on crucial issues such as for example, "Elder Abuse" and "Conflict and its Resolution." The Practicum Office also offers workshops and information sessions for students in response to specific issues, such as "Preparing for a Practicum Interview." For field instructors, who can attend professional development events either in person or by webinar, the seminars are a chance to grow professionally, enabling them to widen their expertise, network with peers, discuss pertinent issues and reflect on their roles and interactions with students.

Field instruction gives social workers a chance to become leaders in their organizations. In today's workforce, leadership, collaboration and interdisciplinary interactions and skills are highly prized and pivotal to success. Fieldwork with students is an important way to foster a growth-oriented workplace culture.

THE MANY BENEFITS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that provide field instruction are committed to creating dynamic, learning environments. In recognition of organizations that make a commitment to take a pre-negotiated number of FIFSW practicum students for three consecutive years, our Faculty provides the Bertha Rosenstadt Trust Fund in Health Research, which allows the organization to engage in research, developed in consultation with our Faculty, thus expanding social work field education knowledge.

Students contribute to organizations in many ways, providing valuable work in their placements (and frequently becoming employees after their field placements). Offering field instruction to students may serve to connect staff and help to break down barriers between departments. Students very often act as a resource, offering workshops for staff, for example, on the latest research on issues.

THE PRACTICUM OFFICE

Comprised of Eileen McKee (Assistant Dean Field Education), Mindy Coplevitch (Practicum Coordinator), Rahel-Leigh Peckett (newly hired Practicum Coordinator) and Denise Russell (Administrative Assistant to Practicum), the Office is the anchor of our extensive field placement program. Staff interact with field instructors, faculty field liaisons, students and placement organizations as well as potential placements, setting up practica and ensuring that all requirements are met (for example, students often need to have police checks and meet vaccination requirements).

The staff see their role as strategic, collaborative and consultative. Committed to seeking input from students and field instructors, they are ready to listen, respond to issues and make modifications and improvements wherever possible. Recently, in response to feedback, they have been exploring innovative ways to increase placement options. While the traditional supervision model of one field instructor to one or two students remains the standard, the Office also employs alternate practicum models, which are evaluated. Placements were found for approximately 400 students this year; some using models such as co-supervision (two or more field instructors for the duration), rotational supervision (two or more field instructors sequentially supervising students) and a team model (six to eight students with one or more field instructors).



We are Looking for Field Instructors

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of the next generation of social workers? Do you want to use your experience and knowledge to help students become competent and effective social workers? We need you and our students need you. Please get in touch with the Practicum Office at practicum.fsw@utoronto.ca or 416-978-3262 if you want to learn more about becoming a Field Instructor.

FIELD OF DREAMS THE PRACTICUM



Bottom row, from left: Lauren Drouillard, Brooke Allemang, Gina Dimitropoulos (field instructor), Danielle Omrin.
Top row, from left: Nicole Stonewall, Carmine Malfitano, Maria Calvachi, Serena Nudel.

EATING DISORDERS CLINIC, UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK WHERE MSW STUDENTS LEARN TO LOVE RESEARCH

Field instructor Gina Dimitropoulos, a Clinician/Scientist/Family Therapy Leader at the University Health Network's Eating Disorders Clinic, supervised eight FIFSW students this past year in combined research/clinical placements, passing on to them her own love of research. Dimitropoulos, who has worked as a field instructor for years, says that students usually begin placements feeling worried about the skills needed to conduct research. By the end, a transformation has taken place; they've developed confidence, gotten excited about research's possibilities and been launched on what she hopes is a lifelong commitment to thinking critically about integrating theory, practice and research.

Students are learning how to do social work research in a clinical setting. Placements are designed collaboratively with institutions where students do their clinical work and research projects are developed through questions emerging from clinical work. Dimitropoulos believes that this training will prepare students to assume future leadership roles, by initiating social work research in addition to clinical work.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS LEARNING?

Year 2 MSW student Nicole Stonewall says that Dimitropoulos's students are learning how research informs practice. "You learn as you go," Stonewall says, "and you develop your research skills that way. A lot of students shy away from research but now is the time to explore these avenues." Students develop critical skills and an understanding of ethical dilemmas; they learn to build relationships with other clinicians and work collaboratively in a multi-disciplinary environment amid diverse perspectives.

WHY BE A FIELD INSTRUCTOR?

