HERE’S HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

VISIT US
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Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 1V4

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is at the intersection of Bloor Street West and Bedford Road, just west of the Royal Ontario Museum and across from Varsity Stadium. The front door is a few steps from the St. George subway station’s Bedford Road exit.

VISIT US ONLINE
www.socialwork.utoronto.ca

CALL US
Phone: 416 978-6314
Fax: 416 978-7072

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH US
We want to keep you informed about all the activities 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." If you would like to receive e-Reach or Reach magazine or if you have any comments on any of the stories you have read here, please e-mail us at fund.fsw@utoronto.ca or phone 416 978-4437.

SUPPORT US
To invest in the future of this Faculty by making a donation, please contact the Advancement Office at fund.fsw@utoronto.ca or 416-978-4437.
It is with great pride that we announce that professor Cheryl Regehr has been appointed vice-president and provost of the University of Toronto. She starts in her new 18 month position in September, 2013. Cheryl is, of course, well known both to our FIFSW community and across the University. Her outstanding leadership abilities have been amply demonstrated both in her position as U of T’s Vice-Provost, Academic Affairs (a role she held since its inception in 2009 and which U of T President David Naylor says she has defined) and as the former dean of our Faculty (2006-2009).

As Vice-Provost, Academic Affairs, she was a key member of the Provost’s leadership team. U of T President David Naylor calls the work she has done in this position “transformative.” In a letter to U of T’s Governing Council describing her exemplary record, he says: “Even as she has built bridges internally, Cheryl Regehr has shown an unusual ability to navigate the external landscape. She has won friends for the University and positively influenced decision-makers both earlier and more recently as a Vice-Provost.”

Cheryl earned her BA in Psychology from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1978, completing her MSW at our Faculty in 1980. She served as a social worker in a variety of institutions with increasing responsibility as a practitioner and program leader, establishing special expertise in the area of recovery from psychological trauma. Cheryl returned to U of T and received her Doctor of Philosophy in 1995, joining the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University that same year.

In 1999, she moved back to U of T and was appointed full Professor at our Faculty in 2004, with cross-appointments in the Faculty of Law and the Institute of Medical Sciences. Cheryl has sustained an award-winning program of research, continuing to publish actively. The co-author of four books and over 100 journal articles, she was also a three-time winner of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work’s Teacher of the Year award.

Cheryl has undertaken over her remarkable and varied career – whether it be as a leader, administrator, scholar, teacher or social work practitioner – she has proven herself to be exemplary, approaching each endeavour with her characteristic vigor and tenacity.
A Celebration
of our students

01. From left: Cicely Arthur, Anna Gallinaro Wallwork & Rebecca Bliss
02. From left: Alison MacKenzie & Debbie Garbe (MSW 1978)
03. From left: Michelle Court, Heather Isaac, Yael Bar, Lisa Schwartz, Amanda Sibilo & Lisa Gallen
04. Heather Isaac and friend
05. From left: Leona Molloy, Jacqueline Lankar & Kate Allen
06. From left: Liana Morgan & Juliane Morgan
07. Tharisha Subramaniam with friends & family
08. Mark McLaren & family
09. From left: Andrew Ross & Sarah Ahmed
10. Katy Konyk with Kelly Konyk, Clay Konyk & Hamish Vanderven

Spring Convocation June 5, 2013
HISTORIC BOUNDLESS CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIAL WORK LAUNCHED

On November 20, 2012, the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work launched the Boundless Campaign for Social Work. Led by Chair Sheldon Inwentash, this transformative campaign promises to dramatically propel our Faculty forward as we continue to pursue our goal of being an innovative global leader in social work education, research and practice.

