

Year in Review

2017 - 2018



FACTOR-INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



DEAN’S MESSAGE

This has been an exciting year at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, a year in which our Faculty continued to develop innovations in teaching, research and practice; welcomed new faculty members; and deepened ties with alumni, community partners and friends through a diverse spectrum of initiatives and activities. With this issue of the 2017-2018 FIFSW Year in Review, we introduce you to some of the highlights from the past year and share a few of the many stories from our community as we work to transform lives locally, nationally and across the globe.

There were all kinds of meaningful moments this past year – one that particularly moved me was the Distinguished Speaker Event. There was such a great response to hear Setsuko Thurlow speak that we eventually had to switch venues to accommodate the overflow crowd. When I think back to the evening, one image has stayed with me. Several hours into the reception following the talk, the servers were picking up glasses and clearing away plates, and there was Setsuko, surrounded by young MSW students,

engaged as ever. No one wanted to leave. I think of Setsuko's extraordinary fortitude and dedication and I am reminded of why we believe so strongly in the power of social work and the work we do every day at this Faculty.

We invite all alumni, supporters, community partners and friends of the FIFSW to join with us and become involved: attend the numerous events we offer, participate in the roster of exciting activities organized by the Alumni Association or have a lasting impact by becoming a field instructor or funding scholarships, bursaries or research. As always, we'd love to hear from you.

With best wishes,

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

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MARCH 15, 2018



2018 DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SETSUKO THURLOW

Hiroshima Survivor, Trailblazer, Alumna and Anti-Nuclear Activist

"I will tell you my story as an activist and a survivor," Setsuko Thurlow told a rapt audience of over 250 at the fourth annual FIFSW 2018 Distinguished Speaker Series. Open to the public, the series was created by the FIFSW Alumni Association to hear cutting-edge speakers discuss major challenges. With unflinching directness, Thurlow described surviving the bombing of Hiroshima as a 14-year-old schoolgirl and her unceasing work to abolish nuclear weapons. Just a few months earlier, she'd accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), an organization that was critical in convincing the United Nations to adopt a landmark global treaty outlawing nuclear weapons.

Survivors, Thurlow said, came to understand that the world did not want to hear their stories. That meant that it was survivors' duty to tell these stories. "I am determined to put a human face on the often-abstract discussion of nuclear disarmament. I hope this will help people to gain a deeper understanding, with empathy and sensitivity, of the catastrophic human impact nuclear weapons inflict. It is our moral imperative to abolish nuclear weapons. We've worked for over 70 years but we have a long way to go," she said. Long after the speech ended, at the reception, Thurlow remained surrounded by audience members – no one, it seemed, was willing to end such an inspirational evening.



Congratulations to Our Newest Alumni

SPRING CONVOCATION - JUNE 21, 2018



- 1 Harry Wenban and family
- 2 Karena Ahwai-Mohammed and family
- 3 Andrea Prince and Vana Prince
- 4 Laura Martinez
- 5 David Viitala
- 6 Stacey Ntangaaza Karuhanga and family
- 7 Deirdre Ryan-Morrisette, Ruo Yang Du and Emily Linton
- 8 Joelleann Forbes and Naitang Chiu
- 9 Elizabeth Anne Mueller, Brianna Cebrian Schatz and Heather Kay

Alumni Association AGM and Alumni Reunion



Outstanding Alumni Mentors



FIFSW Alumni Association Board

This year's Alumni Association Annual General Meeting and Alumni Reunion on May 15 at the Faculty had a warm and relaxed atmosphere as alumni caught up with one another and connected with the Faculty. There was a lot to celebrate – the Alumni Association, led by President **Judy Newman**, was coming off an impressive year of increased engagement and multiple activities. (You can read more about it on p.14). The AGM, which included a ceremony honouring Outstanding Alumni Mentors (see above photo), concluded on a strong note with a presentation by Professor and Associate Dean Academic **Shelley Craig**, Canada Research Chair in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth. The talk was a chance for alumni to learn about critical research

initiatives by faculty members in response to some of today's most pressing challenges (part of an ongoing initiative that began at last year's AGM). Craig conveyed commitment and passion as she described her research dedicated to understanding how technology affects LGBTQ youth and how best to support them. Citing the crucial role technology plays as a support in the lives of these youth, Craig urged the rapt crowd of assembled social workers to stay current, encourage youth to highlight how technology helps them to cope and to take into account, in their assessments, their clients' offline – and online – experiences.

