

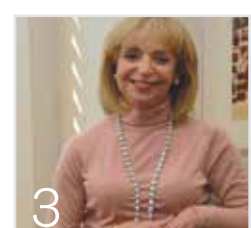
# REACH

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SOCIAL WORK HISTORY

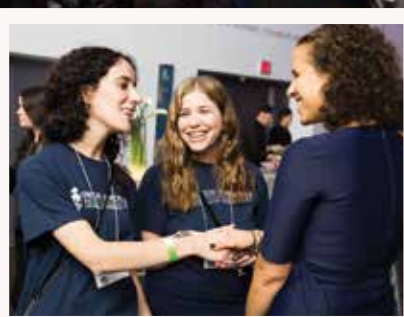
It was an incredible night. A night for celebrating. A night to schmooze and connect. A night to honour the extraordinary work this Faculty has accomplished over the past century. When an exuberant crowd of more than 550 people took over the elegant, candle-lit first floor of the Royal Ontario Museum on October 29, 2014 to help the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work launch its 100th Anniversary Celebratory Year, there was an infectious sense of excitement. It was a memorable night.

[ continued on page 2 ]

Launching Our Next 100 YEARS



3 Inspired Giving



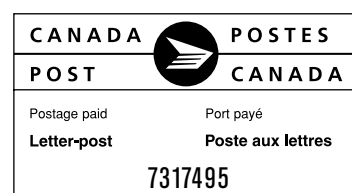
4 Our Alumni Family



**FACTOR-INWENTASH**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work**  
**University of Toronto**  
246 Bloor St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5S 1V4  
Canada

**Non-priority**  
**Non prioritaire**





## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

At the Royal Ontario Museum on October 29, 2014, we launched our Faculty's 100th Anniversary Celebratory Year with a wonderful evening. It was a true celebration of all that this remarkable Faculty has accomplished over the past century and all that it still has to accomplish over its next 100 years of impact.

Looking out at the crowd of enthusiastic supporters at the ROM, I felt tremendously honoured and moved to be there with all of you. I saw different generations of alumni, faculty, staff, students, emeriti professors, field instructors, community partners, friends and supporters – everyone gathered together for one glorious night to proudly proclaim that the work this Faculty is pursuing matters. It matters because for 100 years this Faculty and its extraordinary network of alumni and community partners have been changing lives.

I am enormously proud to be dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at this pivotal moment in its history. As our Faculty enters its second century, it is uniquely positioned to take social work education, practice and research in exciting new directions by responding to tomorrow's challenges with vision and imagination. It's been wonderful being able to share our Faculty's 100th Anniversary Celebratory Year with all of you.

With best wishes,

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

# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SOCIAL WORK HISTORY

[ continued from page 1 ]

They were there to honour and support Canada's first school of social work which began educating generations of social workers a century ago. The lively crowd gave a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the inspirational speakers and watched a video outlining the Faculty's history and successes. Speakers such as the Honourable Reza Moridi, Minister of Research and Innovation and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities; U of T's Vice-President and Provost Cheryl Regehr, a former FIFSW dean; prominent alumnus Gordon Cressy; and the Honourable Michael Wilson, U of T's Chancellor, described the essential contribution the Faculty has made – and continues to make – in changing society for the better.

What made the evening so very special was the exciting cross-section of people who attended: it was a true convergence. Alumni, friends, supporters, faculty, staff, emeriti professors, representatives of community organizations as well as the Faculty's many community partners mingled convivially with students in bright blue T-shirts with the Faculty's 100th anniversary logo emblazoned on their sleeves, all of them clearly enjoying the chance to celebrate together.

The festive evening generated a strong sense of pride in the valuable contribution social workers make to society. Guests had the chance to visit an exhibit housed on the second floor of the ROM outlining the important role social work has played in Toronto for the past 100 years. "Classroom to Community: A Century of Social Work in Toronto" was created by the Faculty in conjunction with Family Service Toronto (also celebrating its 100th anniversary) and the University of Toronto's Museum Studies at the Faculty of Information. Each guest left the celebration with a commemorative book created by the Faculty in honour of this momentous occasion outlining the history and achievements of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work over the past century.