We are extremely proud to have the support of such an inspirational group of outstanding business and community leaders supporting the work our Faculty does and our vision of all that we can accomplish. Working with Sheldon Inwentash are a stellar group of Honorary Chairs: Lynn Factor, Shari Fell, Margaret McCain and Rose Wolfe. The other distinguished members of the Campaign Executive Cabinet are: Karen and Ray Arbesman; Campbell and Sara Becher; Joseph and Laurissa Canavan; Richard Cummings; Arthur Dalfen; Jennifer and Pat DiCapo; Eileen and Tye Farrow; Gerald Feldman; Heather and Max Gotlieb; Wanda Ho; Laura Klaehn; Theo Koffler; Chris and Noella Milne; David Peltz; Paul Stein and Beth Weingarten.

The Boundless Campaign for Social Work is part of U of T’s $2 billion Boundless campaign which will position the University of Toronto as a global leader in the quest to solve today’s defining challenges. With our passionate commitment to promoting societal well-being, the FIFSW is an integral part of this historic campaign.


Paul Issahaku examined the dimensions and health policy implications of rape partner violence against women in northern Ghana.

Rory Crath’s thesis explored governing risky spaces and youth subjects through the techniques of visibility.

Rida Abboud’s thesis focused on the social organization of the lives of semi-skilled migrant workers in Alberta.

This past year, seven PhD students successfully defended their theses and then graduated in the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 Convocations.

Susan Preston’s thesis focused on demystifying the commodification of social relations in Ontario’s child protection system.


Lea Tufford’s thesis focused on clinician mandatory reporting and the maintenance of the therapeutic alliance.

7 NEW PHD THESSES EXAMINING CRITICAL ISSUES

4 You are Viewing

7 Books

Published This Past Year by Faculty and Alumni

Ed Shaul Takes Over from Doreen Winkler as Our New Alumni President

After three highly productive years, Doreen Winkler has retired as the FIFSW Alumni Association President. Ed Shaul is the new FIFSW Alumni Association President. Ed, who received U of T’s Arbor Award in 2007 for his longtime involvement in the FIFSW Mentoring Program, has more than 20 years experience in psychosocial assessment and counseling in both hospitals and private practice. He plans to build upon the strong foundation Doreen helped to establish.

Doreen has left an impressive record. Under her able leadership, the Alumni Association has flourished. Attendance at the Spring Reunion increased substantially; the Alumni Association began hosting popular events such as research presentations by doctoral students and “Community Dialogues” forums; and the FIFSW Alumni Scholarship was established, providing valuable aid to students.

Three highly valued members of our faculty, Professor Tahany Gadalla, Professor Robert MacFadden and Professor Sheila Neysmith, retired this past year. They have been important members of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work community and we are extremely pleased that they have all agreed to continue making their contributions to our Faculty by remaining involved in various capacities.

Gadalla’s scholarship focuses on research methods, quantitative data analysis, statistics and evidence-based practice. MacFadden’s research focuses on child welfare, clinical social work practice, information technology and neuroscience; he was the Director of Continuing Education for many years. Neysmith’s research focuses on paid and unpaid caring labour by women, feminist theory and praxis; until 2015 she will be the Director Research at our Faculty.

There’s no denying it. With every year, the FIFSW Alumni Association Spring Reunion just keeps getting better and better. There was another fabulous turnout on May 29th when the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work Alumni Association held its Third Annual Spring Reunion and Book Expo. Over fifty alumni attended an evening featuring a display of recent books and research by faculty and alumni. But by far the most striking thing about watching the engaged crowd mix and mingle was how multi-generational it was – recent grads schmoozed and compared notes with older alumni, making for an extremely lively reunion.


Spectacular Success

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Join us as we celebrate
100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN SEPTEMBER 2014

Since this Faculty’s earliest days in September 1914, when students first walked in the doors of U of T’s tiny and newly formed Department of Social Service, we have evolved into a vibrant and engaged Faculty, renowned internationally for the excellence of our social work education, research and practice.

In September 2014, our Faculty will celebrate 100 extraordinary years of educating generations of dedicated social workers. We stand on the shoulders of that history, anticipating a boundless future. We want all alumni of the FIFSW to become actively involved in the planning and celebration of our upcoming centennial. Join us for a year-long celebration of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work’s strong past.