8 New PhD Theses Examining Critical Issues

Philip Baiden explored the role of bullying and other adverse childhood experiences in non-suicidal self-injury and suicidal behaviour among children and adolescents.

Sophia Fantus conducted a qualitative exploration of the experiences of gestational surrogacy for gay men in Canada.

Woyengi Goary explored an institutional ethnographic inquiry into the role of Black female child protection workers as carers in child protection.

Yu-Te Huang examined identity development and lived experiences among Chinese immigrant young gay men in Canada.

Kristen Lwin explored using research to evaluate child welfare worker qualifications.

Lauren McInroy examined online fandom communities and identity development, social support and resilience of sexual and/or gender minority youth.

Kristina Nikolova conducted a multi-level analysis of intimate partner violence and gender inequality.

Gabrielle Pitt explored the psychosocial needs of children who are coping with a parent's cancer.



Congratulations to Associate Professor Carmen Logie

We are delighted to announce that Professor **Carmen Logie** has been granted tenure and the rank of Associate Professor in the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, effective July 1, 2018. Professor Logie's research explores the social and structural drivers of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI). Its goal is to increase understanding of HIV/STI vulnerability among diverse marginalized populations and inform the development, implementation and evaluation of multi-level HIV and STI prevention interventions. She has led multi-disciplinary teams dedicated to HIV/STI research, working with internally displaced women in post-earthquake Haiti; sexually and gender diverse youth in Jamaica and Canada; Indigenous youth in Northern Canada; and African and Caribbean young women in Ontario.

Honours & Achievements

Professor **Keith Adamson**, Past President of the Ontario Association of Social Workers, received the 30 in 30 Award from Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Student Association (WLUGSA). Celebrating WLUGSA's 30th anniversary, the 30 in 30 program recognizes 30 former or current graduate students who best exemplify a life of leadership and purpose.

Alumna **Cindy Blackstock** (PhD 2009) received an honorary degree from U of T. An indefatigable advocate for the rights of Indigenous children, the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and Professor of Social Work at McGill University said, "Know your values and develop the moral courage to defend them so you can take your turn to stand against the winds of discrimination and injustice." Blackstock also received an honorary degree from Memorial University.



Professor **Marion Bogo** was awarded an honorary degree by Memorial University for her achievements in the development of social work education and practice in Canada and abroad and in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Memorial University's School of Social Work. Bogo was cited for advancing the practice of social work as a leader, scholar and teacher "whose empirical studies have illuminated innovative approaches to educating social workers for professional practice." The Toronto Simulation Model is built upon Bogo's research using simulation to teach and assess students' competence. This research is having a significant impact internationally across the social work profession.

Professor **David Brennan** received the Canadian Association of HIV Research (CAHR) Award. Brennan, director of CRUISElab, received the Excellence in Research Award – Social Services at CAHR's annual meeting. The award, sponsored by the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR), recognizes "achieving excellence and demonstrating a commitment to improving the lives of those living with or at risk of HIV."

Professor **David Burnes** has been awarded the 2018 Faculty Achievement Award from the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE-SW). This international award is given to an early-career faculty member in recognition of substantial contributions to gerontology scholarship, teaching and presence in aging-related local, state/provincial and national organizations. His research focuses on elder abuse, facilitating the development of knowledge and innovative intervention strategies.

Lynn Factor received Canada's highest and most prestigious honour when 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." She also received the 2018 Women of Distinction President's Award this past year, named "a resounding voice for children and youth, a fierce advocate for social justice and a remarkable philanthropist."

Professor **Toula Kourgiantakis** received the 2017-2018 FIFSW Teaching Award. The biennial award recognizes outstanding contributions to education through curriculum development, innovation and research on education. As Simulation Coordinator of the FIFSW Toronto Simulation Model, she works with colleagues and field instructors to integrate simulation in the classroom and the field.



In September 2017 Emeritus Professor **Lynn McDonald** was one of a select group of eminent Canadian scholars and researchers named a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada. Election to the Royal Society of Canada is the highest honour a Canadian scholar can receive, recognizing her as a leading researcher in gerontology, in the forefront of significant advances for the betterment of Canada and the world. McDonald's research focuses on such challenges as aging gracefully using technology, mobilizing knowledge related to aging and elder abuse. McDonald, a highly valued member of the FIFSW, retired in January 2018. An innovative scholar, researcher, leader and policy expert who has deepened our understanding of how we age, she is the long-time 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.