Dimitropoulos finds supervising both Year 1 and Year 2 students energizing. "I love it because I'm teaching students to think critically and ask, 'Is this really what we want to do? Does this meet the client's needs or is this just something we've done for years?' It's rewarding to hear students say at the end, 'Wow, I get it!' When you're doing research, it has to be practical and feasible and you have to learn how to work with other people. These are such important skills."



From left: Anjali Willoughby (field instructor), Megan Pratt, Rachel Max, Joanne Guy (field instructor).

Bottom row, from left: Lisa Cirillo (field instructor), Alicia Lam, Michael Saini (field instructor). Top row, Melanie Baerg.



2 DOWNTOWN LEGAL SERVICES WHERE MSW STUDENTS AND LAW STUDENTS WORK SIDE BY SIDE

One innovative new placement is the Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a poverty law clinic where for forty years U of T law students have provided free legal aid to low income clients. “Every person who walks through our door,” says Executive Director Lisa Cirillo, “has multiple underlying social issues that law students can’t address. Social and legal issues are inter-related and require a holistic response.” Now, because of this placement in its second year, social work students are available to help with social issues from housing to immigration.

While not a social worker herself, Cirillo is playing an important role as a strong advocate on behalf of social work, by acting as one of the students’ two co-field instructors. Students are also supervised by Associate Professor Michael Saini, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work Chair in Law and Social Work, who meets with the students weekly to incorporate a social work perspective. The clinic also serves as an educational facility where law students learn to be community lawyers; the MSW students are helping to educate the law students on subjects not covered in law school such as how to talk to clients effectively and deal with trauma and power imbalances.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS LEARNING?

Year 2 MSW students Alicia Lam and Melanie Baerg are developing critical assessment skills by working directly with clients. They conduct assessments and provide counselling for clients, help them access community resources, consult with the law students, conduct community outreach, organize workshops, develop training materials and assemble information on available social service resources. “We love working in an interdisciplinary setting,” says Baerg, “discussing issues with the law students expands our perspectives.” Lam says that working at the clinic is a great way to advocate for social work as a profession. “Because we have to explain social work,” she says, “we’ve developed a better understanding of the profession.”

WHY BE A FIELD INSTRUCTOR?

“Social work students bring new areas of expertise that we don’t necessarily have as lawyers,” says Cirillo. “This is a rich opportunity for cross-disciplinary learning. Social workers bring a nuanced understanding of the system. Often clients have extremely pressing non-legal issues, like housing or immigration, and now we can provide support and make referrals. Social work has so much to offer law. There should be a social worker in every legal clinic; this program has great potential.”



3 BRIDGEPOINT ACTIVE HEALTHCARE WHERE MSW STUDENTS GET DOUBLE THE LEARNING

To increase their ability to provide field education to MSW students, Bridgepoint Active Healthcare is implementing a model of field education that has been useful in other settings – the rotation model. At this busy rehab hospital Year 1 students work with one field instructor for three months, then move to a second field instructor on a different unit for the following two months.

Social worker Joanne Guy, who was a field instructor with two Year 1 MSW students from January to the end of March, says the model increases students’ educational options. “It gives students experiences with different rehab populations,” she says, “so they can learn skills by working with different field instructors. Time is of the essence here; this system enables field instructors to manage their time efficiently.”

This model gives Year 1 students a rich clinical placement with a variety of learning opportunities. Social worker Christopher Hayden

FIELD OF DREAMS THE PRACTICUM

BRIDGEPOINT ACTIVE HEALTHCARE *continued* »

offers additional support by organizing seminars for MSW students and providing a calendar of interprofessional events available to all students at Bridgepoint. “Working on this model,” he says, “is exciting because it is a chance to make a mark on the profession by developing pedagogy.” Year 1 students also have the opportunity to learn from Bridgepoint’s Year 2 MSW students and participate in group supervision with their Professional Practice Leader.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS LEARNING?

Year 1 MSW student Rachel Max worked with Guy for the first half of her practicum; she loves the interdisciplinary atmosphere and the chance to work interprofessionally. “Especially in Year 1,” she says, “switching between field instructors and units is great because you can try different things. This experience has affirmed my decision to go

into social work.” MSW students conduct assessments, set up treatment plans, counsel and provide resources; they also work collaboratively with other team members, developing skills and confidence.

WHY BE A FIELD INSTRUCTOR?

