Year in Review
2014-2015

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
Thank you for being such an important part of this past year. We want to thank our Chairs, our Honorary Chairs and the many people who helped to make our 100th Anniversary Year such an incredible success. We are grateful to all of you – alumni, supporters, faculty, staff, students, emeriti professors, field instructors, community partners and friends. The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work’s strong past has positioned us to be a global leader, as we take on the critical challenges that society will face over the next century. It has been an enormous pleasure to celebrate with you.

With best wishes,  

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

It has been an incredible year. A year of celebrating, a year of honouring this Faculty’s first century of accomplishment and a year of looking ahead with great anticipation to our next century.

The Opening Event at the Royal Ontario Museum was an inspiring way to begin. Celebrating there together with all of you, I could feel the passion and the pride. Then, a few days later, the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain gave a dynamic inaugural talk for the Distinguished Speaker Series. It was a privilege to hear Margaret – who has led the way on this cutting edge issue as a champion of early childhood education – speak about human development. The Bertha Rosenstadt Trust Showcase was another of the year’s highlights. It was wonderful to be part of the dialogue when our Faculty’s field placement partners shared ideas and discussed the research they are pursuing.

Now, we are launching our next 100 years with a symposium that truly reflects what our Faculty is known for. We are bringing people together from across communities to explore some of today’s most relevant and cutting edge challenges.

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With best wishes,  

Faye Mishna  
Dean, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work  
University of Toronto
A Celebration of Our Students

Spring Convocation June 10, 2015

01 Tracy Amponsah Ampoloh and her mother
02 Shauna-Lee Regular, Travis Marks and Lauren Kussen
03 Kowther Abbas and Natasha Ramzan and families
04 Bailey Hollister and family
05 Jenna Rines and Jenny Liu
06 Keresa Bailey and Chantelle Brown-Kent
ALUMNI GATHER IN THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR THE 2015 SPRING REUNION

When alumni came together on May 27, 2015 at the Faculty for the 2015 Spring Reunion, it was a great chance to mingle, re-connect and network during the Faculty’s 100th Anniversary Celebratory Year. The lively evening featured a raffle of recent publications by FIFSW faculty, alumni and students (which were displayed in a Book Expo).

AWARDS RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING ALUMNI MENTORS

Earlier in the evening, at the FIFSW AGM, MSW grads had the chance to thank publicly the Alumni Mentors who have made such a difference as they prepare to join the profession. The Outstanding Alumni Mentor Awards are a wonderful way for grateful new grads to acknowledge just how much the help they have received has meant to them.

"Mark was incredibly generous with his time and enthusiastic about being a mentor. I now feel more comfortable moving forward towards finding employment as a social worker, thanks to him.”

MARK NULAREN WAS NOMINATED BY NATALIE DZUDOVICH-RAMIREZ (MSW 2015).

"I was able to secure an interview for a position, which Heather helped me prepare for and generously was available for debriefing afterwards.”

HEATHER PURDON WAS NOMINATED BY DANA FOTIADIS (MSW 2015).

"Alex offered to look over my cover letter and resume and offer feedback. I was blown away by the amount of time and effort that she so clearly put into reviewing my materials.”

ALEX KOBAYASHI WAS NOMINATED BY APRIL PISANI (MSW 2015).

"Joey always demonstrated a positive attitude and acted as a positive role model in showing me what it takes to be productive and successful in private practice, including lessons learned.”

JOEY CRUMP WAS NOMINATED BY SYLVIA SIHAKKANE (MSW 2015).

"With Greg’s encouragement, I got a job offer after my second interview in April. I am now working as a Medical Social Worker on a Family Health Team, all thanks to my mentor Greg.”

GREG MANN WAS NOMINATED BY BIUCHUN TANG (MSW 2015).

"It was immediately clear to me that Shayna was an ally from our first meeting. She was very respectful and I felt that she really listened to me and was supportive of my goals.”

SHAYNA KULMAN-LIPSEY WAS NOMINATED BY DANA ISENBERG (MSW 2015).

"I think twice about making myself available to me, as well as the first email. She had confidence in my abilities and did not think twice about making herself available to me, as well as giving me support and advice.”

DID YOU KNOW? The Alumni Association was founded immediately after the Department of Social Service’s first graduation ceremony in May 1915. That same day, in the Household Science Building, proud alumni held their first meeting.