Alumna **Barbara Muskat** (PhD 2008), Assistant Professor (Status Only), was elected Board President of the International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG) for a three-year term. IASWG is the premier organization for social workers and allied helping professionals engaged in group work.

Alumna **Kristina Nikolova** (PhD 2017) received U of T's Graduate Award for Scholarly Achievement in the Area of Gender-Based Violence for her doctoral dissertation examining gender inequality and intimate partner violence in 28 low-income countries. Established on December 6, 2016 on the 27th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, the award honours "a distinctive contribution in the area of gender-based violence and prevention." Nikolova is now a post-doctoral associate at the Center on Violence Against Women and Children at Rutgers University School of Social Work.



Provost, Vice-President and FIFSW Professor **Cheryl Regehr** was awarded an honorary degree by Wilfrid Laurier University for her work as a community builder, social worker, educator, researcher and mental health champion. Responding to the award, Regehr said, "We all have a responsibility to each other to make a change. Social workers have a great deal of optimism

that the world can change and be better and that given the opportunities individuals can live up to their potential. It's exciting to think about how we can create change in the entire system so we can achieve the goals we want to achieve."

Alumna **Karen Sasaki** (MSW 1990), Social Worker, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, UHN and FIFSW Adjunct Lecturer, is being recognized for holding the longest-standing Adjunct Lecturer appointment from the current roster of over 600 field instructors. Strongly committed to field education, Sasaki has been a field instructor since 1995.

Alumnus **Nico Trocmé** (PhD 1992, MSW 1983), Director of the School of Social Work at McGill University, the Philip Fisher Chair in Social Work at McGill University and a former FIFSW professor, received Canada's highest scholarly honour when he was named a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada in September 2017. A respected child welfare policy and program consultant and one of Canada's most prolific social work researchers, his life's work has focused on protecting the wellbeing of Canadian children.

HILARY M. WESTON MEDAL



JOSHUA LITWIN (MSW 2018) received the Hilary M. Weston Medal. Given annually to the graduating student with the highest academic standing, the award was established by U of T President Emeritus J. Robert S. Prichard and Ann E. Wilson to recognize the Honourable

Hilary M. Weston's commitment to social justice as Ontario's Lieutenant Governor. Litwin now works in Woodgreen Community Services' Homeward Bound program, a service offering access to affordable housing, education and childcare to single mothers struggling with poverty.

BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER STUDENT LEADERSHIP PRIZE



This year there were two recipients of this prize, which is awarded annually to a student in the final year of the MSW Program who significantly contributes to student life at the FIFSW.

HANIAH KHALID (MSW 2018) made a contribution as the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Student Leader, co-facilitator of the Extended Conversations series, coordinator of the Tri-University Networking Event and through her work with the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office.

MAHSIMA NOSRATI-INANLOU (MSW 2018) enriched the student experience through her work with the Graduate Student Association, the Practicum Advisory Committee, the Alumni Association and the IMAGINE Clinic.

2018 GORDON CRESSY STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

This cross-university annual award was established in honour of FIFSW alumnus Gordon Cressy, a former vice-president of development and university affairs, to promote leadership and community engagement. Three FIFSW students were recognized for outstanding extra-curricular contributions to the FIFSW and U of T this past year.

KAYLA PAIGE BASKIN was President of the FIFSW Graduate Student Association (GSA) and a Student Representative on the Faculty Council.

DEIRDRE RYAN-MORISSETTE was Treasurer of the GSA and represented the Faculty on the Inter-professional Healthcare Association.

MARYN SMYTH-COMMODARI was Secretary of the GSA and a Representative on the Master of Social Work Studies Committee.

We're Asking Big Questions

ABOUT BIG ISSUES

What are we learning about promoting wellbeing for sexual and gender minority youth?

Canada Research Chair in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth (SGMY); Shelley Craig, principal investigator.

How can we prevent elder abuse?

Enhancing service utilization in elder abuse interventions through client-centered practice; David Burnes, principal investigator.

How can we change the increasing trend of neighbourhood inequality in our cities?

Neighbourhood inequality, diversity and change: Trends, processes, consequences and policy options for Canada's large metropolitan areas; David Hulchanski, principal investigator.

