HERE’S HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

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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.

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2014 is a momentous year in the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work’s history. 100 years ago, we first opened our doors and began educating generations of social workers. Today, as we launch our centenary celebrations, it is a time to look back with pride on a legacy of impressive accomplishments and an occasion to turn our gaze with great anticipation to all that the future holds. Our Faculty stands poised at a significant moment as we celebrate our 100th anniversary. Respected internationally as a leader in social work education, research and practice, we are ready to move forward into the next 100 years with exciting and innovative plans.

The centenary celebrations begin on October 29 with a special reception at the Royal Ontario Museum, another important Canadian institution celebrating its 100th birthday. For months we have been planning and preparing for the upcoming celebrations, expertly helped by our extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers. We invite all alumni and friends to join us on October 29 as we launch our anniversary celebrations, expertly helped by our extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers. We invite all alumni and friends to join us on October 29 as we launch our anniversary celebrations, expertly helped by our extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers. We invite all alumni and friends to join us on October 29 as we launch our anniversary celebrations, expertly helped by our extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers.

We would be delighted to welcome you at the ROM reception. Please let us know at swa@utoronto.ca or 416-978-8405 if you are able to attend. By celebrating together, we will renew our collective commitment to shared goals. With your help, we will make the next 100 years of this Faculty as significant as its first century.

With best wishes,
Faye Mishna
Dean, The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
The University of Toronto

Simulation is an enormously powerful educational tool and our Faculty has been in the forefront of developing innovative ways to use it to enhance students’ educational experience and assess competence. Faculty researchers and educators are part of a growing international community of experts who are exploring the effectiveness of this cutting-edge technique to teach and assess social work students. Research conducted at our Faculty using simulation to teach and assess social work students is changing the way social workers are being educated across the globe.

We are delighted to announce that Larry Enkin has donated $1 million to be directed towards the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work Simulation-Based Teaching and Assessment Program – the first program of its kind in Canada. This is the first $1 million gift that we have received as part of the Faculty’s Boundless Campaign.

Demand for simulation-based teaching and assessment continues to grow at an accelerated rate and increasing numbers of FIFSW faculty are discovering exciting new applications for simulation. Now, because of Larry Enkin’s far-reaching gift, we are in a position to systematically integrate simulation as our Faculty has always prized. With this gift, we are able to accomplish with this groundbreaking program.

“We are extremely grateful to Larry Enkin,” says Dean Faye Mishna, “for his generosity and belief in the tremendous promise of simulation and all that the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work can accomplish with this groundbreaking program. This is a very exciting moment for our Faculty. We will now be able to systematically integrate simulation as our signature pedagogy.”

The Faculty-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is uniquely positioned to provide leadership in the development and testing of simulation. The Simulation-Based Teaching and Assessment Program is an example of the kind of cutting-edge initiatives that are being pursued as we move into our next century. If you are interested in learning more about our simulation program or donating to it or another exciting research initiative, please call 416-978-8405 or email us at swa@utoronto.ca.
A Celebration of Our Students

Spring Convocation June 9, 2014

“This MSW has been a kind of self-awareness journey for me and I mean that literally. You get to figure yourself out and discover who you are and who you want to be.”

Sara Abura (MSW 2014)

“This MSW program has challenged me in ways that I wasn’t expecting both personally and professionally; you find yourself in situations that compel you to test yourself and see the world through a new lens.”

Valerie Groysman (MSW 2014)
The Honourable Margaret McCaig, one of our Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Distinguished Speakers Series. We are delighted that a person of McCain’s calibre will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Distinguished Speakers Series. We are delighted that a person of McCain’s calibre will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Faculty’s most prominent alumni. The Honourable Margaret McCaig, one of our Faculty’s most prominent alumni, will be the inaugural speaker in the newly established Distinguished Speakers Series. We are delighted that a person of McCain’s calibre and accomplishments will launch this annual series made possible by the generosity of our alumni. The FIFSW Alumni Association is establishing the series in honour of our 100th anniversary. This series will serve as a fitting legacy, enabling us to invite important speakers to the Faculty on an annual basis for years to come.

A committed alumnus of the Faculty, McCaig brings a wealth of experience and expertise acquired over an influential career. The first female Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, she has been a forceful advocate for Canadian early child development policy and program initiatives, women’s rights, social equality, education, music and the arts.

To find out about the benefits of contributing to The Distinguished Speakers Series, please go to http://socialwork.utoronto.ca/giving/where-to-give/endowed-speaker-series or contact us at swa@utoronto.ca or 416-978-6405.

Two highly valued members of our Faculty, Professor Adrienne Chambon and Professor Aron Shlonsky, left the University this past year. Both made significant contributions as important members of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work community. Chambon, who has retired, is now pursuing research initiatives, while dividing her time between Toronto and Paris. Shlonsky has moved to the University of Melbourne, Australia, where he is Professor of Evidence-Informed Practice in Social Work.