5 Books PUBLISHED THIS PAST YEAR BY FACULTY, ALUMNI AND STUDENTS

01. MARION BOGO, ELLEN KATZ, CARMEN LOGIE AND MARY RAWLINGS, "USING SIMULATION IN ASSESSMENT AND TEACHING: OSCE ADAPTED FOR SOCIAL WORK" (COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION PRESS)

02. MARGARET GIBSON, "QUEERING MOTHERHOOD: NARRATIVE AND HERETICAL PERSPECTIVES" (DEMETER PRESS)

03. WILBURN HAYDEN, "APPALACHIAN BLACK PEOPLE: IDENTITY, LOCATION AND BARRIERS" (OYSTER PRESS)

04. FAYE MISHNA AND MELISSA VAN WERT, "BULLYING IN CANADA" (OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS)

05. DAN ZUBERI, "SCHOOLING THE NEXT GENERATION: CREATING SUCCESS IN URBAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS" (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS, SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING DIVISION)

9 NEW PHD THESES EXAMINING CRITICAL ISSUES

This past year, 9 PhD students successfully defended their theses and then graduated in the Fall of 2014 or the Spring of 2015 Convocations.

Margaret Gibson’s thesis focused on LGBTQ parents’ experiences in engaging with special needs service systems.

Pamela Grassau’s thesis focused on mothers and daughters negotiating their end-of-life dialogues.

Dorothy Hasinoff explored declines and regains in income and health status among mid- and later-life Canadians.

Daphne Jeyapali’s thesis examined the 2009 Tamil diaspora protests in Canada.

Marjorie Johnstone’s thesis explored diverging and contesting feminisms in early social work history in Ontario from 1900 to 1950.

Jennifer Root focused on conceptualizing safety among women who experience intimate partner violence.

Sarah Serbinski explored the experience of young adult sons and daughters who have grown up in families that foster.

Adriana Shnall examined the experiences and coping strategies of spouses of people with early-onset dementia.

Hedy Anna Walsh explored cultural considerations in the delivery of homecare services.

Professor Sheila Neysmith, a highly valued member of our Faculty, will become an Emeritus Professor as of July 1, 2015. An integral part of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work community for many years, she brought a passion and commitment to her many roles: scholar, author of numerous books and publications, professor, Director of PhD Studies, RBC Chair in Applied Social Work Research, Associate Dean of Research, Director of Research and a valuable member of the University’s Research Advisory Board.
When former Alumni President Doreen Winkler died on October 15, 2014, our Faculty lost a trusted friend and adviser.

Remembering Doreen Winkler

For many years, Doreen was an important part of our Faculty. As Alumni President, she invigorated the association – attendance at events rose substantially – and once she stepped down, we continued to rely upon her judgement, her compassion, her advice, her tenacious will and her ability to get things done.

That was the way it was with Doreen. She was an absolutely essential part of so many activities both at our Faculty and across the University. When an external reviewer came to the Faculty, Doreen was the first person we arranged for them to meet. She represented the alumni on the Faculty Board from 1988 to 1999 and a recent member of the Ontario Review Board. She received the Canadian Association of Social Workers’ 2008 Distinguished Service Award for Ontario.

One of her many successes as Alumni President was to help fundraise for a scholarship. In typical Doreen style, she began by saying that she wouldn’t be any good at it. And of course it was just the opposite. In her no-nonsense, direct and down-to-earth way, she became the scholarship’s driving force, taking it far beyond its target – which was how she tackled everything in a life of considerable accomplishment.

Born on a farm in Kelvington, Saskatchewan, Doreen moved to Winnipeg to attend a school for the blind at the age of seven, eventually receiving a BA from a college in Brantford, Ontario and her MSW and PhD at our Faculty. (She credited her mother, who had not received an education herself, for pushing her to get one.)

Over a distinguished and varied social work career, Doreen made an important contribution to the promotion of social justice and human rights. She was a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board from 1988 to 1999 and a recent member of the Ontario Review Board. She received the Canadian Association of Social Workers’ 2008 Distinguished Service Award for Ontario.

Doreen was always a lot of fun at parties and she was missed at our October 29th anniversary celebration. Invariably, at any Faculty event, she could be found huddled in a corner, deep in conversation with a student. She had a special quality – she spoke straight from the heart – and we will miss her very much.