How are we working to promote global development, health and prosperity?

Global development, health and prosperity cluster-Chair in social justice, equity and diversity; Peter Newman, principal investigator.

How can we mobilize knowledge for older adults?

Engaged scholarship: evaluation of knowledge mobilization for older adults in the community; Lynn McDonald, principal investigator.

How are we working to transform the child welfare system?

Canada Research Chair in Child Welfare; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

What factors promote wellbeing for childhood abuse survivors?

From surviving to flourishing: Factors associated with optimal wellbeing among childhood physical and sexual abuse survivors; Esme Fuller-Thomson, principal investigator.

What is the experience of Mainland Chinese immigrants in Canada?

Intra-group dynamics and social exclusion: Experience of Mainland Chinese immigrants to Canada; A Ka Tat Tsang, 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 Alaggia, principal investigator.

How are we working with higher risk communities in Canada, India and South Africa to advance HIV vaccine acceptance?

Social, behavioural and ethical challenges of HIV vaccine development; Peter Newman, principal investigator.

What are we learning about substantive citizenship?

Substantive citizenship in an era of crimmigration: Constructing the deportable subject in the shadow of the state; Rupaleem Bhuyan, principal investigator.

How can we create pathways to family justice?

Pathways to family justice; Michael Saini, principal investigator.

How do ICTs influence SGMY?

Clicking to Cope? The influence of ICTs on the resilience, social support and school engagement of Canada's SGMY; Shelley Craig, principal investigator.

How can we support female immigrant and refugee health care workers?

Addressing employment barriers and advancing gender equity in Canada's health care system; Dan Zuberi, principal investigator.

What are we learning about Family Health Teams?

Incentives and disincentives for treating depression and anxiety in Ontario Family Health Teams; Rachelle Ashcroft, principal investigator.

How are we promoting knowledge exchange on aging?

Annual NICE Knowledge Exchange; Lynn McDonald, principal investigator.

What are we learning about visual and performance art for HIV prevention?

Visual and performance art for HIV prevention with Indigenous youth in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and Nunavut; A mixed-methods multiple case study; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What are we learning about informal ICT use as an adjunct to face-to-face social work practice?

#Social Work: Informal ICT use as adjunct to traditional face-to-face practice; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

How do organizations influence child welfare service delivery?

Understanding the influence of organizations on child welfare service delivery; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

What are we learning about young homeless women?

Pregnancy and family planning among young women experiencing homelessness in Canada; Stephanie Begun, principal investigator.

What are we learning about resilience and violence among NWT youth?

Social ecologies of resilience and teen dating violence among Aboriginal and Northern youth in the NWT; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What are the sex- and health-seeking online practices of gay and bisexual men?

Exploring the sex- and health-seeking practices within evolving online environments of gay and bisexual men; David Brennan, principal investigator.

How are we promoting rights for children and youth?

Rights for children and youth partnership: Strengthening collaboration in the Americas; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

How can we promote gay men's health research?

The Investigaytors Initiative; David Brennan, principal investigator.

What are we learning about families and caregiving?

United we stand, divided we falter: Advancing a family-centred agenda for caregiving research; Charmaine Williams, principal investigator.

How can simulation promote empathy for the elderly?

Frail aging simulation suits: An innovative strategy to promote empathy and understanding among students; Esme Fuller-Thomson, principal investigator.

How are we addressing drivers of HIV and sexually transmitted infections?

Addressing social and structural drivers of HIV and sexually transmitted infections among diverse young Canadian women; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What are we learning about inter-generational trauma among Japanese Canadians?

Many faces of Japanese Canadians: Remembering inter-generational trauma and renewing cultural identity through activism, art practice and community-building; Izumi Sakamoto, principal investigator.

What factors support social innovation in non-profits?

Creating conditions for social innovation: Factors that support cross- and intra-sector partnerships with direct social service non-profits; Micheal Shier, principal investigator.

What are we learning about social policy and urban poverty?

Social policy and urban poverty in Canada; Dan Zuberi, principal investigator.

What are we learning about the opioid crisis and seniors?

The invisible epidemic: A spotlight on the opioid crisis among seniors; Lynn McDonald, principal investigator.

How are we mobilizing knowledge in child welfare?

2018 Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

How are we investigating HIV/STI vulnerability among NWT youth?