The tradition of fundraising began early at this Faculty – contributions from people in the community who believed in this Faculty’s mission have been absolutely essential since our very first days. Today, there are so many ways to honour this Faculty’s 100th. You could, for example, sponsor one of the many exciting events we are planning as part of the anniversary celebrations.

To learn more about this or other ways you can become involved, please contact the Advancement Office at fund.fsw@utoronto.ca or 416-978-4437.

INVEST IN THE 100TH YEAR
BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

As we gear up for the 100th celebrations, commemorate this significant milestone for our Faculty by becoming a contributor to The Distinguished Speakers Series. To create a memorable legacy in honour of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work’s upcoming 100th anniversary, the Alumni Association is establishing an endowed speakers series.

This series will bring cutting edge speakers to our Faculty on an annual basis to explore important issues related to social work. These lectures will benefit students, alumni, researchers and the community by fostering dialogue about significant challenges we face as a society today.

When you contribute to this important initiative, you will not only honour our Faculty’s upcoming centennial, you will also be making an important investment in the FIFSW’s future for generations to come.

Donate to The Distinguished Speakers Series and double the impact of your contribution. All donations will be matched dollar per dollar.

To learn more, please contact the Advancement Office at fund.fsw@utoronto.ca or 416-978-4437. Or, to make your contribution today, go directly to the FIFSW website and click on: “In honour of our upcoming 100th Anniversary Donate”.

Honors

HONOURS

Affiliated Faculty member Susan Blacker was named the 2013 recipient of the CAPO (Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology) Award of Excellence in Education.

Professor Marion Bogo was awarded the highly prestigious Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award. This award from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) acknowledges a social work educator’s achievements over his or her entire career. The very first Canadian to receive this important award, Bogo is being recognized for her tireless commitment to improving social work education and her groundbreaking contributions to improving the way we assess competence in social work students. She will be honoured at the Opening Ceremony and Awards Presentation of the CSWE 2013 Annual Program Meeting on Oct. 31, 2013 in Dallas, Texas.

Professor J. David Hulchanski received the Carolyn Tuohy Impact on Public Policy Award from the University of Toronto in recognition of his academic excellence as a teacher and scholar and the impact of his contributions to public policy and to the University’s national and international reputation. U of T’s Awards of Excellence celebrate members of the University who, through their individual efforts and accomplishments, have contributed to the University’s vision of becoming a leader among the world’s best public teaching and research universities.

Professor Peter A. Newman has been awarded a renewal of the Canada Research Chair in Health and Social Justice at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. The federal government has recently invested $18.7 million in funding 23 new and renewed Canada Research Chairs (CRC) at U of T. The CRC program is a key component of U of T’s efforts to foster cutting edge research. Newman’s research is helping to develop best practices for community engagement in AIDS vaccine research and dissemination, including HIV prevention.

FIFSW professors Cheryl Regehr and Marion Bogo and fellow authors Kirsten Donovan, Susan Anstice and April Lim received the 2013 Best Empirical Article Award from the Journal of Social Work Education for their article: “Identifying Student Competencies in Macro Practice: Articulating the Practice Wisdom of Field.” The criteria for choosing the Best Empirical Article include the importance and timeliness of the content, originality of thought, innovative conceptualization of the topic and presentation of conclusions that add significantly to social work education and knowledge.

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux was named Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) at Lakehead University, effective July 1, 2013. She is a Status-Only Assistant Professor at the FIFSW, an adjunct Assistant Professor at Carlton University and the Nenex Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at the Baffin Centre. Wesley-Esquimaux is the co-founder and chair of the Canadian Roots Exchange, an initiative to foster youth engagement in Aboriginal issues. A collaborative partner of our Faculty, the Canadian Roots Exchange moved this past year to an office at the FIFSW.

NEWLY APPOINTED ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS WITH TENURE

Professor Rupaleem Bhuyan, Professor David Brennan, Professor Lin Fang and Professor Michael Saini have been appointed Associate Professors with Tenure, effective July 1, 2013.

Professors Bhuyan’s and Saini’s work focuses on research, policy and practice with children and families involved in child welfare, family law and alternative dispute programs.