FACTOR-INWENTASH | FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK | UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## Launching Our Next 100 YEARS

**SAVE the DATE**  
**SYMPOSIUM & LUNCH BUFFET**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2015 | 8:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.**  
The Royal Conservatory of Music  
273 Bloor Street West | Mazzoleni Concert Hall

**SEX TRAFFICKING AND HOMELESS YOUTH: A SOLUTION-FOCUSED APPROACH**

Michele Anderson, Covenant House Human Trafficking Expert  
& Bruce Rivers, Executive Director, Covenant House, Toronto

**ALANIS OBOMSAWIN: "THE CHILDREN'S COURT CASE"**  
**CINDY BLACKSTOCK: CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL ON FIRST NATIONS**

Alanis Obomsawin, Award-Winning Filmmaker  
& Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director,  
First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada  
and Associate Professor, University of Alberta

**TRAUMA-INFORMED SOCIAL WORK: WHAT IS IT AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?**

Dr. Nancy J. Smyth, Dean and Professor,  
University of Buffalo, School of Social Work



### FIFSW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AGM AND SPRING REUNION 2015

May 27, 2015  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
7th floor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

6:00 – 6:30 pm FIFSW Alumni Association AGM  
6:45 – 9:00 pm Mix and mingle  
Mark your calendars now for this great opportunity to reconnect with other alumni and the Faculty in our 100th anniversary year.

## PARENTS' STORY OF SURVIVAL INSPIRES GIVING

We are extremely grateful to Tammy Balitsky and her husband, Jerry Balitsky, for creating the Tammy and Jerry Balitsky Scholarship. Tammy, who is the Professional Practice Leader, Social Work at North York General Hospital, has an impressive record of continued support of our Faculty. For many years she has supervised social work students and field instructors, facilitated student workshops and seminars and worked interprofessionally to develop collaborative placements for social work students. She's also one of the co-chairs of the Faculty's 100th Anniversary Celebratory Year. In recognition of her many contributions to our Faculty, she received the University of Toronto's Arbor Award in 2014.

This is the second scholarship the Balitskys have generously created. The first, the Luba and Icek Muskat Award, honoured Tammy Balitsky's parents' story as Holocaust survivors. She says that her inspiration in contributing to the Faculty can be found in the story of her parents' lives.

"I don't do much without thinking about what my parents and my husband's parents went through," she says. "They lived through tremendous hardship; they were deprived of the opportunity to go to school all because of hatred and the horrors they were forced to endure during the Holocaust. My husband and I were motivated to create these scholarships because of that unforgettable historical journey. On arrival to Canada with nothing but hope and pain in their pockets our parents managed to build new lives. We understand well what it's like to need help and what hope can accomplish."

## THIS IS HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

### ALUMNA CREATES SCHOLARSHIPS FOCUSING ON SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE



MARION SOLOWAY

We are most appreciative of alumna Marion C. Soloway for creating a second scholarship at our Faculty. Since graduating with an MSW more than thirty years ago, Marion has been a Toronto social worker providing individual and couple counselling. When she decided to create a second scholarship, she knew that she wanted to highlight her own passion: clinical social work. Both her first scholarship (for MSW students) and her most recent one (for PhD students) focus on clinical practice.

"Practice is my passion," she says. "This scholarship comes from my personal commitment to practice and to the exciting work being done at the Faculty. I wanted to do something that I felt connected to. Reflecting back on my career, its most gratifying aspect is whenever I've helped someone change. It can take a long time, but when change happens, there's no greater satisfaction. That's what practice can do. It was very important to me to know that the Faculty is similarly committed to practice."

A further enticement for her in creating these scholarships was the opportunity to make a sound investment through the University's



TAMMY BALITSKY SPEAKING AT THE OCT. 29 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE ROM

A tireless advocate of new learning opportunities for social work students, she finds field education fulfilling because it enables her to play a role in the development of future social workers. She was honoured for her exemplary commitment to field education with the Heart of Social Work Award in 2010 when the annual award, which recognizes excellence in field education, was given to a Canadian for the first time.

"I've grown both professionally and personally through my involvement with the Faculty," she says. "It's such an exciting environment because they are at the forefront of knowledge and cutting edge research. I take full advantage of that by attending lectures and workshops and staying involved. My association with the Faculty inspires me to reach a little higher, to go beyond. If I'm anything as a social worker, it is in large part because of the direction and help I've received from the Faculty. I learn from all the work I do, from supervising students to working on committees, all of it builds your character and broadens your horizons."

To Tammy and Jerry, thank you for your continued support.

matching program. "I saw that my contribution could go much further and that was important to me because it increases the potential for impact," she says.