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

BRYN KING

APPOINTED ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Bryn King has been appointed Assistant Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work effective July 1, 2015. King received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley School of Social Work in August 2014 and her MSW at the New York University Silver School of Social Welfare. She was in practice for over 16 years, working primarily with children and families.

“I’m really impressed by the Faculty’s focus on practice,” King says.

“Of the things that drew me to the Faculty is that they are on the cutting edge of teaching practice. It was important to me to join a place where people are passionate about their work.”

Most recently King was a researcher at the California Child Welfare Indicators Project/Center for Social Services Research School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley. King says that her scholarship and research focus grew directly out of her many years in practice. “My primary goal in my research is to assess the well-being of older children and adolescents who come into contact with child welfare and spend time in foster care,” she says.

“We need to understand more fully what happens when these children and adolescents are in the system.” King says. “We don’t know enough about their experience of being in foster care or about the impact our interventions are having. We need to generate knowledge so we can improve and refine policies and services, with the aim of improving outcomes for these youth and their families.”

TOULA KOURGIANTAKIS

APPOINTED LECTURER AND SIMULATION EDUCATOR/COORDINATOR

Toula Kourgiantakis has been appointed Lecturer and Simulation Educator/Coordinator at the Faculty effective July 1, 2015. Kourgiantakis is completing her PhD in Social Work at Université Laval, where she received her MSW. Most recently, she was a family therapist and conducted her dissertation research at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH); she was also a part-time instructor at Ryerson University School of Social Work and at the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. With over 20 years of clinical experience with children, couples and families, Kourgiantakis has worked in a variety of settings from child welfare to schools to private practice. She is a registered couple and family therapist and a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Kourgiantakis’ research interests include family-centred approaches in addictions and mental health, complex mental health in adolescents, as well as best practices and competencies in social work and family therapy. Her dissertation examines the importance of family involvement in the treatment of problem gambling, an area Kourgiantakis says hasn’t received enough attention. “This involvement is key to the overall recovery process, not only for the individual, but for the entire family.”

Kourgiantakis calls the prospect of expanding the Faculty’s Simulation Program “a wonderful opportunity.” “I am excited to be part of a Faculty that has been examining the development and assessment of competencies in social work students and the use of innovative methods such as simulation,” she says.
Guests viewed an exhibit housed on the ROM’s second floor. “Classroom to Community: A Century of Social Work in Toronto” (which opened that night and ran until April 30) highlighted the crucial impact the Faculty has had in Toronto over the past century. It was created by the Faculty in conjunction with Family Service Toronto (also celebrating its 100th anniversary) and U of T’s Museum Studies at the Faculty of Information.

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!

Celebrations for our 100th Anniversary Year began with a flourish with a dazzling evening at the Royal Ontario Museum.

A warm, enthusiastic and joyful crowd of some 550 people filled the elegant first floor of the Royal Ontario Museum for a jubilant, candlelit 100th anniversary celebration. Alumni, friends, supporters, faculty, staff, professors emeriti, representatives of community organizations and the Faculty’s many community partners mingled with exuberant students sporting bright blue 100th Anniversary T-shirts, everyone eager to honour the transformative role this Faculty has played in communities over the past 100 years.

Speakers like 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 Dean, prominent alumnus Gordon Cressy, and The Honourable Michael Wilson, U of T’s Chancellor, extolled the Faculty’s achievements and successes over the past century. It was a night that made you proud of the critical contribution social workers make to society.

Guests left with a glossy commemorative book created by the Faculty in honour of its 100th anniversary. Written by recent PhD grad Marjorie Johnstone (pictured here), this handsome book with its lush photos spans the past 100 years, with a focus on what was happening at the Faculty and across the community.

A video featuring a lively account of significant highlights from the Faculty’s history kept the audience rapt.

The evening provided an important opportunity – the Field Instructors Appreciation Event – to pay homage and say a huge thank you to the extraordinary field instructors who play such an essential role in educating our MSW students.

