



Welcome to REACH Spring/Summer 2018. With this issue of REACH, we focus on telling the stories of some Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work faculty, alumni, friends and supporters. And we delve into the recently proclaimed Controlled Psychotherapy Act. We ask: What does it mean for Ontario social workers and the public they serve? Recounting these stories is an important way to highlight and celebrate major contributions and achievements and affirm our common bonds and values.

In honour of proclaiming the Controlled Psychotherapy Act, the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work held a celebration on April 5, hosted by the Deans and Directors of Ontario schools of social work. That reception was a joyful event, bringing together social workers from across Ontario. The campaign to proclaim the Controlled Psychotherapy Act – led so effectively by the Ontario Association of Social Workers aided by the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers – unleashed a tidal wave of advocacy. It emphasized all that we can accomplish together.

Looking through this issue, I am reminded once more that one of the great honours of being dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is

having the chance to get to know and work with so many of you. The FIFSW community continues to expand and I urge all alumni to strengthen your ties to the Faculty in any way you can. Our Faculty remains committed to making a significant contribution on a global scale. We are moving forward at an exciting pace and each one of you is an integral part of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work community.

With best wishes,

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

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PROCLAIMING THE CONTROLLED ACT OF PSYCHOTHERAPY

When the Ontario Government proclaimed the Controlled Act of Psychotherapy in December 2017, it was a major success for Ontario social workers and the clients they serve. A validation of the power of the collective voice and the crucial role Ontario social workers play in mental health. For social workers in Ontario, it means being granted the right to use the title “Psychotherapist.” For the public, it means increased access to vital mental health services and greater clarity.

On April 5, 2018, the Deans and Directors of Ontario schools of social work invited social workers from across Toronto – many in attendance were instrumental in helping to make this happen – to join us at the Faculty to celebrate. “The entire campaign was a testament to the power of the collective will,” Keith Adamson, FIFSW professor and outgoing OASW President (his term ended in May), told the jubilant crowd gathered at the Faculty. “It’s great to have something to celebrate. As social workers, we don’t always have that. This is important because it validates the important role we play as social workers. We have to build on this.”



KEITH ADAMSON

“It is confirmation galore, leading to the advancement of social work. Recognizing that social workers can provide excellent mental health services enables us to play an active part in service delivery. It opens the door to conversations with third party payers about broadening insurance coverage for social work services. For the public, one important benefit is the unique competitive edge social workers bring. We can make different kinds of referrals because we look beyond the individual. This campaign was the highlight of my time as President. I want to credit every Past President, OASW’s Executive Committee and Board as well as the staff. Achieving this incredible grassroots effort shows how exceptionally effective the Association is.”

Keith Adamson, FIFSW Professor and Outgoing OASW President

“It shows what we as social workers can do when we have a common goal and a well thought-out strategy, when we are focused and unwavering in our determination. It demonstrates the important role that the OASW, as a voice for the profession, can play and the need for social workers to support this collective voice. It is an opportunity for the profession, opening up wider issues about acknowledging social work’s value. If we truly want to shape the future of the profession rather than having it shaped by others, we need to move forward with a collective voice. Imagine what we could accomplish if everyone who could join the Association did so in order to support its advocacy.”

Joan MacKenzie Davies, OASW Chief Executive Officer



JOAN MACKENZIE DAVIES

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROFESSOR LYNN MCDONALD



In September 2017 FIFSW Professor Lynn McDonald was one of a select group of eminent Canadian scholars and researchers who was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Election to the Royal Society of Canada is the highest honour a Canadian scholar can achieve. It recognizes Professor McDonald as a leading researcher in gerontology, in the forefront of significant advances for the betterment of Canada and the world.

As the longtime former director of the Institute for Life Course and Aging and the Scientific Director of NICE, an international network of researchers, practitioners and students dedicated to improving the care of older adults, Professor McDonald has had a profound impact. An innovative researcher, scholar, leader and policy expert, she has deepened our understanding of how we age, helping older adults across the globe. Her research focuses on such challenges as aging gracefully using technology, mobilizing knowledge related to aging and elder abuse.

LYNN FACTOR HONOURED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL WORK

It is our great pleasure to congratulate Lynn Factor on being appointed to the Order of Canada and receiving the 2018 YWCA Women of Distinction President's Award. In December, Lynn received our country's highest and most prestigious honour: she was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for "her contributions to the field of social work and for her dedication to improving the lives of our most vulnerable children." Recently she received the 2018 Women of Distinction President's Award, cited as "a resounding voice for children and youth, a fierce advocate for social justice and a remarkable philanthropist."