Chambon’s research is an exploration of a critical cultural perspective for social work in Toronto; she was instrumental in helping to organize the 100th Anniversary ROM exhibit highlighting a century of social impact. Shlonsky’s research focuses on children and families in the child welfare system with the goal of improving policy and decision-making through data analysis and mobilization.

PROMINENT ALUMNA MARGARET McCaIG TO LAUNCH THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

2014 FIFSW Alumni Association Spring Reunion Another Strong Success

The 2014 Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work Spring Reunion and AGM on Wednesday, May 28, was yet another highly successful event, attracting over fifty alumni to a lively reception in the Faculty’s 7th floor lounge. Each year, we are seeing more and more new grads at these reunions, and this year’s event was no exception.

FIFSW Alumni President Ed Shaul greeted the assembled crowd as recent grads mixed easily with alumni who have been out of school for longer. A Book Expo featuring recent publications by FIFSW alumni and faculty generated much excitement with the books raffled off to an appreciative crowd. All in all, another great Spring Reunion, fuelled by the evident pleasure alumni took both in connecting with each other and being back at the Faculty, energized by the upcoming 100th anniversary celebrations.

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OUTSTANDING ALUMNI MENTOR AWARD RECOGNIZES HOW MUCH OUR ALUMNI SUPPORT MSW GRADS

Alumni mentors make an extraordinary impact on our MSW graduates. This year, at the 2014 May 28 FIFSW Alumni Association AGM, which preceded the Annual Spring Reunion, there was a wonderful interlude in which four MSW graduands expressed directly, and in public, just how much their alumni mentors affected their preparations to join the field of social work. Four Alumni Mentors, each nominated by their MSW student mentee, were presented with certificates of appreciation on behalf of the Faculty and the Alumni Association.

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5 Books

PUBLISHED THIS PAST YEAR BY FACULTY AND ALUMNI

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5 Books

PUBLISHED THIS PAST YEAR BY FACULTY AND ALUMNI

5 NEW PHD THESSES

EXAMINING CRITICAL ISSUES

This past year, five PhD students successfully defended their theses and then graduated in the Fall 2013 or the Spring 2014 Convocations.

Bille-Sue Allan’s thesis focused on capture, fragmentation and reconciliation as regards to the health of urban indigenous women in Toronto.

Sofiya An’s thesis explored multiple institutional logic and child welfare transformation in post-Soviet Kazakhstan.

Melissa Redmond focused on child protection practice and policy.

Siegfried Schuler explored the relationship between exposure to pornography, victimization, attachment to parents and sexual offence characteristics of adolescent sexual offenders.

Sajadeh Zahrar’s thesis explored memory, trauma and citizenship among Arab Iraqi women.

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We’re starting our Faculty’s 100th Anniversary celebrations with an evening reception at the Royal Ontario Museum on October 29. Eileen Farrow and Beth Weingarden, dedicated members of the Campaign Executive for the FIFSW Boundless Campaign, have assumed very important roles as Co-Chairs of our Faculty’s 100th Anniversary Opening Event. Together with their outstanding committee members, Lynn Factor, Heather Gotlib, and Wanda Ho, they have been planning and preparing — working out the smallest details — to ensure that the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work 100th Anniversary Opening Event is one smashing success.

Farrow and Weingarden are extremely excited about the 100th Anniversary Opening Event. “It’s such an important milestone for the Faculty,” says Weingarden, an alumna of our Faculty, who is a Child Witness Advocate at BOOST.

The reception will be an opportunity to showcase the exciting work we are pursuing. Farrow, a real estate agent, says “it’s going to be a wonderful evening, a celebration of all that the Faculty has achieved over the last 100 years and an opportunity for alumni, friends and members of the community to honour this landmark anniversary together.”

The evening at the 100-year-old museum — the ROM is also commemorating its centennial — will feature cocktails, a light dinner, music and much more. You will also have the chance to visit “Classroom to Community: A Century of Social Work in Toronto” in the ROM’s second floor Special Exhibits room. Running until April 2015, the exhibit was organized by our Faculty in collaboration with Family Service Toronto, another important institution celebrating its 100th anniversary, and U of T’s Faculty of Information. And you will leave with a commemorative book, a history of the last 100 years of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work as a lasting memory.

HONOURS and ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor David Brennan was awarded a prestigious Ontario HIV Treatment Network FIFSW PhD student Kenta Asakura has received the 2014 GADE Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education) Student Award for Teaching in Social Work for her outstanding contribution as a social work educator. GADE, an organization of over 80 doctoral programs worldwide, promotes excellence in social work doctoral education.

Professor Marion Bogo has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. Bogo is receiving this highly prestigious appointment in recognition of her far-reaching and visionary impact on the practice and teaching of social work. Her research is transforming social work field education. She is considered a leader in conducting and producing groundbreaking scholarship. A pioneer in developing standardized simulated evaluation methods to assess and teach social work students, her impressive results are being adopted worldwide by social work educators.