Meeting the scholarship recipients – and seeing first-hand the kind of impact scholarships have – has been extremely meaningful. "The MSW students I've met are most impressive," she says. "You know intellectually the kind of power these scholarships have but it is completely different when you hear their personal stories and learn how they've used the funds – how it enabled them to pay their rent or pay off a student loan."

Creating these scholarships has felt like coming full circle. "When I started out as an MSW student, I knew that I wanted to help people solve their problems. But I quickly learned that it's one thing to want to help people and something else entirely to know how to do it. The excellent education I received at the Faculty enabled me to do exactly what I always wanted to do. As a student, I knew immediately that I loved clinical social work. I got it – it was what I was there for. It's a wonderful feeling to meet students who are just as enthusiastic about practice as I am," she says.

To Marion, we extend a warm thank you. This is how change happens: the Marion C. Soloway PhD Scholarship in Social Work Practice will have a significant impact on generations of students.

## BURSARIES HONOUR A LIFE OF SOCIAL IMPACT

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is extremely grateful to Florence and Robert Brownridge for establishing bursaries in memory of John (Jack) H. Zimmerman. These bursaries will be awarded to two students on an annual basis, in perpetuity.

A graduate of this Faculty, Jack Zimmerman (MSW 1953) moved back

to Winnipeg, immediately making a social impact as the Assistant Director of the Community Council of Greater Winnipeg. Prior to this he worked as a freelance writer and a CBC national news writer but always maintained a lifelong interest in social policy issues. His death from cancer in 1957 cut short a budding social work career and his 1955 marriage to Florence Lyon.

"These bursaries would have meant a great deal to Jack," says Florence Brownridge. "He would have been pleased that they were provided in the year the Faculty is celebrating 100 years of continuous scholarship in social work."

Creating the John (Jack) H. Zimmerman Bursaries is a most meaningful and fitting tribute to his memory.

# CELEBRATING OUR FACULTY'S MOST IMPORTANT LEGACY: OUR ALUMNI FAMILY

Our alumni constitute a powerful legacy – generations of committed social workers stretching across the past century. In our Faculty's 100th Anniversary Celebratory Year, meet some alumni families who influence and inspire one another. Their stories are about strong ties, shared values, respect, pride and dedication.

## Meet 10 alumni families.



# 1

### The Honourable Mr. Justice James P. Felstiner and daughter Caroline Felstiner

The Honourable Mr. Justice James P. Felstiner (MSW 1961) always knew that he wanted to be a Juvenile Court judge. He just took an unusual route to get there. After completing his law degree at Harvard, he went on to his MSW at U of T. Retired now from the Ontario Court of Justice after a distinguished career, he believes social work made him a better judge. His daughter, Caroline Felstiner (MSW 2001), is a family mediator. Her work frequently takes her to court where she encounters people eager to discuss her father's impact on their lives. "My father's social work values and awareness of the dynamics of relationships carried through in his judicial career. No other judge matched him for compassion," she says.

Between his first and second MSW year, Felstiner was an intake social worker at an Ontario training school for boys. He loved the work but was disturbed by an inequity in the law: children could be admitted to training schools without a court hearing. His MSW thesis, which argued against this, led to a change in legislation. After his MSW, he was a University Settlement House street worker for four years,

forging strong bonds, and is still in touch with some of the youth whose lives he touched then.

"Four years on the streets was a huge education for me," he says. "It helped me to understand the problems of people appearing in front of me. I believe it helped to make me a more compassionate judge. Once I was appointed, I always thought of them as my kids. My cases. This is where social work taught me a great deal because I was sincerely interested in their lives."

Her father's profound commitment was an important influence on Caroline Felstiner. As an MSW student, she worked on a groundbreaking study as a research placement. The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect is a mammoth, multi-year initiative which has had significant impact. After graduation, she continued on the monumental project (co-managing for a number of years), before becoming a family mediator. "I try to set my clients on a good path so that they can continue helping themselves. I want to help them find a road map to follow during a very difficult transition," she says, sounding just as dedicated as her father.