A valued supporter, advisor and friend to our Faculty, Lynn's long-standing dedication to improving the services and programs for vulnerable children was demonstrated in 2007 when she and her husband Sheldon Inwentash made a landmark donation to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. That generous donation has had a far-reaching impact, enabling us to establish fifty graduate scholarships and five endowed chairs. She is a member of the FIFSW Dean's Circle of Advisors and an Honorary Chair of Social Work's Boundless Campaign.



For over 35 years, Lynn has had a distinguished career in child welfare, from her early years as a frontline social worker and supervisor with Durham Children's Aid Society to her work with the Ministry of the Attorney General managing clinical, staff and administrative activities related to the Victim Witness Assistance Program. Currently she is a Child Witness Advocate at the Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (BOOST) where she prepares child victims and witnesses of crimes to testify in criminal court.

A committed leader as well as an advocate, she chairs Covenant House's Sex Trafficking Advocacy Committee and the Scholarship Awards Committee for Toronto Children's Aid Society. She is the past chair of the Board of Directors of Toronto Children Aid Society, a founding volunteer member of Boost's fundraising committee for the Butterfly Ball, and the past chair of the Board of Directors of the Children's Aid Foundation. Over a dedicated career on behalf of vulnerable children and their families, Lynn has led by example, committed to social work values, working on behalf of the least privileged in our society.

WITH THANKS TO GILLIAN MCCLOSKEY ON HER RETIREMENT



After 30 years at the Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW), Alumna Gillian McCloskey (MSW 1973), former OASW Associate Executive Director, retired in August 2017. Over those years she made an important and sustained contribution to our Faculty as a valued friend, supporter and colleague. She

served on the FIFSW Faculty Council for many years as the OASW representative, joining in 2004 and acting as chair on two separate occasions, a role in which she excelled. As the OASW representative, she was someone on whom we could always count – dependable and effective.

McCloskey began her career at the OASW in 1987 as a Program Manager, becoming Associate Executive Director in 1991. She played a key leadership role in crafting the OASW's social advocacy positions; actively contributed to developing and implementing OASW professional advocacy initiatives and government relations strategy; and edited OASW publications including the OASW Newsmagazine and Social Work Now.

At a celebration on November 3, 2017 held at the OASW in McCloskey's honour, Dean Faye Mishna said, "Gillian, I speak for our entire Faculty when I say how incredibly fortunate – and grateful – we are, to have had you involved with our Faculty for so long. As Dean, I've turned to Gillian many times over the years. And I always knew I could count on her. When I consulted with her about issues or questions, Gillian inevitably was helpful and informative. She's been so essential to our Faculty. Whatever the request, she not only graciously accepted, she always made a tremendous difference."

LEARNING ACROSS THE GLOBE

International practicum experiences are an exciting learning opportunity for FIFSW MSW students, a chance to broaden their educational experience and gain a global perspective.

In 2017, two MSW students, Lyndsey Kotchapaw (MSW Candidate 2018) and Deirdre Ryan-Morissette (MSW Candidate 2018), were the first FIFSW students to complete their Year 1 practicum at Hebrew University's Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare in Israel. As well, two Hebrew University MSW students studied at the FIFSW for a few months in 2017.

COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADS CARPENTERS' UNION TO CREATE SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the first groups of North American tradespeople to form unions – almost always in the face of fierce opposition from employers and governments – the Carpenters' Union has played an important role in labour history across Canada and the United States since 1881.

While job protection and fair wages have been the union's primary concern over its over 130-year history, it also focuses on the welfare of its members and of members of communities across the globe and has a long and rich history of community engagement.

That dedication to advocating for meaningful social progress – as well as their commitment to education and training – led the Toronto union, Local 27 (which represents over 7,500 women and men), to create two scholarships at our Faculty to support future generations of social work students.

"We are committed to equity and social justice, not just in our own union, not just in the communities where our members live and work, but throughout Canada and internationally as well. What we wish for ourselves, we wish for all," reads the union's website. They are sentiments our Faculty shares.

"At home and abroad, the Carpenters' Union contributes to creating a stronger society while building the infrastructure and support for the future," says Mike Yorke, President, Carpenters' and Allied Workers Local 27.

We are proud to call the members of Carpenters' and Allied Workers Local 27 part of the FIFSW community and thank them for their generous support.

"We worked with an immigration organization, supporting English-speaking seniors, carrying a caseload and doing in-home assessments, and we co-facilitated a group at a mental health organization. We took courses at Hebrew U, including one on shared society, where individuals working for peace in various organizations across the country came and spoke," says Kotchapaw.

"In social work, we talk about person in their environment, so it was enormously beneficial as a social work student to experience Israel, a vastly diverse atmosphere, and begin to learn how to navigate within it. Working with clients, hearing their diverse stories, attending school, living in Israel and learning the history and political tensions between the groups of people co-habiting, brought to life the complexities of our social work field," says Ryan-Morissette.