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Professor Bhuyan’s and Saini’s work focuses on research, policy and practice with children and families involved in child welfare, family law and alternative dispute programs.
Izumi Sakamoto is collaborating with researchers and community organizations in Toronto and across Canada and the US on the integration of skilled immigrants.

Carmen Logie collaborates with researchers and community partners in Canada, Haiti, India, and Africa on stigma, access to care and health outcomes among LGBTQ populations and people living with HIV.

Ramona Alaggia is collaborating with colleagues at a Toronto mental health centre and academic researchers in Scotland on the issue of violence and abusive behaviour in families.

David Hulchanski is working with a network of researchers and community organizations across Canada to study neighbourhood inequality in Canada’s large metropolitan areas.

Eunjung Lee is collaborating with researchers across Canada in the investigation of the practice of education migration.

Wes Shera is collaborating with researchers in Toronto and in Australia, Brazil, China, Israel, and Ireland on issues related to child welfare kinship placement.

Dan Zubert collaborates with researchers in Canada on issues related to urban poverty, inequality and social policy across Canada and to reduce healthcare associated infection.

Shelley Craig is collaborating with colleagues across Canada to investigate youth, new media and health promotion and the roles of social workers in Canadian healthcare settings.

Aron Shlonsky is working with researchers in Australia, Canada and England on child welfare services and child abuse and neglect.

David Brennan works with academic colleagues, researchers, governments and community organizations in Toronto, across Ontario, Canada and the US on issues related to HIV and sexual health.

Susan Stein is working with researchers and partner agencies across Ontario, Canada, the US and internationally on issues related to current parenting practices and child and family services.

Rupaleem Bhuyan is collaborating with academic and community researchers in Ontario on a project designed to reduce barriers to employment experienced by immigrants to Canada.

Michael Saini is working with academic, government and community researchers and practitioners in Ontario and across Canada, Israel and the US to improve the experience of children and families post-separation and divorce.

Cheryl Regehr is collaborating with researchers in Toronto on issues related to the influence of training and experience on social workers’ professional judgement.

Charmaine Williams is working with researchers in Canada, the Caribbean, India and South Africa, teaches in Tobago and is developing an online social work program at the University of West Indies Open Campus.

Faye Mishna is collaborating with researchers, community agencies and organizations in Toronto and across Canada, Israel and the US on social media and cyber bullying.

Lynn McDonald is working with a network of researchers across the globe to evaluate knowledge mobilisation for older adults.

Barbara Fallon is collaborating with researchers, government and community organizations within Canada, the US and around the globe on the issue of child welfare.

A. Ka Tat Tsang is working with colleagues in China and Canada to promote collaborative research, support social work departments in Chinese universities and the training of mental health professionals.

Cheryl Regehr is collaborating with researchers in Toronto on issues related to the influence of training and experience on social workers’ professional judgement.

Adrienne Chambon is working with researchers in Toronto to explore a critical cultural perspective for social work and transnational systems of social support.

Lin Fang is collaborating with researchers across Canada to explore the experience of Māori and Chinese immigrants across Canada.

Peter Newman is collaborating with researchers and community partners in Canada, India, South Africa and Thailand on HIV vaccine trial preparedness and the advancement of new prevention technologies.

Esmé Fuller-Thomson is collaborating with colleagues across Canada on issues related to child welfare kinship placement.

Maria Bogo is collaborating with colleagues in Toronto and in Israel, Finland and the US on issues related to the education of social work students.

David Hutchanski is working with a network of researchers and community organizations across Canada to study neighbourhood inequality in Canada’s large metropolitan areas.

Michael Saini is working with academic, government and community researchers and practitioners in Ontario and across Canada, Israel and the US to improve the experience of children and families post-separation and divorce.

A. Ka Tat Tsang is working with colleagues in China and Canada to promote collaborative research, support social work departments in Chinese universities and the training of mental health professionals.
What strategies promote effective parent-child relationships in high conflict separations?
Focusing on parenting: Developing a framework for effective parent-child relationships within the context of high conflict separation; Michael Sarni, principal investigator.