It was in the elegant 100-year-old halls of the ROM that Sara Warren walked a century ago, perhaps thinking about the school of social work she was helping to found. Warren, a visionary philanthropist and community builder who also helped to found the ROM, provided essential funds at the last minute enabling Canada’s first social work school to open its doors in 1914. We were extremely pleased to honour Warren’s impressive legacy by saying thanks to four of her good-natured descendants who joined us for the celebrations.
Friends and family of Larry Enkin joined with faculty members, PhD students and staff at a convivial dinner honouring Larry Enkin for his generous gift of $1 million to expand the Faculty's Simulation Program. Speakers such as Dean Faye Mishna, David Palmer, Vice-President, Advancement and Sheldon Inwentash thanked Enkin, describing the profound impact of his transformational gift. Enkin’s gift enables the Faculty to continue as a simulation leader as it pursues the goal of making simulation the signature pedagogy of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

The Faculty’s internationally renowned Simulation Program grew out of groundbreaking research conducted by professor Marion Bogo and Cheryl Regehr, U of T’s Vice-President and Provost and a former dean of our Faculty. In a heartfelt speech, Bogo described how, only a few years ago, they had completed some exciting research studies. They’d demonstrated the effectiveness of using simulation with standardized trained actors to assess students’ competence. Bogo told the assembled crowd how she had described the results to Enkin and he immediately understood the tremendous potential of simulation and encouraged her to “dream big.”

Because of Enkin’s generous gift to the program – and with the help of many faculty members and students who are committed to using simulation in an ever-increasing range of ways – the Simulation Program has expanded rapidly. And the Faculty has become known as an international leader in social work education. “Larry was instrumental in making this happen,” Bogo said. “Larry’s visionary commitment has ensured that we can continue to develop, study and refine the use of simulation in social work education. His gift will enable the Faculty to continue its leadership.”
What are we learning about LGBTQ+ youth in the Northwest Territories?

What are we learning about emerging drivers of HIV/STI and protective factors; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What are we learning about elder protective services; David Burnes, principal investigator.

How are we working to support parents and children during separations? ARUC: Séparation parentale, reconstruction familiale; parents et enfants à soutien; Michael Saini, principal investigator.

What are we learning about elder services in Quebec; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

What are we learning about elder services in Ontario; David Brennan, principal investigator.

What are we learning about elder services in Quebec; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

How are we working to promote global development, health and prosperity? Global development, health and prosperity cluster Chair in social justice, equity and diversity; Peter Newman, principal investigator.

What are we learning about stigma and social resistance among sexual and gender minorities? Faye Mishra, principal investigator.

What are we learning about sexual behaviour, social networks and health services engagement? A mixed method exploration of sexual behaviour, social networks and health services engagement among youger gay, bisexual and other men who use the Internet to seek sex with men (W5MS) in Ontario; David Brennan, principal investigator.

What are we learning about elder poverty and inequity in Canada? Urban poverty, inequality and social policy in Canada; Dan Zubel, principal investigator.

How can we promote knowledge of child welfare kinship placement? A mixed methods multiple case study; Ramona Alaggia, principal investigator.

What are we learning about sexual minority youth? An open pilot feasibility study; Shelley Craig, principal investigator.

What are we learning about cyber bullying by following youths in grades 4, 7 and 10? Anti-bullying: A longitudinal and multi-perspective inquiry; Faye Mishra, principal investigator.

What are we learning about emerging online tools for HIV prevention? Exploring critical ethnography as an innovative approach; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What are we learning about stigma and inequity in Canada? What is the role of social media in influencing the professional judgement of social workers? What are we learning about using cyber technologies in an Aboriginal community health setting? How can we reduce healthcare associated infection in Vancouver? How can we change the increasing trend of neighbourhood inequality in our cities? Neighbourhood inequality, diversity and change: Trends, processes, consequences and policy in the North’s large metropolitan areas; David Hutchins, principal investigator.

How can we change the trajectories of HIV/AIDS risk for sexual minority youth? How can we help sexual minority youth develop coping skills to reduce HIV/AIDS risks? How can we help after experiencing domestic abuse and neglect; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

How can we mobilize knowledge about child welfare kinship placement? What are we learning about the role of social media in the context of rapidly changing immigration policies in Canada; Liang Fan, principal investigator.

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HONOURS and ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Rupaleem Bhyun received the 2015 Gender Equity Award from the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA). Bhyun was recognized for her exemplary work in the field of access, equity and inclusion as it relates to South Asians in Ontario. The award celebrates individuals who have contributed to CASSA’s fight for social and economic justice.