Both Guy and Hayden enjoy giving back to the Faculty and the profession and helping students to learn. “I enjoy providing students with support and mentorship and I love working with Year 1 students,” says Guy. “It’s an incredible opportunity to work with people as they start their careers. They ask a lot of questions and make you think and learn. We discuss their courses which enables me to stay ahead of the latest advances. Year 1 students are so enthusiastic; they fuel me, giving me new energy.”

4 HARBOUR LIGHT MINISTRIES, THE SALVATION ARMY WHERE MSW STUDENTS LEARN USING THE TEAM MODEL



From left: Natalie Birk, Rochelle McAlister (co-supervisor).

Social worker Rochelle McAlister, a Program Coordinator in the Transitional Housing Program at The Salvation Army’s Harbour Light Ministries is a co-supervisor for MSW students. The Transitional Housing Program is a place where people make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

“Sometimes students are nervous before they come here, because they haven’t had interactions with people experiencing homelessness, addiction or mental illness,” McAlister says. “That quickly changes when they see they are real people, showing courage and determination. This is a great learning environment.” McAlister believes that having co-supervisors is

of great benefit to students because they are exposed to a multi-level approach. Students learn by working with her at her level of management; they also learn through their co-supervisors doing front-line work.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS LEARNING?

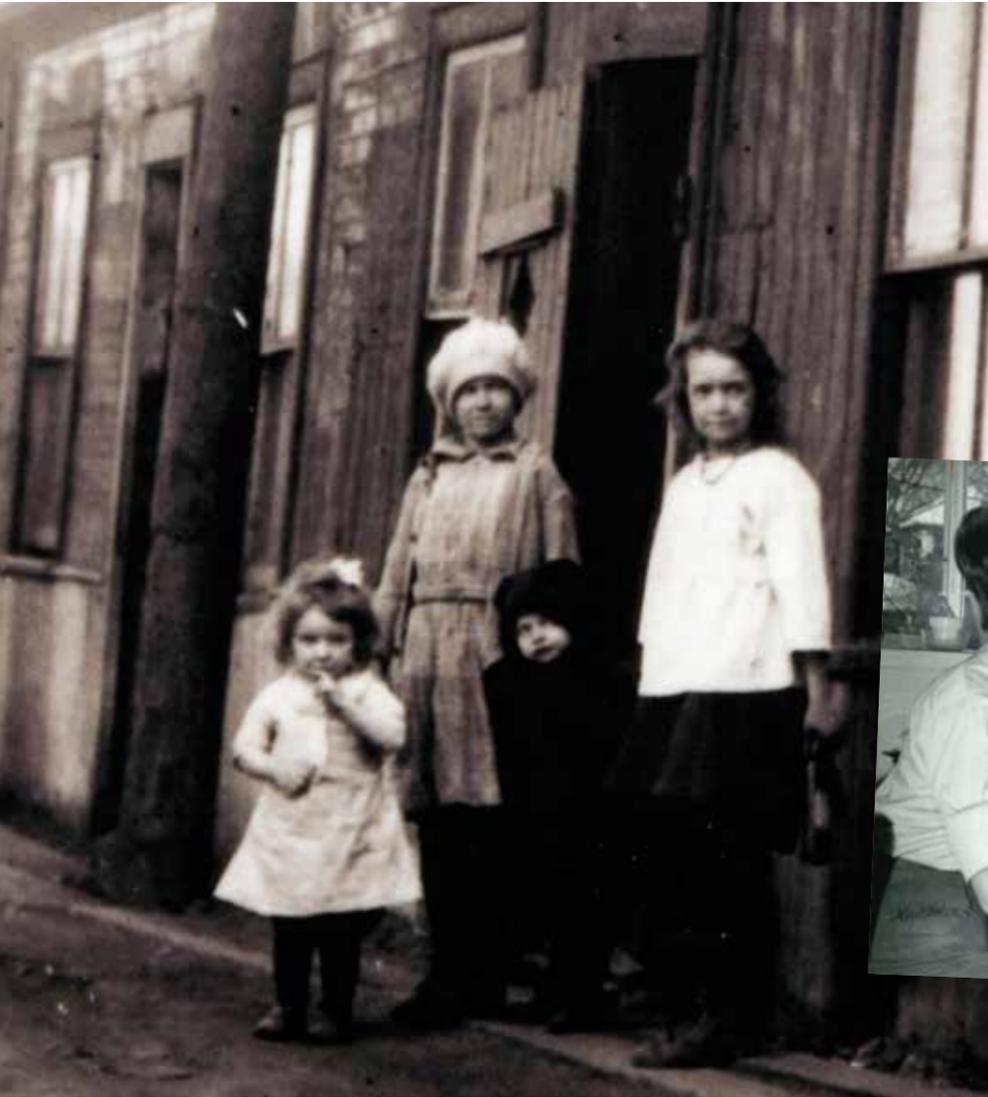
Year 1 MSW student Natalie Birk is one of a number of students doing their placements at Harbour Light Ministries. In the Immigrant and Refugee Services Department, she interacts with newcomers, frequently providing information on issues such as housing or employment. She enjoys working with McAlister and other supervisors, finding the staff highly supportive. “It’s great to get this