Professor Carmen Logie with Professor Marion Bogo, Professor Cheryl Regehr and Professor Glenn Regehr received Honorable Mention for the Best Research Article from the Journal of Social Work Education for “A Critical Appraisal of the Use of Standardized Client Simulations in Social Work Education” (volume 49, number 1, pp. 66–80).

Let the Celebrations Begin

Newly Appointed Associate Professors with Tenure

We are delighted to announce that Professor Shelley Craig, Professor Barbara Fallon and Professor Eunjung Lee have been appointed Associate Professors with Tenure effective July 1, 2014.

Professor Craig’s community and practice-based research agenda includes developing and testing interventions to address the needs of sexual minority youth; understanding the ways health social workers impact the social determinants of health among vulnerable populations; and social work competencies for working with sexual minority populations. Through partnerships with youth and the agencies that serve them, she focuses on uncovering the strengths of multiracial sexual minority youth in the context of their risks.

Professor Fallon’s research focuses on alleviating the burden of suffering for children and families identified and served by the child welfare system. She has conducted large scale provincial and national child welfare studies in Canada which documented child abuse and neglect on a cyclical basis. Findings from these studies have contributed to the implementation of key policy initiatives in child welfare.

Professor Lee focuses on conducting psychotherapy process research on cross-cultural interactions; developing culturally responsive training for clinicians; and exploring immigration policy and practice to understand transnationalism and global inequality as they affect the welfare state and clinical practice with marginalized populations. Her research draws upon psychodynamic theories of understanding human development and relationships as well as feminism, social constructivism and post-structural approaches to inform clinical social work practice, training and social policy.

Professor Peter A. Newman, Dean Faye Mishna and former FIFSW Professor Aron Shlonsky were designated as inaugural Fellows of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) at the SSWR 2014 Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. SSWR Fellows are recognized for their contributions to furthering SSWR’s mission to promote a diverse, equitable and just society by advancing, disseminating and translating social work practice and policy research.

About three percent of the SSWR are Fellows. U of T was the only non-American school named and one of the few with multiple awardees.

Professor Cheryl Regehr with Professor Ramona Alaggia, Jane Dennis, Annabel Pitts and Professor Michael Sains received the 2014 Leonard E. Gibbs Award from the Campbell Collaborative Social Welfare Group for this year’s outstanding social welfare review: “Interventions to Reduce Distress in Adult Victims of Sexual Violence and Rape: A Systematic Review” (published in Campbell Systematic Reviews).

Weingarden, an alumna of our Faculty, who was excited about the 100th Anniversary Opening Event. “It’s such an important milestone for the Faculty,” says Weingarden, an alumna of our Faculty, who is a Child Witness Advocate at BOOST.

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1914
The Department of Social Service – Canada’s first school of social work – opened its doors at U of T, sharing space with the Department of Household Science. They attended classes in a building which had been donated by one of Toronto’s most prominent families, the Masseys, featuring Italian murals and Art Nouveau stained glass windows. Students studied social work amid the grandeur of a Toronto mansion and then worked among the city's most destitute.

1915
WWI had just broken out in August and Toronto was undergoing more wrenching changes than any other Canadian city. In the new century’s first decade, its population exploded by an incredible 81 percent. With rapid expansion and the arrival of thousands of immigrants to a city without a safety net, poverty and overcrowding rapidly increased. Social workers were desperately needed.

1918-1948
A two-year graduate diploma program was offered.

1924
The house at 8 Queen’s Park was demolished and the Department moved to 45 St. George Street. Housed in yet another gracious home, “five o’clock teas” were frequently held at which distinguished speakers lectured on issues such as housing, art and the city.

1929/30
The Department moved to McMaster Hall, which is now the Royal Conservatory of Music. It was housed there for 39 years, sharing the tenancy with the Conservatory over the last decade or so.

1931
The 25th anniversary was commemorated with a series of “five o’clock lectures” by well-known speakers such as sociologist Talcott Parsons. That September, WWII broke out.

1939
The Department of Social Science was renamed the School of Social Work and became a separate professional school at U of T.

1945
The Department of Social Science was renamed the School of Social Work and became a separate professional school at U of T.

1952
The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and the Master of Social Work (MSW) programs were established.

1960s
The Doctor of Social Work program was changed to a PhD program, bringing it in line with the rest of U of T.

1970
The School of Social Work became the Faculty of Social Work.

1982
The 75th anniversary was celebrated.

1989
The largest donation ever given to a North American Faculty of social work was contributed by Sheldon Inwentash and Lynn Factor to U of T’s Faculty of Social Work which was then renamed the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

2007
In a groundbreaking research project at the FIFSW, standardized simulated scenarios were used for the first time to assess MSW students.