How can we advance new HIV protection technologies?
Advancing new protection technologies for HIV: Rectal microbicide acceptability among men who have sex with men and transgenders in India and Thailand; Peter Newman, principal investigator.

How do Mainland Chinese immigrants negotiate cross-cultural experiences?
Navigating Cultural Worlds: Understanding how Mainland Chinese immigrants negotiate cross-cultural experiences; Lin Fang, principal investigator.

What can we do to change the increasing trend in our cities of neighbourhood inequality?
Understanding how Mainland Chinese immigrants negotiate cross-cultural experiences; Lin Fang, principal investigator.

How can we mobilize knowledge across Canada in child welfare? A Canadian incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

What kind of employment challenges do skilled immigrants face?
Do skilled immigrants need Canadian (work) experience? Public engagement and conversation through new media and reader’s theatre; Izumi Sakamoto, principal investigator.

What are we learning about internalized stigma and post-diagnosis identities in schizophrenia?
Insight, internalized stigma and post-diagnosis identities in schizophrenia; Charmaine Williams, principal investigator.

What do we know about job satisfaction for social workers who work in health care? Programme job satisfaction and organizational commitment among Ontario’s social workers in health and aging; Kelsey Simmons, principal investigator.

How can we increase research capacity in Ontario child welfare authorities?
Increasing research capacity in Ontario child welfare authorities; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

What are we learning about precarious work in the global economy?
Precarious bodies, precarious work: Episodic, disabilities in the global economy; Ema Lightman, principal investigator.

How can we reduce healthcare associated infection in Vancouver?
Reducing healthcare associated infection in the Vancouver Metropolitan Region; Lin Zuberi, principal investigator.

What is the social worker’s role within interprofessional teams?
Social workers in Canadian health care: A national study of roles and positionality within interprofessional teams; Shelley Craig, principal investigator.

What are we learning about education migration in Canada?
Understanding the production and practice of education migration in Canada; Eunjung Lee, principal investigator.

What are we learning about the social determinants of mental health?
The social determinants of mental health: A Brazilian perspective; Wes Shera, principal investigator.

How can we help parents?
Northern Territorial Project; Aron Shlonsky, principal investigator.

What are the benefits of after-school programs?
Royal Bank All-Star School Grant Project evaluation; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

What are the benefits of the Mindfulness Ambassador Council for high school students?
Mindfulness Ambassador Council evaluation; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

What are we learning about emerging online tools for HIV protection?
Cruising counts: Examining Ontario provider responses to emerging online tools for HIV prevention among MSM; David Brennan, principal investigator.

What is the development of a cognitive behavioral group intervention to enhance coping and reduce depression in multi-ethnic sexual minority youth?
The development of a cognitive behavioral group intervention to enhance coping and reduce depression in multi-ethnic sexual minority youth; Shelley Craig, principal investigator.

What are we learning about Chinese immigrant families?
Hybridity process in Chinese immigrant families: A preliminary study; Lin Fang, principal investigator.

What are we learning about emerging technologies in education for HIV prevention?
Understanding the production and practice of education migration in Canada; Eunjung Lee, principal investigator.

What are we learning about education case management?
Outcome evaluation of an ethno-specific intensive case management program; Lin Fang, principal investigator.
Carmen Logie’s
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Carmen Logie has joined the Faculty as an Assistant Professor, effective July 1, 2013. Logie, who received her PhD at the FIFSW, comes to our Faculty from the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work where she was an Assistant Professor.

Logie works with some of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations around the world. Her research in countries such as Haiti, Lesotho and Swaziland focuses on understanding how different forms of stigma and discrimination affect health. “Once we know that,” she says, “we can promote health with people who experience discrimination and marginalization and challenge stigma and discrimination.”

“A lot of my work,” Logie says, “is with HIV positive women and sexual minorities. I’m interested in the way homophobia impacts such issues as risk for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases as well as depression. My goal is to find the factors that help people promote resilience.”

