

IMPACT ACROSS THE GLOBE

Our Faculty and its network of extraordinary alumni are having an important impact across the globe, locally, nationally and internationally.

Meet 9 impressive alumni who are transforming lives in countries around the world.



ALEAN AL-KRENAWI

President, Achva Academic College

Professor, Spitzer Department of Social Work, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

📍 **Negev Desert, Israel**

When Alean Al-Krenawi was studying for his MSW at the Hebrew University, he met an FIFSW professor, Howard Irving [now Emeritus], on sabbatical there. That meeting changed the course of his life. Attracted by the Faculty's reputation and the idea of multiculturalism, Al-Krenawi was inspired to come to Toronto for his PhD. Now, he is President of Israel's Achva Academic College, which caters to a diverse and underprivileged student population of Bedouins, Orthodox Jews and Ethiopians in the Negev Desert; he also teaches at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He has been Dean at Memorial University's School of Social Work and Chair of the Department of Social Work at Ben-Gurion University. The author of seven books and over 100 articles, he has conducted \$4 million in research, exploring the challenges facing Indigenous and minority populations in Israel and the West.

"I am extremely grateful to the Faculty because I was trained to be an excellent scholar. I learned the importance of publication, to hunt for ideas, become a good researcher, collaborate with others, and provide services for people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The entire experience had a major impact on my life because of the emphasis on multiculturalism and diversity. Being exposed to people from so many different backgrounds strengthened my commitment to diversity, intellectually and emotionally. As scholars, our mission is to raise unheard voices, which is essential to my work at Achva. At the Faculty, I learned to think globally and act locally."

"At the Faculty, I learned to think globally and act locally."



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





Across the globe, on a local, national and international scale, the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and its network of extraordinary alumni have been changing lives for over a century. In this issue of REACH, we bring you the stories of nine alumni who are making a difference in countries around the world. Their experiences as students and the lessons they learned at our Faculty have had a major impact on their lives, shaping them into the impressive social workers they are today. Whether they are from England, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Switzerland or the United States, they talk about the importance of issues such as diversity, multiculturalism, inclusiveness, multidisciplinary thinking and developing a global perspective. Like all of our alumni, they inspire us as they describe the committed work they do now.

What's wonderful about hearing their stories is the strong bond they feel with our Faculty. Those bonds – with all of our alumni -- stretch around the world. They are our Faculty's foundation. As the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work moves forward into its second century and continues to increase its global footprint, we celebrate those bonds and our amazing alumni family.

With best wishes,

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



ESTHER OI WAH CHOW

Associate Professor, Department of
Applied Social Sciences
City University of Hong Kong
📍 Hong Kong

Sometimes you can be an important member of our alumni family even if you don't actually graduate from the Faculty. That's the story of Esther Chow, a social work professor at the City University of Hong Kong. Chow spent her first year of a two-year MSW at the Faculty but had to return to Hong Kong when her mother became ill, finishing her degree at the University of Hong Kong. "I feel a strong emotional bond to the Faculty, hosting faculty members in Hong Kong and always visit when I'm in Toronto. My experience had a lasting impact on me, emotionally and intellectually. It was difficult for me to leave and the Faculty was there for me in my time of need." After graduation, Chow started and ran a community-based, multi-service healthcare centre for the elderly in Hong Kong. A professor for many years, her research focuses on aging, a subject she's drawn to because of the strong respect she had for her own father who lived until the age of 102.

"At the Faculty, I learned the importance of diversity and of being inclusive. When the issue at home arose, I talked a lot about whether I should leave with people like Dean Ralph Garber who was very supportive. I was told that the door would always be open to me. That meant so much. I left feeling connected, knowing that we share the same belief in social work. I carried the teaching with me as part of the alumni family. I have always felt that I have a home in Toronto."

"At the Faculty, I learned the importance of diversity and of being inclusive."



ELISABETH DAVIS

Social Worker and Therapist
Therapeutic Community for Drug and
Alcohol Addictions
Beit Or Aviva Organization
📍 Jerusalem, Israel

Elisabeth Davis, who graduated with her MSW from the Faculty, works in Israel's first closed therapeutic community for drug and alcohol addiction, where approximately 60 per cent of the all-male clients arrive from the penal system and the rest from detox centres. She runs a twice-weekly group therapy session (with a graduate of the community) and provides individual counselling. Previously, she was a case manager at a government-funded, community-based mental health organization in an ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem. Providing support on mental health issues, she designed a rehab program and helped clients to live independently. "My ultimate goal is to set up a private therapy clinic focused on trauma. I've just finished a two-year course at the Israel Center for Psychotrauma. I'm very aware that living in Israel, I too experience trauma."