2014
The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work celebrates its 100th anniversary. The Faculty receives a $1 million gift from Larry Enkin towards the Simulation-Based Teaching and Assessment Program.
What can we do about women’s homelessness?
Framing a research-action agenda on women’s homelessness; David Holbachand, principal investigator.

What are we learning about structural drivers and protective factors of HIV/AIDS?
Towards an understanding of structural drivers of HIV/AIDS and protective factors; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What is the experience of youth using supervised access services following separation and divorce?
Safety and well-being from the perspectives of youth. Experiences of using supervised access services following separation and divorce; Michael Sains, principal investigator.

What are we learning about citizenship and higher education in Canada?
Democracy’s challenge: The tangled practice of education migration for HIV/AIDS; David Brennan, principal investigator.

How are we providing Children’s Aid Society (CAS) with information about their performance?
Analyzing the link between resources and Children’s Aid Society (CAS) performance; Aron Shlonsky, principal investigator.

What are we learning about health, wellness and HIV/AIDS?
Exploring the health and wellness of HIV-positive two spirit men in Ontario; David Brennan, principal investigator.

What are we learning about HIV vaccine development?
What can we learn from cultural representations of social work? Social work and the work of social workers in HIV prevention, risk perceptions, behaviours, and health care access among gay, bisexual, two-spirit and other men who have sex with men in the context of changing social-historical informational and social-communication environments; David Brennan, principal investigator.

What are we learning about using cyber technology in an Aboriginal community health setting?
Chat now. Exploring cyber counselling in an Aboriginal community health setting; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

What are we learning about HIV prevention, risks, behavior and access to health care?
Affirmative sexual skills training to reduce HIV/AIDS risk for sexual minority youth; An open pilot feasibility study; Shirley Craig, principal investigator.

What are we learning about HIV/AIDS in Canada?
ARUC separation parentale, recomposition familiale: parents et enfants during separations; Ramona violences: Expanding our understanding of the relative influence of training and experience on social workers’ professional judgement; Cheryl Regueiro, principal investigator.

What can we do about education migration in Canada?
Understanding the production and practice of education migration in Canada; Eunyong Lee, principal investigator.

What are we learning from arts-based research with marginalized populations?
Participatory arts-based research with marginalized populations: Missing context of immigration employment and integration: A tacit knowledge perception; Tuzo Sakamuri, principal investigator.

What are we learning about HIV/AIDS among marginalized gay and bisexual men?
Researching the production and practice of education migration in Canada; Eunyong Lee, principal investigator.

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

What are we learning about the use of information and communication technologies in traditional face-to-face social work practice?
Information and communication technologies: CREPPIUS into traditional counseling; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

What are we learning about the growing trend of education migration and the experience of South Korean educational migrant children in our schools?
An analysis of public and private discourses of educational migration in Canadian schools: A case study of South Korean families; Eunyong Lee, principal investigator.

What are we learning about education migration for HIV/AIDS?
What are we learning about HIV/AIDS in Canada?
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What are we learning about the impact of training and experience on social workers’ performance?
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What are we learning about the relative influence of training and experience on social workers’ performance?
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Exploring the health and wellness of HIV-positive two spirit men in Ontario; David Brennan, principal investigator.

What are we learning about children’s Aid Society (CAS) with information about their performance?
Analyzing the link between resources and Children’s Aid Society (CAS) performance; Aron Shlonsky, principal investigator.

What are we learning about children exposed to intimate partner violence?
Children exposed to intimate partner violence: Expanding our understanding of vulnerabilities and resiliencies; Ramona Nagura, principal investigator.

What are we learning about substantive citizenship?
Substantive citizenship in an era of criminalization: Constructing the deportable subject in the shadow of the state; Rapalome Bhuyn, principal investigator.
NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

DAVID BURNES BRINGS A STRONG FOCUS ON ELDER JUSTICE

David Burnes has been appointed as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty, as of July 1, 2014. With a background in mathematics, Burnes completed his MSW at our Faculty and has just received his PhD from the Columbia University School of Social Work. He was recognized in 2013 for his outstanding contribution to the field of elder justice through research, teaching and community engagement when he received the Doctoral Student Leadership Award from the US-based Association of Gerontology Education in Social Work.

Burnes specializes in gerontological social work with a focus on the increasing problem of elder abuse and neglect. He has conducted extensive research on elder protective services. His research explores evidence-based practices and interventions designed to prevent and ameliorate elder abuse as well as learn more about its risk factors.

He is passionate about alerting people to the urgency and importance of the issue. “We are just beginning to experience the exponential growth of our older adult population,” says Burnes. “Ontario’s population age 65 and over is expected to double in the next 25 years. For the first time in the province’s history – around 2016 – the percentage of the population over 65 will be greater than the population under 14. This is a major demographic shift and elder abuse affects this older adult population.”

“About one in ten adults over 65 experiences some form of elder abuse every year which is a huge incidence rate. And yet we have very few prevention efforts in place. Combine a high incidence rate with a rapidly growing aging population and we’re about to face a major wave of elder abuse cases,” he says.