Right now Logie is wrapping up phase one in Haiti where she was teaching women who were living in tents to become community health workers and raise awareness about HIV. (In order to work in Haiti, Logie received the prestigious Grand Challenges Canada Rising Star in Global Health Award, funded by the Government of Canada and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.) Now she’s working in Jamaica, Swaziland and Lesotho with sexual minority youth – a population Logie calls “under-researched” – on issues related to stigma.

In all of these places, Logie collaborates with “amazing community-based groups.” In Jamaica, she is working with a local theatre group who will perform street theatre to raise awareness about health issues and in Swaziland and Lesotho, she will collaborate with local groups who are putting on community-based performances designed to reduce stigma and discrimination. “That’s where I see myself moving,” she says, “towards more intervention.”

“Through data collection and information sharing,” says Fallon, “we hope that we can develop more effective responses to child abuse and enhance services and supports for children in need.”

Barbara Fallon’s
GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH IS HELPING TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Barbara Fallon has been appointed an Associate Professor at the Faculty, as of July 1, 2013. Fallon, who received her PhD at the Faculty, has been an Assistant Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work since 2006. Fallon’s research focuses on child abuse and neglect and in 2009, she received the Child Welfare League of Canada’s Research and Evaluation Achievement Award in recognition of her groundbreaking research.

For many years, Fallon has been one of the lead investigators of the Canadian Incidence Study (CIS) of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect. Funded primarily by the Public Health Agency of Canada, three massive studies have been conducted so far, with reports released in 1998, 2003 and 2008.

The CIS is an important milestone in providing a national picture of child abuse. Conducted every five years, CIS has dramatically transformed our knowledge of child abuse in Canada. “It gives us,” says Fallon, “for the very first time, national estimates of child abuse and neglect investigated by child welfare services in Canada. These data strengthen our understanding of the extent of abuse and neglect and guide policy and research responses to the problem.”

Working with a team of researchers from across Canada on the 2008 CIS, Fallon has helped to produce dramatic evidence that Aboriginal children are over-represented in the child welfare system. This finding has alerted First Nations child and family service agencies and the provinces to the desperate need to redesign services available to Aboriginal children.

CIS data have informed the child welfare policies of provincial and territorial governments, the federal government and international human rights bodies and have been featured in reports to the United Nations, the Auditor General of Canada and the Senate Committee on Human Rights.

“Through data collection and information sharing,” says Fallon, “we hope that we can develop more effective responses to child abuse and enhance services and supports for children in need.”
Ellen Katz<br>BRINGS A FOCUS ON CLINICAL PRACTICE AND COMMUNITY LINKS

Ellen Katz joins the Faculty as a Lecturer (teaching 60% / Director of Continuing Education 40%), effective Jan. 1, 2014. Katz is a Senior Clinician, Educational Coordinator and Program Supervisor at the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre.

Katz’s career has focused on clinical practice innovation and developing new ways to practise effectively. She received her MSW and PhD at the Faculty and has had an extensive involvement with the FIFSW in a number of capacities. As the Educational Coordinator at Hincks, she has been a field instructor for a number of MSW students. Katz has also conducted joint research ventures between the Faculty and Hincks. After graduating with her doctorate (she did a thesis on mindfulness and teaches mindfulness in the MSW program), Katz was appointed Status-Only at the FIFSW.

“My new position,” Katz says, “is focused on teaching and clinical practice at the FIFSW – whether this is within the MSW program or as Director of Continuing Ed – and on re-enforcing continued links with the community. One of my priorities in this new position will be to further develop links between the Faculty and the community. I will actively look for ways to do this. One of the ideas I’m proposing is to develop a family therapy course for MSW students that would be taught at the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre.”

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

For a number of years, our Faculty has been involved in the Creative Institute for Toronto’s Young (CITY) Leaders, in partnership with United Way Toronto. This innovative leadership development institute is dedicated to promoting youth involvement in community organizing, social activism and civic engagement in Toronto’s priority neighbourhoods.