REMEMBERING SIMON WOO

Our Faculty lost a treasured friend when Simon Woo died on January 24, 2018. A true ambassador and volunteer

extraordinaire, he always had a special relationship with the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, working tirelessly for 47 years on behalf of future generations of social work students. He will be greatly missed.

Simon Woo was a newcomer to Canada with a degree in social work from the University of Hong Kong and a young family to support when he started in 1970. He worked at the Faculty for 33 years as media co-ordinator and photographer, and from the very first, he did so much more: teaching Tai Chi on his lunch hour (which he continued to practise every day into his 80s), translating Chinese, and providing invaluable help with fundraising across the Chinese community, which continued after he retired. Dedicated to helping students (who he thought of as his own family), he set up a scholarship to help future social work students and worked closely with donors to create

designated spaces at the Faculty like “Simon’s Garden” where students could congregate. In recent years he continued to assist the FIFSW by securing funding to name rooms with recognition plaques engraved in both Chinese and English. In 1996, the University recognized his committed service to U of T by presenting him with the Chancellor’s Award. This award is given to administrative staff members who have provided exceptional leadership by advancing the University’s mission.

Describing his unwavering commitment, he once said, “I was a social worker in Hong Kong before emigrating and it is in my nature to help others. From the moment I stepped in the door at the Faculty, I felt at home. I’ve always known exactly what I am supposed to do when I am there. I am helping students.”

Most of all, he was a firm believer that the secret to his longstanding dedication to the Faculty could be found in his initials. “Let me tell you something,” he liked to say. “Social work is SW. And SW is Simon Woo.” We second that.

FOSTERING BONDS BETWEEN SOCIAL WORKERS

Chi Delta, the new FIFSW chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work, was launched in 2017 with founding board members Johanna Sullivan (President); Sarah McMillan (Vice-President); Carla Barbe (Treasurer); Farah Riaz (Secretary) and Faculty Advisor Professor Shelley Craig. Phi Alpha is dedicated to fostering bonds and building community between social workers and recognizing the achievements of social work students. Chi Delta is proud of the 52 student members from FIFSW during the inaugural year and congratulates them on this academic achievement.

Please see the Chi Delta page for more information socialwork.utoronto.ca/current-students/phi-alpha



ALUMNA DR. BERNICE BELL

A LIFETIME DEDICATED TO SOCIAL WORK VALUES

“For me, it all started with the Faculty,” says alumna Dr. Bernice Bell (MSW 1964, EdD 1992). “That’s where I learned my social work values – to be non-judgemental, respectful of the other person, to ask questions and learn from them. I always tried to focus on what someone could do, not on what they couldn’t do.”

Over a more than six-decade career in social work – both pre- and post-retirement – Bell has had a powerful impact. To this day, she picks up the phone to hear from former students or individuals she once worked with, eager to update her on their lives.

When you ask Bell about the driving force behind her lengthy career, she laughs and says, “I guess I don’t really understand the meaning of the word retirement.”

After working for nearly four decades in Toronto, Bell and her husband retired to Prince Edward Island in 1992. Then she got even busier. “Life really began to open up,” she says. “I was asked to

lecture at the University of PEI, where I taught for over a decade, helping to develop the gerontology course in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and strongly supporting the initiation of Seniors College on the Island. Those experiences led to attending conferences across Canada, serving on committees and writing research reports on issues related to seniors such as elder abuse, poverty and social isolation.”

Describing her career path, Bell says, “I never actually applied for a job. One practice just led to another.” Her first social work practices were in child welfare and children’s mental health. That led to developing an adoption program for children with learning disabilities at the Children’s Aid Society, which led to an invitation to become a lecturer at our Faculty with a focus on learning difficulties. At the same time, she directed a social vocational residential program for adults with learning problems, and created the first post-secondary program for students with learning difficulties at Seneca College in Ontario.

One constant has been Bell’s continued close relationship with our Faculty. Over her years in Toronto, she worked as a FIFSW field instructor, consultant, lecturer and curriculum advisor. Since moving to PEI, she has remained dedicated. She recently established an endowed scholarship, the Copson-Bell Scholarship, to support social work students at our Faculty and has created a bequest to the Faculty in her will for future social work students.

We are proud to call Dr. Bernice Bell – who continues to be involved in volunteer activities and committees – a valued member of our FIFSW community. The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is grateful for her generosity and commitment to our Faculty and to future generations of social workers. She is a remarkable example to us all.

HERE'S HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

VISIT 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.

VISIT US ONLINE

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