Burnes believes that both aging and elder abuse are subjects people find hard to talk about. That’s something he is determined to change. Excited by the opportunity to work at our Faculty with renowned gerontological researchers such as Professor Lynn McDonald and Professor Esme Fuller-Thomson, he is committed to developing evidence-based practices and intervention models to prevent abuse and protect older adults.

Micheal Shier HELPS PEOPLE CREATE SOCIAL INNOVATION

Micheal Shier has been appointed as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty, as of July 1, 2014. Shier completed his MSW at the University of Calgary and has just received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Social Policy and Practice. Shier’s research examines how direct social service non-profit organizations promote social change.

Shier believes that the role of social workers in local communities has changed and he wants to help students reframe how they see themselves professionally. “Social workers in organizations need to stop thinking of themselves as managers and see themselves instead as leaders and agents of social change,” he says. “This is absolutely vital. Government is now less involved in providing programming to meet community needs. That means that community-based practitioners must come forward.”

Social work, Shier says, is probably the discipline most adept at responding to emerging social need. “Social workers are not there just to provide a service; they must adapt their services to generate better social outcomes. Much of my educational work is geared to teaching social workers new ways to understand their role in the contemporary social welfare state. I want them to discover how they can change the practices in their organizations to actively foster social change.”

“Of course, there are social workers that are already doing what I recommend,” he says. “They are taking an active role in changing the social environment within their own communities by responding to emerging challenges. Forty years ago, we expected the government to step in but we can’t anymore. My research identifies the factors within an organization that help people create social innovation. We need to understand the conditions that contribute to creating this kind of organizational culture. We can teach people tangible skills that they can apply in their professional lives.”
The Rainbow

OVER THE RAINBOW

With WorldPride Co-Chair Shelley Craig

From throwing the first pitch at a Blue Jays game to addressing 30,000 people at Nathan Phillips Square or 75 people at a reception at our Faculty, WorldPride co-chair and FIFSW Professor Shelley Craig has been getting the Pride message out. “Pride is a human rights movement, it’s a wonderful celebration of diversity and LGBTQ culture, and it’s a time to recognize the incredible work of LGBTQ activists,” she says.

Like the Olympics, cities bid to host the festival, and WorldPride 2014 was the first time it was held in North America. “Toronto was awarded the bid because of the strong legacy Pride has here as a cultural institution. WorldPride celebrates Toronto’s diversity,” Craig says. The ten-day June festival ended as some 12,000 people walked, danced and celebrated their way down Yonge Street in support of LGBTQ rights in one of the largest ever Pride marches.

For Craig, one of the festival’s most important events was the human rights conference organized in collaboration with U of T’s Centre for Diversity Studies. The three-day conference at University College attracted international activists for a global dialogue, putting a human face on courageous stories from countries where rights are denied.

Craig chose to get involved with Pride because she has worked with LGBTQ youth for years and knows how essential attending the festival is for them. “Taking part in Pride is an absolutely critical milestone in their coming-out process. It’s almost impossible to describe the effect it has. It normalizes their experience; they feel they have a family and community. That is incredibly powerful, particularly for youth who are often extremely isolated,” she says.

She calls Pride a community-based intervention that gives a voice to people who don’t usually have one. Citing a social impact study Pride commissioned last year, she notes the festival reduces discrimination and raises awareness. “With almost 3,000 volunteers, we are building community,” she says. “It’s a natural fit with the clinical work I’ve done, particularly for youth who are often extremely isolated.”

“Pride is a human rights movement. It’s a wonderful celebration of diversity and LGBTQ culture, and it’s a time to recognize the incredible work of LGBTQ activists,” she says.

The festival is an absolutely critical part in Pride is an absolutely critical part in youth for years and knows how essential attending the festival is for them. “Taking part in Pride is an absolutely critical milestone in their coming-out process. It’s almost impossible to describe the effect it has. It normalizes their experience; they feel they have a family and community. That is incredibly powerful, particularly for youth who are often extremely isolated,” she says.

LEADING THE MINDFULNESS WAY ACROSS U OF T

Maximizing the Full Potential of the Early Years

FIFSW Professor Barbara Fallon has been appointed Director of Knowledge Mobilization of the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development (FMIHD) at the University of Toronto. She joins Executive Director Stephen Lye, Academic Director Marla B. Sokolowski and Director of Research Stephen Matthews. The first institute of its kind in Canada, this innovative endeavour launched in 2012 is dedicated to fostering real change in the way children are raised. Uniting researchers from a variety of U of T disciplines, such as social work, medicine, education and psychology among others, as well as community partners, it aims to generate research maximizing the full potential of our earliest years.

There is growing evidence that the first 2,000 days of life play a pivotal role in the development of an individual’s long-term health and wellness. The FMIHD is dedicated to exploring the many environmental and genetic influences that affect children during those crucial days — influences that have health consequences throughout their lives. By focusing on understanding and enhancing children’s early development, the goal is to improve life-long health and wellness.