Two FIFSW faculty members, Professor Shelley Craig and Dr. Barbara Muskat, Clinical Director of Social Work at the Hospital for Sick Children, received the Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW) Inspirational Leader Award for 2015. The award is presented annually during Social Work Week. Craig and Muskat were chosen for their contributions to the profession that inspire others and reflect this year’s Social Work Week theme of “Social Workers: Mobilizing Strengths in Individuals and Communities.” Craig and Muskat were described as inspirational leaders in the social work community who are “optimistic, energetic and rigorous.”

Lindsay DuPre (MSW 2015) received a 2014 Heroes of Our Time (HOOT) scholarship. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and RBC Foundation created the HOOT scholarships to recognize the dedication, drive and academic achievements of Aboriginal post-secondary students who demonstrate excellence in their fields. The intention of the scholarships, says the AFN, is to acknowledge people “who represent the future of First Nations and of Canada.”

Dean and Professor Faye Mishna was reappointed as Dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work for a second term from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020. Professor Merc Gertler, President of the University, and Professor Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President and Provost, said that under her leadership “the Faculty has upheld its reputation as the finest social work teaching and research institution in Canada and one of the top ranked faculties of social work in the world.”

Dean and Professor Faye Mishna was appointed as Provostial Advisor on Aggression in Social Media from February 2, 2015 until January 31, 2016. She will advise on ways in which we can bring together members of the University community to develop and implement a strategy to educate students about issues of aggression in social media and the appropriate use of social media.

Ilana Perlman, Education Practice Leader for Social Work and trauma social worker at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, received NANFED’S (North American Network of Field Educators and Directors) 2014 Heart of Social Work Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to field education and the social work profession. It is only the second time that the award has been given to a Canadian.

Professor Cheryl Regehr was reappointed by the Governing Council as Vice-President and Provost at the University of Toronto for a five-and-a-half year term effective January 1, 2015. Professor Merc Gertler, President of the University, said “Professor Regehr has successfully tackled a number of pressing matters as well as undertaken a number of new initiatives. I am delighted to have Professor Regehr continue to play a critical role on my leadership team.”

Mental Health and Social Work Collaboration Creates Cross-University Synergy

An exciting new collaboration was launched this past year between the Faculty and the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), linking the Faculty’s MSW program and the UTSC Specialist program in Mental Health Studies (BSc) and the Specialist Co-operative program in Mental Health Studies (BSc) in a combined program. This program provides a direct educational pathway for outstanding UTSC Mental Health students who want to pursue a career in social work.

In a ceremony on December 4, 2014 at the Faculty which was more a good-hearted celebration than an official signing, Dean Faye Mishna and UTSC Dean Rick Halpern signed the memorandum of agreement (MOU). Under the MOU, UTSC students in their third year in the Specialist Mental Health Program will have the opportunity to apply to the Faculty’s MSW program. As well, FIFSW Professor Charmaine Williams will teach an undergraduate course at UTSC on the social context of mental health.

“It has been a wonderful experience working with UTSC throughout this process and we look forward to this collaboration,” Mishna said. “The Faculty-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work will benefit by enrolling a cohort of exceptional UTSC students with a relevant background in the social context of mental health and human development. The two disciplines are a natural fit and the combined program will be of great benefit to students and social work education.”

Associate Professor George Cree, Chair of UTSC’s Department of Psychology, said that the partnership “allows our students to really hit the ground running. A background in mental health studies coupled with an MSW is ideal preparation for a career in social work, so this MOU is a real benefit for both parties.”

Institute for Life Course and Aging Moves to the Faculty

We are delighted to announce that the Institute for Life Course and Aging is moving from its current lead faculty, the Faculty of Medicine, to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work as its lead faculty effective July 1, 2015. On June 30, 2015, Professor Lynn McDonald completes her second and final term as Director at the Institute and, effective July 1, 2015, Professor Esme Fuller-Thomson becomes the Institute’s Interim Director. The Collaborative Program will continue as is and the Institute will remain in its same location for the next two years. Professor Faye Mishna, Dean, thanked McDonald for her “excellent and cutting edge work” as Institute Director and said that this exciting development will be “of great benefit to the field of aging, to social work and to the University.”

Newly Appointed

Professor Shelley Craig has been appointed Associate Dean Academic as of January 1, 2016 for three years.

Professor Barbara Fallon has been appointed Associate Dean of Research as of July 1, 2015 for three years.