"At the Faculty, I developed specific skills and tools relevant to my practice. I learned the importance of cultural diversity and cultural competence, significant lessons in Israel. I use them frequently when working, for example, with Muslim, Ethiopian and Orthodox Jewish populations. I also learned the importance of incorporating compassion and a strength-based perspective into my practice. I love being a social worker because I feel that I'm making a real difference. Sometimes, when people ask me what I do, they say how difficult social work must be. But that's not how I see it. To me, social work is about embracing the whole person and believing in their ability to transform their life. That's what I learned at the Faculty and that's what inspires me."

"To me, social work is about embracing the whole person and believing in their ability to transform their life."

Stay Connected

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

IMPACT ACROSS THE GLOBE

CATHY FELDMAN

**Manager at Swiss Homecare Provider
IMAD (Institution Genevoise de Maintien à Domicile)**
📍 **Geneva, Switzerland**



“It’s been an absolutely wonderful career and I’ve loved it.”

Cathy Feldman (née Archer), who graduated with her MSW from the Faculty, is a manager of homecare professionals in Geneva, Switzerland. She works at IMAD (Institution Genevoise de Maintien à Domicile), a Swiss homecare service provider that is funded in part by government and in part by insurance companies. Feldman began by doing fieldwork, joining a multi-disciplinary team of caregivers who visited people in their homes, with the goal of helping people to remain at home for as long as possible. Eventually becoming a manager, she now focuses on projects and institutional management.

“I consider myself lucky to have done a research MSW at the Faculty. I learned specific skills that have been extremely useful in my career. I developed a rigorous approach and had the chance to explore ideas and frameworks and put them into practice in my work in homecare. I also learned how to work in small groups, to be autonomous and to set up programs. We were a tight-knit group, just five of us in research, and we developed projects with Allen Zweben at the Addiction Research Foundation [now at Columbia University School of Social Work], which was an incredible learning experience. I’ve put these skills into practice in personnel and project management. The accomplishment I’m most proud of has been to introduce social workers to a predominantly nurse-based, medically-oriented organization. This is exciting because I’m very aware of the uniquely valuable skills that social workers can bring to a homecare organization. It’s been an absolutely wonderful career and I’ve loved it.”

JOHN GRAHAM

**Professor and Director, School of Social Work
Florida Atlantic University**
📍 **Boca Raton, Florida**



John Graham’s PhD thesis at the Faculty was a history of the FIFSW. A strong advocate of having scholarly people in leadership positions at universities, he is Professor and Director of the School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Before FAU, Graham taught at the University of Calgary, where he coordinated the PhD program, held over \$4 million in research funding and was the Murray Fraser Chair of Community Economic Development. He has published ten books and over 100 journal articles; the key research question that has consumed him is how social workers can improve upon the world through policy systems. He has focused on issues such as international development (with an emphasis on Middle Eastern Bedouin-Arab communities with frequent collaborator, Alean Al-Krenawi, also profiled here), multicultural social work, social policy and homelessness.

“The Faculty has had some amazing scholars and an impressive reputation – and still does. As a PhD student, I had the chance to work with incredible multidisciplinary thinkers like Al Rose, an economist who really understood the importance of not staying within one silo. He encouraged me in this kind of thinking. This kind of multidisciplinary focus has had a major influence on my career. I’m a huge believer in the importance of scholarship and research that uses the best from all disciplines. A multidisciplinary approach is an absolutely crucial strain in social work. One I believe we must never lose track of.”

“As a PhD student, I had the chance to work with incredible multidisciplinary thinkers like Al Rose, an economist who really understood the importance of not staying within one silo.”

IMPACT ACROSS THE GLOBE



DEBRA MCPHEE

**Dean and Professor, Graduate School of Social Service
Fordham University
📍 New York, NYC**

Not every educator and academic leader can list a stint as CEO at a Silicon Valley startup, but stepping outside of the academic world gave Debra McPhee a new perspective on higher education. McPhee, who received her PhD at the Faculty, is now Dean at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Services in New York City. Previously Professor and Dean at Barry University's School of Social Work in Florida for many years, McPhee took a break in Silicon Valley, knowing she'd always return to academia. The experience left her committed to developing responses to the ways technology is changing education. "There's a world of social innovation in Silicon Valley that as educators we need to start paying attention to," she says.

"At Fordham, I've been working with faculty to restructure our PhD program so I've been thinking about my excellent experience at the Faculty. I greatly value my education there for its rigour and because I acquired the necessary skills for future academic leadership in research and teaching. Looking back, a few things stand out. I was the beneficiary of dedicated, experienced faculty who took their doctoral mentorship responsibilities seriously, in particular when I was teaching. There were also incredibly committed Chairs and I was extremely lucky to have Dr. Judy Globerman as my doctoral Chair. Also, I learned and grew by partnering with faculty on significant research and policy efforts. I was the co-facilitator with Nico Trocmé on the Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect which ultimately led to a groundbreaking Canada-wide study."