The program educates and engages promising young people who are working in Toronto’s disenfranchised neighbourhoods, through theoretical education, applied learning, mentoring and peer networking, to become effective leaders in Toronto’s non-profit sector and communities. As a pre-requisite to graduating, each participant works on an Applied Learning community project. Projects this past year highlighted issues of sexuality, self-care, self-esteem, civic engagement and immigration.

With a new cohort graduating from the program a few weeks ago (graduates receive a co-certificate in leadership from our Faculty and United Way Toronto), alumni now number over 100. Wes Shera, FIFSW Liaison to the program, says that a recent standardized evaluation report (which surveyed participants, mentors and instructors) describes the significant impact graduates say the program has had on their lives, both personally and professionally. “It is strengthening their identities as leaders,” Shera says.

The Convocation pamphlet lists these inspirational words: “Meaningful change in our city and communities depends on your readiness to embrace challenge.” For CITY Leaders grads, these are words to live by.

But the most moving testimonials come from participants themselves. “There are young people all over Toronto who are working in communities with more energy and inspiration and are more confident in their skills because of this program. CITY Leaders is not an institute but a movement. I am proud to be an alumnus,” says one CITY Leader grad. Another grad says, “Two words describe my CITY Leaders experience: life-altering and transformative.”

NEW INITIATIVE DEDICATED TO FINDING SOLUTIONS TO WHAT AILS OUR CITIES

The University of Toronto is a collaborative partner in New York University’s new Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) – an ambitious venture dedicated to making cities across the globe more productive, livable, equitable and resilient. The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is one of the U of T faculties involved in the Brooklyn-based centre which was inaugurated in April 2013.

CUSP is an exciting initiative – a public-private research centre and graduate degree program that uses the city of New York as a real-life laboratory, mining it for data to develop solutions to the problems plaguing our cities. It is founded on the belief that it is through data research that we will come up with solutions to urban problems and have the greatest impact.

Its research and educational programs are designed to collect, integrate and analyze data in order to develop new products and services to improve cities. The goal is to make these solutions commercial through CUSP’s corporate partners.

The centre was created by New York University, NYU-Poly and a consortium of world-class universities and prominent tech companies in response to a challenge issued by New York City to create an applied science campus that will make the city a world capital of science and technology. U of T is partnering with Carnegie Mellon University, University of Warwick (UK), City University of New York and Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai in this endeavour. Major industrial partners are IBM, Cisco and Xerox and there are many US government partners as well. 
Each year, the Gordon Cressy Leadership Awards are given out to graduating students who have made outstanding extra-curricular contributions both at U of T and in the community. Five impressive FIFSW MSW graduates received the award in 2013: Cynda Ashton, Rebecca Bliss and Yick Kan Chan.

These students were involved in the Faculty, across the University – where they collaborated on such projects as an interprofessional student-run healthcare clinic catering to Toronto’s underserved and homeless – and in the community. Most of all, they made a difference. Like all of our FIFSW graduates, they are committed to improving the world around them and inspiring others to do the same.

“Being involved in committees was a chance to work closely with students and faculty and develop leadership skills, as well as implement one of my core beliefs in the importance of interprofessionalism. My work with others at the FIFSW and across U of T as a volunteer is important to me because it is about creating community.”

Rebecca Bliss (MSW 2013) worked on committees such as the Graduate Students Association executive and an interprofessional health sciences committee and volunteered in the community.

“Participating in the Faculty so meaningful has allowed me to meet many of my student and faculty colleagues, broaden my learning and develop tangible skills. It’s been a lot of fun collaborating with FIFSW students in support of local causes – seeing the benefit such programming has within the Faculty and the community is its own reward.”

Timm Sond (MSW 2013) worked on an IT health promotion campaign including Green Dot (to end gender-based violence) and the Healthy U Crew (to create a healthier campus) and sat on the FIFSW Buddy committee.

“The more I got involved in campus activities, the happier I was and the better my overall student experience. I felt that I was making a difference, whether by raising awareness of social issues or by helping students to live healthier lives. It was quite personal since it boosted my self-confidence and made me feel more energized and passionate about life.”