“It’s an exciting transdisciplinary initiative,” says Fallon. “We’ve brought together a diverse group of professionals to determine what evidence currently exists and what needs to be mobilized. We want to identify synergies and then shape and mobilize findings for use by a variety of different professional and practice communities. For example, the Ontario Birth Study is being conducted under the Institute’s auspices. Researchers from multiple professions are tracking thousands of women through pregnancy and their babies’ childhoods. Once that evidence comes together, we will mobilize it to practice communities.”

“We are currently working on a policy initiative,” Fallon adds, “to entertain requests from different ministries when they create policies that affect young children and families. We plan to develop dynamic briefs in response to government requests, thus pushing the science towards policy. We are also exploring what we already know about childhood development. Once we have reached agreement on that, then we will elaborate on those ideas in documents geared towards different practice communities.”

The Institute was inspired by the work of the late Dr. J. Fraser Mustard, an eminent Canadian scientist and a fierce champion of improving the conditions for early human development for all children, everywhere. Mustard’s highly influential 1999 report for the Ontario government, “The Early Years Study – Reversing the Real Brain Drain”, co-authored with the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, was an impassioned call to invest in children’s earliest years. Before he died, Mustard mapped out an ambitious plan to create this Institute focused on what he believed to be today’s most urgent health challenge.

We know how helpful mindfulness can be as a stress reduction tool and as a promoter of wellness and resilience. We are therefore helping to set up, in collaboration with a number of St. George campus faculties and student representatives, daily mindfulness groups. These groups will be available to U of T’s St. George campus students on a drop-in basis, at different locations and times of day.

We were approached to take a leading role in this exciting initiative by Richard Chambers, Director of U of T’s Multi-Faith Centre, because of our Faculty’s enormously successful Continuing Education Applied Mindfulness Meditation Certificate Program. Graduates of that program will run the daily meditation groups. “The goal,” says Ellen Katz, Instructor and Continuing Education Director, “is to make the whole process as open, friendly and accessible as possible. We see it as a great way to promote wellness, health and resiliency across the St. George campus.”

Maximizing

THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE EARLY YEARS

LEADING THE MINDFULNESS WAY ACROSS U OF T
In a remarkable talk by Gerald Schamess, Professor Emeritus at Smith College, on May 9, 2014 – wonderfully titled “Knowing, Not Knowing and Muddling Through Reflections on Therapeutic Process” – the focus was on doubt and uncertainty in the therapeutic process. With a vulnerability rarely seen in lecturers, Schamess described issues he’d encountered while working with his patients, the sanctified term “patient” rather than “client” because it comes from the Latin “to suffer.” Schamess then asked the audience what they thought he should have done. The assembled group of social workers from the community, alumni and faculty members responded with a sensitive and thoughtful discussion.

Schamess set the tone for that discussion by talking openly about immigration policy changes affect immigrant women’s safety and rights, as part of her research with the Migrant Mothers Project in collaboration with the Women Abuse Council of Toronto: WomenA CT. Over 130 attendees heard speakers from across Canada, participating in a lively day of panel discussions and workshops.

The Annual NICE (The National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly) Knowledge Exchange Conference on May 21 attracted participants from across the globe to U of T for a stimulating dialogue with the goal of transferring knowledge and best practices on aging. NICE, an international network of researchers, practitioners and students dedicated to promoting tangible solutions to meet the challenges of aging, is led by FIFSW Professor Lynn McDonald, Director of U of T’s Institute for Life Course and Aging.

Co-hosted by our Faculty and U of T’s Faculty of Arts and Science, “The Immigrant Experience in Canada: New Policies, New Economy, New Realities” attracted professionals from across the city who eagerly discussed what they were taking back to their colleagues in hospitals, agencies or community practice. The dialogue that is generated is truly an exciting part of this yearly conference that is open to the public.

The conference provided a series of challenging speeches. Audrey Mackin, Professor of Law and Chair in Human Rights Law at U of T, spoke on immigration issues and human rights, RBC Chair in Social Work Research and FIFSW Professor Dan Zubin (who is jointly appointed at U of T to our Faculty and to the School of Public Policy & Governance) discussed his research on immigrant settlement in an age of increasing austerity. FIFSW Professor David Holtsnirs, Dr. Choe Ye Ching Chair in Housing, described his influential research highlighting increasing neighbourhood inequality and its impact on Canadian cities. Naomi Alboim gave the luncheon keynote address: “Shaping the Future: Canada’s Rapidly Changing Immigration Policies.” Alboim is Chair of the Policy Forum and Fellow and Adjunct Professor of the School of Public Policy at Queen’s University.

Our Faculty is committed to making all of the exciting research we pursue here at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work as widely available as possible. Here’s a sampling of just some of the thought-provoking talks, webinars, community forums, workshops and conferences that got people talking and generated a buzz in 2013-2014.