kind of hands-on experience in Year 1,” says Birk. “Everything I’ve learned in class comes alive through the placement.”

To further develop clinical skills in a department that primarily focuses on practical help, McAlister has encouraged Birk to search for “seeds” in client conversations offering the potential for in-depth counselling. McAlister believes this is similar to developing a new skill, that students can learn to reach for deeper issues while helping with immediate concerns.

WHY BE A FIELD INSTRUCTOR?

“Year 1 students are great to work with because they don’t have a lot of social work experience and I love getting that fresh perspective,” McAlister says. “Students bring in the latest research enabling me to keep on learning myself. I attend many of the Practicum Office’s professional development events which are extremely helpful. The information is good and I love the chance to meet and network with my fellow social workers and field instructors.”



Join the FFSW in celebrating 100 years of excellence in social work education, practice and research



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF "CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY: A CENTURY OF SOCIAL WORK IN TORONTO" EXHIBIT AT THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM.

IN HONOUR OF OUR FACULTY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

DONATE TO THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

Help us create a legacy to commemorate our Faculty's centenary. The FFSW Alumni Association is establishing an endowed Distinguished Speakers Series with a goal of \$ 250,000. We are close to reaching the halfway mark but we need your help to reach our goal. This series will bring cutting edge, cross-disciplinary thinkers to our Faculty annually, in perpetuity, to explore crucial issues related to social work.

**DONATE TO THE
DISTINGUISHED
SPEAKERS SERIES**

On the FFSW website,
click on:
"In honour of our upcoming
100th Anniversary Donate"

By donating to this series, you will be honouring our Faculty's past and investing in our future. You are also doubling the impact of your gift immediately because all donations will be matched dollar for dollar. This is an extremely sound investment opportunity – we will have a \$ 500,000 endowment that will be invested, enabling us to bring great speakers to our Faculty for many years to come.

We are grateful to Eileen McKee, Assistant Dean Field Education, Alumni Association President Ed Shaul and Past Alumni Association President Doreen Winkler who are co-chairing the fundraising committee for the series, as well as alumnus Peter Murchison, who is Vice-Chair.

We are offering special recognition opportunities for several donation levels, from now until the end of the Faculty's centennial year (June 2014). Please let us know if you would like a package sent by email or by regular mail. If you want to donate to the series or help us fundraise by joining the committee or by contacting someone you know, please call 416-978-8405 or email us at swa@utoronto.ca.

FFSW SPRING REUNION 2014 & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AGM May 28, 2014

6:00 – 6:45pm - FFSW Alumni Association AGM
7:00 – 8:30pm - Reception and Book Expo/Display (wine & refreshments)

Come back to the Faculty for a stimulating evening of conversation and networking opportunities. Mark your calendars now for the 2014 FFSW Alumni Association AGM, Spring Reunion and Book Expo/Display. Find out what fellow alumni are doing in the field of social work and catch up with former classmates. Enter your name in a draw to win \$500 towards FFSW Continuing Education courses.

Please confirm your attendance at alumni.fsw@utoronto.ca.

100th ANNIVERSARY LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented and inspiring group of volunteers working on behalf of the Faculty to ensure that our 100th anniversary is a rousing success. The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is enormously grateful to Honorary Chairs Sheldon Inwentash, Lynn Factor, Gordon Cressy and Lorie Shekter-Wolfson and all our dedicated friends and alumni on the 100th Anniversary Leadership Team. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact swa@utoronto.ca or 416-978-8405.

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Closing Event

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