Professor Lin Fang has been appointed Director of the PhD Program as of July 1, 2015 for three years.
JD/MSW student Persia Etemadi has spent the last two years working with a team of researchers drafting a high school curriculum on issues related to forced marriage and the legal rights of Canadian youth. Co-sponsored by the Faculty of Law and the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work — and led by the Faculty of Law’s Professor Anver Emon — this curriculum is designed for Ontario high school teachers and community agencies.

On January 29, 2015, a community forum was held at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work to get input on the curriculum from community agencies. The curriculum, Youth Agency and the Culture of Law, is now available and can be downloaded from the Faculty’s website. With the aim of facilitating dialogue on these complex issues, it provides handouts that include real and hypothetical case studies and full lesson plans as toolkits.

The goal is to spur discussion, not only on the issue of forced marriage, but on broader issues of youth and their rights. “It’s one part about forced marriage but there is a wider goal: to engage students, raise awareness and stimulate discussion on how youth are affected by the law,” says Etemadi. “This is our contribution to the global challenge of forced marriage, using an education-oriented approach that aims to reach a young audience both inside and outside the classroom. We want to give youth a chance to reflect on forced marriage in the context of broader debates about youth agency and capacity.”

Etemadi, who has just completed her third year in the JD/MSW program, says she loves the program because it gives her both clinical and policy skills. Designed for students who want to practise in the areas where social work and law intersect, it allows students to complete both degrees in four years, rather than the five it would take to pursue them independently.

Working on the curriculum — Etemadi created lesson components to ensure compliance with Ontario’s Ministry of Education — has been an extraordinary experience. “It has enabled me to see the incredible possibilities of the JD/MSW program. This degree gives you a more creative outlook. One thing I particularly enjoyed is that I used different skills. It wasn’t just about researching the law; it was also about taking into account community interests,” she says.
Launching Our Next 100 YEARS

June 25, 2015
The Royal Conservatory of Music, Mazzoleni Concert Hall

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work marks the conclusion of our 100th anniversary celebratory year – and the launching of our next 100 years – with a June 25 symposium exploring cutting edge issues. “Launching Our Next 100 Years” promises to be a thought-provoking opportunity to hear experts discuss some of today’s most compelling challenges.

SEX TRAFFICKING AND HOMELESS YOUTH: A SOLUTION-FOCUSED APPROACH
Covenant House Executive Director, Bruce Rivers, calls the agency’s sex-trafficking specialist, Michele Anderson, “a tireless advocate.” Anderson and Rivers start the symposium off with an incisive view from Toronto’s streets as they discuss changing lives at Canada’s largest homeless youth agency. Anderson, who has worked with victims of sexual exploitation for over 20 years, provided instrumental support to the victims involved in Toronto’s first human trafficking conviction in 2014. “We are now seeing dozens of sex-trafficking victims annually, most of whom are local young women,” says Rivers. “We estimate that as many as 1,000 of our youth are involved in some form of the sex trade annually, trading sex for survival.”

THE CHILDREN’S COURT CASE AND THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL ON FIRST NATIONS
The Children’s Court Case is a landmark case at the Human Rights Tribunal in Ottawa in which Canada faces allegations of discrimination against First Nations children by providing flawed and inequitable child welfare services on reserves. The complaint was filed by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (Caring Society) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The complaint alleged that the government and Governor General Award-winning filmmaker, Alanis Obomsawin, has documented First Nations cultures and histories for over 40 years. This is an important chance to hear Blackstock and Obomsawin discuss efforts, has been in the forefront of this challenge, to provide funding on an annual basis, in perpetuity, for an MSW student at the Faculty. The scholarship is named after the neurosurgeon at St. Michael’s Hospital who saved the life of Fallon’s husband after he suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm on December 15, 2015. “After eight surgeries, my husband has had a remarkable outcome and was back at work, fully recovered six months from the initial event,” says Fallon. “People don’t usually survive ruptured brain aneurysms so it is something of a miracle. We wanted to create a scholarship in the name of the doctor who saved my husband’s life to show our gratitude. The scholarship honours Dr. Macdonald’s innovation, world-class research and his excellence in this kind of care.” Macdonald’s innovation was to administer medication, usually given intravenously, directly into a shunt in the brain. It was the first time this treatment method was used in Canada.