# 2

### Debbie Garbe and daughter Alison MacKenzie

Alison MacKenzie (MSW 2013) grew up observing her social worker mother, Debbie Garbe (MSW 1978), in a variety of roles. She saw that the field is much broader than the traditional idea of a social worker. Garbe is retired now. Her career took her from the front line to management at the Metro Toronto Children's Aid Society and at children's mental health centres; then to a consulting career where she coordinated and conducted projects related to program development, research and policy for local and provincial organizations. "Alison was exposed to my values: to my commitment to social justice and to the provision of the best possible services," Garbe says. Inspired by her mother, MacKenzie credits being brought up in a home where the core value of giving back to the community was a central focus. Garbe herself grew up with the same social

values emphasizing responsibility to the community.

Since graduation, MacKenzie has worked as a Women's Health Coordinator at Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre and Network Coordinator at Agincourt Community Service Association. She loves the work because it gives her the chance to work alongside community members and support them to address needs. The first highly successful initiatives she organized were culturally relevant garden training and community research projects. She worked side by side with women primarily from the South Asian community to improve their overall health and wellbeing. MacKenzie says that she couldn't have done this work if it hadn't been for courses she took at the Faculty.

It was also at the Faculty that she developed the critical thinking skills MacKenzie uses every day. "For me, social work is about social change. What drives me as a social worker is to support people so they can build on their strength and resiliency," MacKenzie says. Her mother says, "My MSW was a growth-producing experience. I encountered like-minded people who encouraged me in what I wanted to pursue. It prepared me for my career with a solid theoretical framework and fundamental social work skills."



## 3

## Triplets Jenn, John and Katie Hunter

Triplets Jenn, John and Katie Hunter (MSW 2012) loved being in the Faculty's MSW program at the same time. "It didn't feel so unusual to have all three of us together because we felt that we were part of a kind of extended family," Jenn Hunter says. "Just like in a family, the interactions were supportive and people cared about your well-being." The experience also meant that they expanded – tripled, really – their networks and opportunities for learning. Since graduating, they have pursued further education. Jenn Hunter is now launched on a clinical psychology PhD at York University. Her siblings are studying law at Queen's University, graduating in 2015. Whatever their chosen careers, they believe that having an MSW gives them an important edge because the skills they learned can be applied everywhere.



An intergenerational social work family, their mother (a therapist with an MSW) is their inspiration. "We always knew that we wanted to be in professions that help people," says Jenn Hunter. "That's why social work is such a necessary foundation for whatever we do." Social work has taught them essential skills: how to research, communicate with people and think critically.

Jenn Hunter, whose dissertation will explore how creativity affects people's moods, says that social work ignited her interest in therapy. John Hunter's social work skills are of enormous benefit in the law. "You learn how to communicate – how to speak to people and conduct interviews – and the importance of working interprofessionally," he says. Katie Hunter frequently uses her social work skills when working in the Office of the Children's Lawyer. "The benefit of a social work perspective to legal practice is immeasurable. For instance, my social work training in attachment theory helps me approach my cases with an expanded understanding," she says.

The best learning experience Katie Hunter ever had was as a student at our Faculty, working at Counselline (an initiative in which FIFSW MSW students provide face-to-face and online counselling for Faculty of Arts and Science Colleges undergraduates). "I gained tremendous insight into how people feel and think and learned how to communicate and how to listen," she says.

*"It didn't feel so unusual to have all three of us together, we felt that we were part of a kind of extended family."*

## 4

## Rosemarie Johnson and son Jerome Johnson

Rosemarie Johnson (MSW 1981) brought up her son, Jerome (MSW 2015), in a culture of community service and doing for others. Retired now after a 30-year career as a social worker with the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), she would often bring him along to the many community initiatives she developed. Seeing his mother's passionate commitment as he was growing up gave Jerome Johnson a familiarity with the profession. Most of all, he saw the important role of the social worker. Rosemarie Johnson never expected her son to follow in her footsteps. And if you ask him about his future plans, he says that while he's enjoying his education – his practicum at the TCDSB is a "great experience" – he's still not sure what he wants to do. These days, they enjoy being able to bounce ideas off one another, and, whatever career he ends up in, Jerome Johnson is certain social work will help.

"I put my heart into my work," Rosemarie Johnson says. "My strength is community development and in collaborating with agencies. I loved that I could work with different populations and create my own role." Recently she's been enjoying getting involved in the Faculty again as part of our Faculty's 100th Anniversary Celebratory Year team (she is on the Promotions & Gift Ideas Committee).