"I greatly value my education for its rigour and because I acquired the necessary skills for future academic leadership in research and teaching."



IMOGEN TAYLOR

**Emerita Professor of Social Work
University of Sussex
📍 Brighton, England**

"The lessons I learned at the Faculty had a big impact on me."

Since graduating from the Faculty with her MSW, Imogen Taylor has devoted her career as a professor, editor and the author of four books and numerous articles, to what she considers the big question in social work education: how students learn to become professionals. Her University of Bristol doctoral thesis explored a problem-based approach to teaching and learning social work, now used there. A longtime University of Sussex professor (she is now Emerita), she was also Editor-in-Chief of the international journal, *Social Work Education* from 2009 to 2014. "Being editor was an opportunity to bring together international colleagues in social work. It's also led to my latest book, co-edited with Marion Bogo, examining how social work education is developing globally, particularly its re-emergence in China and its emergence in countries such as Malaysia and the Republic of Georgia."

"The lessons I learned at the Faculty had a big impact on me. I had a placement at McMaster, where I was observed as I conducted interviews. I would be called out to discuss the interview's direction and then sent back in. That taught me the importance of immediacy in learning and of learning in context. This was a significant experience for me, helping me to understand that adults learn when they find it relevant and current. When I taught communication skills at the Faculty, I emphasized learning in the moment and that the teacher needs to engage the learner in the emotional experience of learning. I was also very influenced by a class with Norma Lang on non-verbal methods for social work with groups."



SHIGEO TATSUKI

Professor, Sociology of Disaster
Doshisha University
📍 Kyoto, Japan



Shigeo Tatsuki works with survivors of natural disasters in Japan and across the globe. A professor for 30 years since graduating with his MSW and PhD from the Faculty, he first taught social work research in Japan at Kwansei Gakuin University near Kobe and now teaches the sociology of disaster at Doshisha University in Kyoto. Tatsuki's initial encounter with disaster victims occurred 21 years ago when he managed student volunteers during the 1995 Kobe earthquake. That led to his life's work, conducting community-based participatory disaster research to promote survivors' recovery, particularly those with special needs. In addition to working with Japanese victims of such disasters as floods, earthquakes and typhoons -- he has also worked with victims of Hurricane Katrina and other global disasters -- he focuses on discovering, from the victims themselves, what will help them gain a sense of "new normalcy."

"At my placement at the Addiction Research Foundation while I was at the Faculty, I learned to deal with couples and families in conflict. I was taught to see couples and families as a whole, rather than individuals, and trained to join people in conflict together. Learning conflict resolution and how to make connections among a group of angry people helped me enormously with disaster victims. I understood that I had to ask the victims themselves to teach me what they needed. I am also grateful to Professor Ray Thomlison [another international alumnus who now teaches at Florida International University] who taught me the importance of evidence-based practice which has helped tremendously in my disaster work."

"Learning conflict resolution and how to make connections among a group of angry people helped me enormously with disaster victims."



ROSANNA WONG

Executive Director, The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
📍 Hong Kong

No other alumna has the decidedly impressive title Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, an honour bestowed upon Rosanna Wong for her service to Hong Kong. Wong has had a distinguished career, sitting in both the Hong Kong Executive and Legislative Councils and playing a prominent role during the 1997 handover to China. Wong, who received her MSW at the Faculty, has proudly held only one job her entire working life, at Hong Kong's largest youth NGO, the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, where she is now Executive Director. Although she did take time off ("I only left when I was drafted into politics") to complete coursework for a second masters degree at the London School of Economics and a PhD at the University of California, Davis.

"My experience at the Faculty was very affirming. First, the Faculty provided me with an environment in which I felt accepted. It was extremely important for me, as a young person, to be able to come to Canada, a multicultural community, and to feel included. This experience opened me up and helped me to find myself intellectually, personally and professionally. It also developed my global perspective. Secondly, I believe the Faculty crystallized my long-held commitment to public service. I knew, even before coming to Toronto, that I wanted to dedicate my life to service. I will always be grateful because this belief, the guiding principle of my life, became much of a reality at the Faculty."

"The Faculty crystallized my long-held commitment to public service."



RBC CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS LESSONS AND LEGACY OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Now in its tenth year, the annual RBC Conference continues to be as relevant as ever. This year’s timely focus, “The Financial Crisis and Great Recession: Lessons and Legacy”, attracted people from across the community to the November 9 one-day conference held at the University of Toronto’s George Ignatieff Theatre.