Yick Kan Cheung (MSW 2013) was the Co-Director of IMAGINE, a student-run clinic where U of T health sciences professionals and students work on interprofessional teams to serve the most marginalized in the community, and was active in the Faculty and the community.

“How do you measure the power of a single bequest? If, like Jacob Rosenstadt, you would like to honor someone in your life or leave your own personal legacy, consider leaving a gift in your will to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. Bequests allow you to feel good about your gift now while donating it later.

A bequest is a gift in your will, which you can direct to the Faculty. You can also direct it to a particular area of research at the Faculty. You can, for example, designate the funds to be applied to research related to an issue that is important to you, perhaps children and families or aging. Whatever you decide, your estate will be eligible for a tax receipt that can be used in the year of death and the preceding year.

There are many ways to donate to the Faculty – from writing a cheque to leaving instructions in your will. To explore the donation option which best suits your financial and philanthropic goals, please contact the Advancement Office at (416) 978-4437 or fund.fsw@utoronto.ca.
The hugely successful Applied Mindfulness Meditation Certificate Program designed to teach mindfulness meditation practices within a wide range of personal and professional areas. "Our students come from all walks of life and professions," says co-director Michele Chaban. "They are educators, therapists, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists, MBAs as well as yoga practitioners and Buddhists, all wanting to learn about the 2600 Buddhist roots of mind."

Chaban is trained as a social worker, philosopher and end-of-life care practitioner. She was recently joined in the program by a new co-director, Dekyi-Lee Oldershaw, a former Tibetan Buddhist nun who has been educating practitioners for 20 years. Chaban says that there is no doubt that the FIFSW program has become a hub, creating what she calls "the Golden Horseshoe of Mindfulness."

For the past few years, Chaban and her colleagues have worked closely with McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences to help them develop a mindfulness-based program to reduce stress and promote resilience. The FIFSW program is also collaborating with Peel-Dufferin Catholic Family Services to develop a mindfulness-based program there as well.

"Mindfulness and mindfulness meditation," says Chaban, "bring us back to foundational values that are compassionate and person-focused. Mindfulness helps to humanize the systems we live and practise in. Imagine if we could create healthier people, professionals, workplaces and environments for conflict and leadership – we would make the world a better place. These are the values of a civil society. The FIFSW is working to promote this kind of society."

"Mindfulness and mindfulness meditation," she says, "can be used as a core interprofessional theory on health, resilience, communication and relationships. After all, we all must breathe. But it is how we breathe that makes a difference to how we think, feel, live within our own skin and relate to others."

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2012-2013 marked another extremely successful year for Continuing Education at the FIFSW. Enrolment is increasing at a remarkable pace and innovative new courses continue to be added in response to unprecedented demand. Timely programs such as Mindfulness Meditation, Cybercounselling and Solution-Focused Counselling are clearly meeting a strong need, as social workers and other professionals flock to the courses.
Your Contribution has a Significant Impact

“Graduate students experience stressful periods related to our workloads – that is inevitable. But it is quite another thing entirely to be worried about not having the financial resources to make the minimum tuition payments for the upcoming semester. And yet, this is a reality for many of us.

Financial awards are often critical to our ability to complete our education. Through your contributions, you are helping to ensure that students with the drive and passion to pursue a career in social work do not face financial barriers that would prevent them from completing their studies.

When you give an award, you aren’t just supporting a student financially – you are telling that student that the work they are doing is valuable and meaningful. You are making a powerful statement, in accordance with the key values and principles of social work practice, that a lack of means should never be a barrier to accessing education. Your generous donations are helping to support us in our social work journeys as we strive to make positive change in the world.”

Cynda Ashton (MSW 2013) was speaking to contributors who have provided scholarships at a March 19th FIFSW Donor Appreciation Event.

Gifts to the FIFSW have a powerful impact. If you would like to change the life of a promising student like Cynda, please contact the Advancement Office at fund.fsw@utoronto.ca at (416) 978-4437.