Jerome Johnson finds the Faculty to be a warm and supportive environment. He has learned a great deal from both of his placements. In his first year, he was part of a close-knit, interprofessional team who visited recently discharged patients in their homes. "I loved my placement last year and this year I'm enjoying having a role that is quite different," he says. "I'm learning the importance of taking into account the entire system and all of the parts. I can see that if you want to generate positive change and reach a solution, you need to get everyone on board. You can't just talk to the parent or the teacher, everyone has to be involved. The social worker plays such an important role."

## 5

## Barbara Muskat and daughter Adina Muskat



A wonderful moment

happened onstage at Convocation Hall at our Faculty's June 2014 Convocation ceremony when Adina Muskat (MSW 2014) received her diploma. She got an enormous hug from her mother, Barbara Muskat (PhD 2008), who (as an assistant professor status-only), was seated with other faculty. Her friends cheered and some professors seemed a little surprised. No wonder really, since they'd kept the connection as quiet as possible. "We have

been careful not to blur the boundaries," Adina Muskat says. "Everyone knows my mother. She has a strong reputation and has worked in many settings. We have worked to make it work so that I know I am moving forward on my own merit."

Adina Muskat loves being a social worker because her MSW is so versatile and she doesn't feel limited. After graduation, she got a job in the Toronto Western Hospital's Bariatric Clinic – where she'd already had a first-year placement – conducting mental health assessments with patients who are there for weight-loss surgery. "It's such an exciting environment because I am working with people who are extremely motivated to make major life changes," she says.

As the Clinical Director of Social Work at SickKids, Barbara Muskat supports and oversees staff and promotes patient-centred care. She is a passionate advocate for the crucial role social workers play

in hospitals with their strength-based perspective. A child and adolescent therapist with over 35 years experience in direct clinical work, she's been the lead researcher on many initiatives and is well known throughout the children's mental health community. She teaches at the Faculty, recently developing an innovative MSW course taught by hospital professionals on-site.

Like all the alumni families profiled here, a strong pride in one another is evident in everything this mother and daughter say about each other. "Adina is a wise and empathic soul," her mother says. "I couldn't be prouder of all that she has accomplished." And Adina says, "I hear my mother's wisdom and reflect on all that she's done and the impact she's had. I am conscious of talking to her both as my mother and as a professional. It is an enormous luxury to discuss things with her off the record. I learn so much and my respect for her has deepened."

*Like all alumni families profiled here, a strong pride in one another is evident in everything this mother and daughter say about each other.*

## 6

## Judy Newman and mother Goldie Rotstein Berg

Judy Newman (MSW 1975) was inspired to become a social worker by watching the committed career of her social worker mother, Goldie Rotstein Berg (BSW 1950). "I consider my career to be paying it forward. I was inspired by seeing the extraordinary dedication my mother brought to her profession. My mother always said that social workers provide a crucial perspective that others do not have," Newman says. Also inspirational was the fact that her mother worked in a variety of roles: from front-line Children's Aid work and geriatric social work at the Baycrest to a successful career as an administrator of private nursing homes. "I saw because of watching my mother's career that social work skills are transferable," she says.

Particularly meaningful to Newman (an administrator herself) is that her mother was one of the few social workers to become administrators at that time. As Program Manager for the Supervised Access Program in the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney-General, Newman oversees 106 locations across the province as well as funding contracts with service providers and workers. The program provides safe, neutral, child-focused settings for supervised visits and exchanges between children and parents or other adults such as grandparents. Newman, who has worked in the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney-General since 1994, worked previously in the Office of the Children's Lawyer.

Newman feels a strong connection to the Faculty and the University.

A committed field instructor since 1994, she enjoys working with students. "Students keep you fresh. They ask wonderful questions and enable you to see things differently. My current program analyst used to be a student of mine," she says. Newman is working closely with Professor Michael Saini on a research project developing a risk-based tool



JUDY NEWMAN'S MOTHER, GOLDIE ROTSTEIN BERG, AT HER GRADUATION (WITH NEWMAN'S FATHER, DR. MORTON BERG)

**"I consider my career to be paying it forward. I was inspired by seeing the extraordinary dedication my mother brought to her profession."**

to assist in arranging supervised access. She's been lucky enough to have had a number of excellent social work role models in her career, beginning with her mother. Newman's own placement as an MSW student at Mount Sinai Hospital was inspiring because it enabled her to see good leadership up close. "They were the consummate hospital social workers who showed me what it means to stand up and be an advocate," she says.