Fallon says that in establishing the scholarship, she and her husband also wanted to highlight the crucial – and unique – role that social workers play in hospitals. The importance of the kind of support that social workers provide to families on a critical care unit was brought home to her in a very personal way by her experience. This scholarship is therefore designed for an MSW student who has worked, or is working, in a hospital practicum, preferably at St. Michael’s Hospital. “Social workers are absolutely vital in a critical care unit” she says. “Families on these units need the kind of support that social workers offer. In these situations, medical expertise, world class thinking and an interdisciplinary patient-centred team approach are all vital to recovery.”

Macdonald says that he is honoured and flattered by the scholarship and that he understands the importance of interdisciplinary teams. “Being in the critical care unit can be devastating for families. Medical people have a different perspective and we are probably a bit deficient when it comes to providing the kind of support that social workers offer. If any good comes of this, it points to the important role social workers play.”

TRAUMA-INFORMED SOCIAL WORK: WHAT IS IT AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?
Nancy J. Smyth, Dean and Professor at the University at Buffalo, School of Social Work, has integrated a trauma-informed perspective into the master’s curriculum at the University at Buffalo’s School of Social Work. Nancy J. Smyth, Dean and Professor at the University at Buffalo, School of Social Work, has integrated a trauma-informed perspective into the master’s curriculum at the University at Buffalo’s School of Social Work. Smyth says, “A growing knowledge base on how trauma affects people is now being used, to inform changes to policy and practice.” “The reality is,” she says, “that social workers have been working with trauma survivors from the first day our profession began.” Smyth believes that a trauma-informed perspective is the missing piece in social work education. “Many social workers feel disempowered within the system in which they work: trauma-informed practice is a framework of system and practice transformation that can provide us with a blueprint for empowering both ourselves and our clients.”

PROFESSOR SHEILA NEYSMITH ESTABLISHES FEMINIST SOCIAL POLICY SCHOLARSHIP
We are delighted that professor Sheila Neysmith has established the Neysmith Feminist Social Policy Scholarship at the Faculty. The scholarship she has created will provide funding on an annual basis, in perpetuity, for a PhD student at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work whose dissertation research is on feminist social policy. This scholarship will have a significant impact on generations of students and our Faculty is extremely grateful.

“I have been thinking for a while about setting up this kind of scholarship,” says Neysmith. “When it came time for me to become an emeritus professor, I knew that this would be a way to have an effect on the thinking, research and scholarly pursuits of future generations.”

For Neysmith’s creating the scholarship as she makes the transition to become an emeritus professor, was an important opportunity to focus on the area of scholarship that has been her career-long passion. “I very much wanted to support feminist social policy because it is the kind of critical analysis that has informed my own scholarship and my entire career,” she says. It was also important to Neysmith to establish a scholarship that provides funding for a PhD student at the Faculty. “I believe very strongly in the Faculty’s PhD program,” she continues. “I was director of the program in the mid-1980s and during the late 1990s. Until well into the 1980s, our Faculty had the only PhD program in social work in Canada. When our students graduated, they primarily went into teaching positions in other colleges and universities across the country. Starting from U of T, we had a spread-out effect. So the ideas and the analytical frameworks that these PhD students came out of U of T with were influencing the education of social workers right across Canada. Today, our graduates continue to have a major impact on shaping tomorrow’s professionals.”

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO LYNN FACTOR AND SHELDON INWENTASH FOR THEIR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND COMMITMENT TO OUR FACULTY.
100
YEARS of excellence in social work education, research and practice.

1
spectacular 100th anniversary celebratory year.

422
MSW STUDENTS
were enrolled in the Master of Social Work program.

57
PHD STUDENTS
worked towards their Doctor of Philosophy.

9
STUDENTS
were enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Social Service Administration.

643
FIELD INSTRUCTORS
worked with MSW students in 2014-2015.

110
ALUMNI
mentored graduating MSW students this year.

57

994 PRACTICUM HOURS IN THE TWO-YEAR MSW PROGRAM
To graduate, each MSW student in the two-year program accumulated 469 practicum hours for Year 1 and 525 practicum hours for Year 2.

27
FACULTY
+ 21
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
+ 24
SESSIONAL LECTURERS
in the 2014-2015 academic year.
HERE’S HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

VISIT US
246 Bloor St. W.
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

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