**Embracing Uncertainty with Gerald Schamess on May 9, 2014**

Over 2013-2014, our Faculty hosted a series of talks that were open to the public about issues that professionals are experiencing in the field – talks that were direct, relevant, timely and thought-provoking. Here’s a selection of what was happening.

1. Dr. Sarah Morton, Sept. 25, 2013, “Research Use and Impact: Meeting the Challenges for Childhood and Family Services.”
5. Dr. Shoshana Ringel, webinar, March 21, 2014, “Utilizing the Adult Attachment Interview in Research and Practice with Unresolved Loss and Trauma.”

**Brainstorming with Renowned Neuroscientist Dan Siegel**

New York Times bestselling author and respected neuroscientist Dan Siegel is a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist whose inspirational work is expanding our knowledge of the mind and well-being. On Jan. 9, 2014, the Faculty’s Continuing Education Applied Mindfulness Meditation program held a highly successful free webinar, “Brainstorming: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain.” Siegel launched his latest book “Brainstorm” and discussed what the adolescent brain teaches us about living fuller lives. The response to the webinar was amazing – it reached 1,000 sites. A few months later, on April 21, 2014, Continuing Education hosted a “Dialogue with Dan Day.” Siegel participated in a fruitful dialogue with FIFSW Faculty, Continuing Education instructors in the Applied Mindfulness Meditation program and community organizations and clinicians, exploring how mindfulness and interpersonal neurobiology can be integrated within clinical training.

“Siegel and the new neurosciences offer the most humane vision of who we are, who we can be,” says Applied Mindfulness Meditation Program Director Michele Chaban. “His theory and evidence-based research is so full of potential – but the potential lies within us, not outside of us.” The webinar was organized by Chaban and facilitated by former Continuing Ed Director Robert MacFadden and Continuing Ed Director Ellen Katz, who also organized the day of dialogue. Both events had a powerful impact across communities.

Immediately after the Jan. 9 Dan Siegel webinar, we heard from people all over the world.

“I physically participate meant that I felt connected to a community of like-minded professionals. I plan to include Siegel’s strategies in a workshop series supporting senior high school students through the stress of their final year.”

Margaret Boulke lives in rural New South Wales; she is a school psychologist in Sydney working with students and their families.

“It’s not easy to express the thrill, emotion and sense of gratitude I feel when I participate in an event that’s going on live, some 9,000 km away from home. Apart from my personal practice of meditation, I hope to share what I learned with the general public.”

Hugo Di Dio lives in rural Argentina; he is preparing a workshop series introducing mindfulness practice and neuroscience to the public.

**Timely Focus on Immigration at Successful 2014 RBC Conference**

One of the best things about the annual all-day RBC Conference is hearing the questions from the floor and seeing the incredible synergies being generated over lunch as tablsmates share notes on what they’ve heard. For this year’s conference – held on Monday, April 28, 2014 – U of T’s George Ignatieff Theatre – RBC Chair in Applied Social Work Research and FIFSW Professor Dan Zubin chose to focus on the particularly timely and relevant subject of immigration, bringing together a strong roster of thoughtful speakers.

Co-hosted by our Faculty and U of T’s Faculty of Arts and Science, “The Immigrant Experience in Canada: New Policies, New Economy, New Realities” attracted professionals from across the city who eagerly discussed what they were taking back to their colleagues in hospitals, agencies or community practice. The dialogue that is generated is truly an exciting part of this yearly conference that is open to the public.

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PRACTICUM NEWS

PRACTICUM COORDINATOR RAHEL-LEIGH PECKETT JOINS THE TEAM

For alumna Rahel-Leigh (pronounced Riley) Peckett, who has joined the Practicum Office as a Practicum Coordinator, returning to the Faculty feels like coming full circle. “I love being back here,” says Peckett, who works at the Faculty on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. “My role is to complement the Practicum team’s work by focusing on recruiting field placements and building and maintaining relationships with field partners. Because I received my MSW here and was a field instructor for many years, I’ve experienced different perspectives. That enables me to talk about the benefits of being a field instructor and how amazing it can be.”

Peckett says that it is exciting to see the breadth and variety of courses offered at the Faculty today. “When I hear about the amazing specialization opportunities our MSW students have, I wish I was going to school now. Students from this Faculty are so well prepared for practising in the field.”

Peckett worked as a clinical social worker/counsellor and trauma specialist, spending almost nine years at The Scarborough Hospital in the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Care Centre. She has had a private practice for a number of years which she plans to maintain.

Thank You, Sarah Warren

Our Faculty is 100 years old and we owe much of it to Sarah Warren. She was part of a group of civic-minded women who banded together and approached U of T because they recognized that there was an urgent need in Toronto for a school to train social workers. Some of these women worked in the city’s overcrowded and unsanitary slums where many of Toronto’s newest immigrants lived, while others – like Sarah Warren – were society women actively committed to social causes.