7

## Kasia Seydegart and daughter Sarah Spears

Social work runs in the family for Kasia Seydegart (MSW 1973) and her daughter, Sarah Spears (MSW 2011). Seydegart's mother, Janina Seydegart who obtained her MSW from Columbia, was a social worker at Children's Aid and a U of T Faculty field instructor in the 1960s and 1970s. "It is a gift to be part of this legacy of three generations of social workers," Seydegart says. "My mother was my inspiration. Social work was highly valued in our home."

In honour of the legacy, the Seydegart family established, two scholarships at our Faculty: one honours Janina Seydegart's dedication to social work and strong feminist beliefs (she was a founding member of the Feminist Party of Canada); the second, linked to life-long learning and aging honours her father, Stanislaw Seydegart. A third scholarship has been established by the Seydegart-Spears family for the advancement of social work practice in palliative, end of life care. These scholarships are meaningful tributes and our Faculty is extremely grateful for the continued support.

Since 1981, Seydegart and her husband have run a national research firm conducting social research. Social work skills have been invaluable, both professionally – "Social work taught me to see the world as a system and to bring a holistic approach to any problem," Seydegart says – and in her committed volunteer life as the co-founder of a rural multi-service community agency and Chairperson of a hospice foundation board. "My

mum is a social worker in every interaction she has because she is fascinated by people and truly cares," her daughter says. "I have always been in awe of how she relates to others. When I was growing up, I loved hearing my mum and grandmother tell stories about social work. I could feel the impact they had on people's lives."

Spears, who is a social worker in the Crisis Clinic at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), enjoys working with diverse populations. She has just resumed working in the Clinic after being seconded to the Project team that developed a centralized intake service at CAMH. Social work, she says, provided the groundwork for understanding how systems function and how to create change. These days, mother-daughter conversations frequently return to one common subject. "Talking with my mum, our conversations may not start out being about social work, but that's where they tend to end up and that's wonderful," Spears says.



*"It is a gift to be part of this legacy of three generations of social workers."*

## 8 Lorie Shekter-Wolfson and mother Dorothy Shekter

Lorie Shekter-Wolfson (MSW 1975) grew up seeing first-hand the powerful impact her social worker mother, Dorothy Shekter (DCSW\* 1941), had on people's lives. "She worked for many years for Hamilton Jewish Federation helping refugees resettle after the war. For years, whenever we were out together, someone would come up to say how important she'd been to them. My mother was an amazing social worker who had an effect on hundreds of people," Shekter-Wolfson says.

A professional social worker at a time when it was rare for women to attend university, Dorothy Shekter earned a BA in economics from McMaster University in the 1930s (where she was frequently told she should give up her place for a man) and her MSW from our Faculty. "She was my inspiration," Shekter-Wolfson says. "And it wouldn't have happened without the Rabbi Brickner Scholarship. Receiving it enabled her to attend the Faculty." Remarkably, that scholarship was established in the 1930s to honour the rabbi's

work in helping new immigrants settle in Montreal. Shekter-Wolfson and her siblings have established the

Dorothy Shekter Scholarship at our Faculty in honour of her mother and we are extremely grateful to them. This scholarship is a fitting way to carry the legacy of Dorothy Shekter forward.

An impressive role model herself, Shekter-Wolfson is a proud social worker. President and CEO of JVS Toronto, she leads a community-based organization offering employment training and assessment services. Before JVS, as Assistant Vice-President, Waterfront Development and Dean, Community Services and Health Services at George Brown College, she was at the helm of the strategic planning and opening of a new state-of-the-art waterfront campus. She's also a co-chair of our Faculty's 100th Anniversary Celebratory Year with close ties to the Faculty.

"Social work is a tremendous strength. The skills I learned at the Faculty have served me well my entire career because they translate anywhere. Being a social worker means you understand how things work and why they don't. You also understand when and how to intervene. At the Faculty, I learned advocacy skills, how to work with a team and how to make things happen. Social work taught me how to make change happen," she says.

\* Diploma/Certificate in Social Work



LORIE SHEKTER-WOLFSON (FAR LEFT) AND DOROTHY SHEKTER (FAR RIGHT) WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS AT THE FACULTY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

## 9 Adriana Shnall and daughter Joanna Shnall

Adriana Shnall (MSW 1988, PhD 2014) and her daughter Joanna Shnall (MSW 2014) were students at the Faculty at the same time. A social worker at the Baycrest's Sam and Ida Ross Memory Clinic, Adriana Shnall defended her PhD dissertation in June 2014. That same month her daughter graduated. Both loved their experiences at the Faculty. Joanna

Shnall enjoyed meeting like-minded people who shared her goals and values. For her mother, getting her PhD – while working – encouraged her to try new intellectual challenges like presenting her work at conferences and teaching.