The event, which was co-hosted by U of T’s Faculty of Arts and Science and our Faculty, was an opportunity to hear thought-provoking speakers. Professor Angelo Melino, RBC Chair in Economics and Public Policy and C.D. Howe Institute Monetary Policy Council member, discussed Canada’s experience with inflation targeting; Professor Jordi Mondria spoke about the crisis in Spain; and Professor George Georgopoulos of York University and York Senior Fellow at Massey College discussed the Sovereign Debt Crisis.

Professor Stephen Cecchetti of Brandeis International Business School and former Economic Adviser and Head of the Monetary and Economic Department, Bank for International Settlements, was the keynote speaker over lunch. His lively speech, which began by engaging the audience as he asked, “What’s so great about the Great Recession?” provided insights into monetary policy and the economics of global regulatory reform in the aftermath of the financial crisis. Cecchetti’s expertise and thoughtful analysis received a strong response from the audience, bringing to a close another successful RBC conference.

Your support is needed

Support your Faculty to help the next generation of social workers to succeed. To donate, contact us at fund.fsw@utoronto.ca or phone 416-978-4437.

Become an alumni mentor

Want to give back to your profession in a meaningful way? Have even a small amount of time to help a current student launch his/her career?

PRACTICUM FORUM FOR MSW STUDENTS FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY AGENCIES

At an October forum organized by the Practicum Office, Year I MSW students had the chance to hear directly from social work professionals about what their lives are like working in community-based agencies, prompting many of the students to consider agency work as a possibility in their own futures. One student told speaker Alex Gosselin that listening to her describe the kind of challenges she encountered had opened the student's eyes to how complex case management could be.

Gosselin is a Community Treatment Worker at LOFT ("Leap of Faith Together") Community Services, in the Transitional Age Youth Program, where she supports people living with challenges related to such issues as mental health and substance use. A recent MSW graduate herself, Gosselin inspired the audience as she described how meaningful she finds the grassroots work.

“

“What’s really exciting is that you have the opportunity to make things happen in a smaller organization. You can be creative and your employers will invest in you. When I started, I hit the ground running which really increased my learning from others. You develop so many different skills, like therapeutic counselling, because your learning never stops. It’s a privilege to work at a place like this,” she said.

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FIELD INSTRUCTOR SIM-POSIUM FOCUSES ON HOW SIMULATION IS HELPING STUDENTS TO LEARN

SIM-POSIUM: “Using Simulation in Social Work Education”
June 10, 2016
7th floor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

8:30 am – 9:00 am
Network over coffee

9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Presentations: Faculty members and field instructors discuss using simulation to build student competence.

Panel: Field instructors from wide-ranging settings explain how innovative teaching methods are helping students to learn.

This event is open only to field instructors (current or future) and education coordinators.

Remembering Emeritus Professor Sidney Olyan

Emeritus professor Sidney Olyan died on January 28, 2016. An alumnus, he received his BSW (a degree that was only offered for a short time) in 1950 and his MSW in 1951 here. He began teaching at our Faculty in 1972, retiring in 1991. He also served as Acting Dean from 1988 to 1989, making an important contribution over his career to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

FIFSW SPRING REUNION 2016 & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AGM May 25, 2016

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
7th floor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	FIFSW Alumni Association AGM
7:15 pm – 9:00 pm	Mix and mingle

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2016 Spring Reunion. It’s a great opportunity to reconnect with other alumni and the Faculty.

ALUMNI Distinguished SPEAKER SERIES



Jane Middleton-Moz, Director, Middleton-Moz Institute

Monday, April 18, 2016

Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

246 Bloor Street West, Room 320

6:00-8:00 PM

Register at <https://fifswaspeakerseries.eventbrite.ca>

For more information: alumni.fsw@utoronto.ca or (416) 978-4437

From Nightmare to Vision: Trauma-Informed Community Intervention

Jane Middleton-Moz, Director of the Middleton-Moz Institute, is an internationally known speaker and author with over thirty-five years of experience in consultation, training and community intervention. Ms. Middleton-Moz has served on the Board of NACOA (National Association of Children of Alcoholics) and the Advisory Board of NANACOA (National Association of Native American Children of Alcoholics) and has been awarded the distinction and title of "Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada".

She is recognized for her work in the areas of adult children of alcoholics, multi-generational grief and trauma in individuals, families and communities, ethnic and cultural awareness, anger, cultural self-hate, differential diagnosis, values in the workplace and in families, empowering employees and creating positive work place environments.

The Distinguished Speakers Series, created by the Alumni Association, brings leading edge thinkers to the Faculty annually, in perpetuity, to explore avant-garde issues. By fostering debate and dialogue about crucial societal challenges, these lectures benefit students, alumni, researchers and the community.

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