The University agreed that the need was there but they didn’t have the funds. Then the woman with a vision stepped forward and pledged her help and the school was able to open its doors in September 1914 – and here we are today.

Sarah Warren was a woman ahead of her time. Only a few years earlier, in 1909, she’d made a highly unusual decision when her husband died prematurely, assuming his seat as chairman of the board of directors of the Dominion Rubber Company. An important member of Toronto society, she supported numerous causes from her Wellesley Street home with its elegant conservatory and elaborate private gardens. As today, philanthropy played a crucial role in Toronto society, serving to legitimize outsiders such as women and bring them into social elites.

A well-known collector with considerable means, she looked like a woman of character, determination and foresight. Thank you, Sarah Warren, for making such a crucial investment. The impact of people like Sarah Warren on our Faculty has not diminished.

In 2007, Lynn Factor and Sheldon Invenoch made a transformational donation, enabling us to create five endowed chairs and fifty graduate scholarships. Today, as we commemorate our 100th anniversary, we thank all the people who have made such a difference to this Faculty. Join us as we celebrate over the upcoming year the far-seeing Sarah Warren and all that she set in motion. If you want to contribute to the exciting work this Faculty is pursuing, please contact us at 416-978-8405 or swa@utoronto.ca.
The Sophie Lucyk Virtual Library is an example of the kind of leadership role we are assuming as we move into our Faculty’s second century of impact. We want to express the gratitude of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work to alumna and social worker Rosemary Slivinskas who has kindly directed a portion of the Sophie Lucyk estate of which she is the executrix. We are also extremely grateful to alumna and social worker Sophie Lucyk, thankful for her vision in leaving funds towards education. The Sophie Lucyk Virtual Library is a powerful way to educate people around the world. It’s also a fitting memorial to honour Sophie Lucyk’s passionate desire to help all people receive an education. Our Faculty is committed to making the research we conduct as widely available as possible. That means getting information out – disseminating it – to people all over the world who can benefit from it. We are therefore delighted to announce that we will be launching the Sophie Lucyk Virtual Library. This digital library will bring together – and make widely available – all of the cyber-related work and activities our Faculty pursues. Of course, cyber is so much a component of much of FIFSW research. Users of this innovative library site will be able to find, for example, in-depth cyber-related research reports written by FIFSW Faculty members and graduate students as well as thought-provoking presentations, interviews, podcasts, webinars and much more.

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is already a leader in pursuing social work-related cyber initiatives and we are committed to exploring all that the digital world offers to social work. We are thrilled that we will be able to disseminate the important research conducted at this Faculty through the Sophie Lucyk Virtual Library. This library will ensure that essential information about health and wellness is widely disseminated. It will serve, we believe, as a vital educational tool and a crucial public resource.

In the 2013-2014 school year, 408 MSW students were enrolled in the Master of Social Work program. 60 students were working towards their Doctor of Philosophy at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work in 2013-2014. 45 Alumni mentored graduating MSW students as part of the Alumni Mentoring Program this past year. 10 students were enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Social Service Administration in 2013-2014.

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

We are enormously thankful to Lynn Factor and Sheldon Inwentash for their continued generosity and dedication to our Faculty.

CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY, 1914-2014
A History of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
By Marjorie Johnstone

Responding to the social ills of poverty, disease, substandard housing, and unemployment, the University of Toronto’s Department of Social Service was founded in 1914. Over the course of a century, the department, now the faculty, has played a pivotal role in education, policy, research, and practice. This commemorative, hardcover volume, illustrated with more than a hundred photographs, documents a century of service and the world events that shaped a changing city.

RELEASE DATE:
OCTOBER 29, 2014

Since U of T opened Canada’s first social work school in September 1914.

408 MSW students
In the 2013-2014 school year, 408 MSW students were enrolled in the Master of Social Work program.

60 PhD students
60 students were working towards their Doctor of Philosophy at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work in 2013-2014.

95 Alumni
mentored graduating MSW students as part of the Alumni Mentoring Program this past year.

10 Students
were enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Social Service Administration in 2013-2014.

994 Practicum hours in the two-year MSW program
To graduate, each MSW student in the two year program must accumulate this many hours during the two-year program.

566 Field instructors worked with MSW students during 2013-2014.

45 Faculty and staff members in the 2013-2014 academic session, there were 26 faculty members and 19 administrative staff.

Lynn Factor (centre of top row) pictured with student recipients of The Factor-Inwentash Graduate Scholarships at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work Appreciation Event on March 10, 2014.

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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
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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 and clicking on “Update Your Information 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.

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FACTOR-INWENTASH FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO celebrates
100 YEARS
SAVE the DATE
Join us for cocktails, light dinner and historical exhibit
Wednesday, October 29, 2014 | 6:30 p.m.
Royal Ontario Museum
http://www.utoronto.ca/100

2013-2014
YEAR IN REVIEW