Joanna Shnall says she grew up in a social work family. "Values were passed down," she says. "I had a grandmother who was a sociologist, an uncle who was a social worker and the after-dinner talk when I was growing up was about issues like welfare." A researcher at Princess Margaret Hospital testing psychosocial therapeutic responses with patients with advanced cancer, she finds her work exciting. "What I like about social work is that people walk the walk and talk the talk," she says. "Social workers don't just discuss issues. They work every day in the system, motivated by a desire to do good and that's what makes them inspiring."

Adriana Shnall's PhD thesis focused on caregiving for people with early onset dementia. It grew directly out of over 23 years of direct practice experience as an outpatient social worker supporting patients and families living with dementia. It's work she loves because she develops relationships with patients that may last for years. "I get to see the whole course, from diagnosis onward. My role is to help people through this journey," she says. Adriana Shnall is writing better papers these days, thanks to her daughter. "One of the best things about having a daughter who is a social worker is that we consult with each other all the time. Joanna is my harshest critic. With every paper I write, she gives me critical and insightful feedback, improving it enormously. That has been an incredible blessing," she says.

## 10 Sisters Katharine Spears and Rachel Spears



Rachel Spears (MSW 2012) watched her older sister, Katharine (MSW 2008), attend the Faculty a few years before her. Both sisters also heard about social work from their cousin Sarah Spears and aunt Kasia Seydegart (also profiled here). Describing her experience at the Faculty, Rachel Spears says, "A real strength of the Faculty is its high quality placements." Both sisters are employed in social work jobs they are passionate about. Katharine Spears, a caseworker at St. Clair West Services for Seniors, provides support to seniors and disabled adults to help them live as long as possible in their own homes. Rachel Spears is a clinical social worker in the Eating Disorders Unit at the Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, a mental health hospital in Whitby, Ontario.

Katharine Spears fell in love with her work by doing it. "Everyone wants a job that is fulfilling and that's what I've found," she says. "I love that I am supporting people and that I can see the impact I'm having. Being a social worker means being intrigued by people's stories, supporting them and promoting their well-being and access to resources and services." Talking about her work in the Eating Disorders Unit, Rachel Spears says, "What you learn, once you get out into the world and you see that there is stuff that is just awful and can't be fixed, is that the best you can do is help people learn to find their way through truly murky territory."

Both had excellent experiences at the Faculty. Rachel Spears points enthusiastically to her practicum with field instructor Gina Dimitropoulos of Toronto General Hospital's Eating Disorder Program. What Katharine Spears values is that she learned to communicate respectfully. Rachel Spears says her older sister has always been an important influence, inspiring her to think critically. Katharine Spears loved being able to give her younger sister advice and support as she went through the Faculty. Now, they turn to each other as co-professionals and sisters, each with her own area of expertise.

### Me? A Field Instructor?

That's the intriguing name of a February 2 workshop organized by the Practicum Office that gave MSW students the chance to hear first-hand what it's like to be a field instructor. The workshop, which was offered for the first time last year, gives students who are about to graduate an opportunity to explore the field instructor experience with new field instructors.

Two first-time field instructors, Blair Audet (MSW 2012) and Kayleigh Gleidt (MSW 2012), candidly discussed their experiences. Audet is a social worker at the University of Toronto Schools where she is

responsible for supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of students and Gleidt is a social worker at Boost, an organization dedicated to eliminating abuse and violence in the lives of children, youth and their families. Both Audet and Gleidt enthusiastically described how much they were getting out of field instruction in terms of their own professional growth.

Field instruction has provided them with multiple benefits. It has helped them hone their leadership skills and to be seen as leaders within their organizations. The experience has given them the chance to

continue learning and to keep up with the latest research. And it has enabled them to grow in their own self-reflective practices. Audet and Gleidt described how much they've enjoyed the increased chance to network and how they value the support and feedback they've received from the Practicum Office and the chance to renew their connection with the Faculty.

Social workers who are interested in becoming field instructors can contact the Practicum Office at [practicum.fsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:practicum.fsw@utoronto.ca) for details.