Understanding syndemics and HIV/STI vulnerability among Indigenous and Northern youth in the NWT; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

How can we measure outcome in elder abuse?

Introducing individualized measurement to elder abuse interventions; David Burnes, principal investigator.

What are we learning about child sexual abuse?

Uncovering pathways and processes of child sexual abuse disclosures; Ramona Alaggia, principal investigator.

How can we promote resilience with SGMY?

Soft like silk, pliable like bamboo: Practicing resilience-in-context: A multi-method study of resilience with SGMY in Thailand; Peter Newman, principal investigator.

How does wealth centralization affect urban life?

The effects of wealth centralization on urban planning and urban life; David Hulchanski, principal investigator.

How can we use apps to address sexual health?

Measuring the impact of an innovative peer-based app intervention to address the sexual health of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men; David Brennan, principal investigator.

How do ICTs promote identity and wellbeing?

'Queery'ing resilience: Leveraging information and communication technologies to negotiate gender and sexual minority youth identity and wellbeing; Shelley Craig, principal investigator.

How can we promote attachment?

Promoting attachment and mitigating the risk of infant maltreatment among young expectant mothers involved in the child welfare system; Bryn King, principal investigator.

How do youth living with HIV support each other?

CONNEXIONS+: Youth living with HIV since childhood supporting each other; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What are we learning about migration and resilience?

Migration and resilience in urban Canada: Discovering strengths and building capacity; Rupaleem Bhuyan, principal investigator.

How can we advance HIV prevention for refugees?

Developing a community-based interdisciplinary research agenda to advance HIV prevention and care cascades in refugee settlements in Uganda; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

How can we improve social work decision-making?

Improving social work decision-making in situations of risk and uncertainty; Cheryl Regehr, principal investigator.

What are we learning about HIV self-testing delivery?

Tushirikiane (Supporting each other): Development, implementation and evaluation of novel HIV self-testing delivery approaches with Ugandan urban displaced and refugee adolescent girls; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What are we learning about photovoice research?

Photovoice scoping review; Lin Fang, principal investigator.

How are we helping young expectant mothers in the child welfare system?

Young expectant mothers involved in the child welfare system; Bryn King, principal investigator.

How are we promoting HIV prevention?

TEACHH: Transgender women removing healthcare barriers to engagement in the HIV prevention and care cascades; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

How are we developing HIV preventive interventions?

The "Phi-Nong" Project: Development and pilot testing of a culturally adapted, high-impact HIV preventive intervention in Chonburi province, Thailand; Peter Newman, principal investigator.

How can we help youth experiencing housing loss?

Supporting social innovation to improve social outcomes for youth experiencing housing loss; Micheal Shier, principal investigator.

How can emerging technology promote wellness?

OHTN Applied HIV Research Chair – Examining emerging technology to promote optimal wellness for marginalized gay and bisexual men; David Brennan, principal investigator.

How can we advance the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV among young women?

Advancing sexually transmitted infections and HIV prevention among young women; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

What is the impact of the Ridgeway Community Court?

Understanding the impact of the Ridgeway Community Court; Lin Fang, principal investigator.

What are alternative blood donor policies?

Assessing alternative Canadian Blood Services blood donor deferral screening policies for men who have sex with men; David Brennan, principal investigator.

What are we learning about adolescent involvement in the child welfare system?

Developmental disruptions: Adolescent involvement in the child welfare system in Ontario; Bryn King, principal investigator.

What are we learning about digital storytelling?

Digital storytelling and mobile media lab; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

How can we promote coping skills?

Project AFFIRM: Delivering affirmative coping skills programs to prevent HIV and Hepatitis C; Shelley Craig, principal investigator.

How are we working with Highland Shore's Children's Aid Society?

Highland Shore's Children Aid Society; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

How are data helping to transform the child welfare system?

OCANDS: Performance Indicator Results Project; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

What are we learning about social work and ICT?

Information Communication Technology; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

What are we learning about responding to mental health needs of children and adolescents?

e-Talk: Responding to the mental health needs of children and adolescents; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

How can photovoice promote health and community engagement?

Healthy Super (S)heroes: Young women's explorations of health and community engagement through photovoice; Stephanie Begun, principal investigator.

How can we measure success in elder abuse interventions?

Developing a taxonomy of successful case outcomes for elder abuse interventions; David Burnes, principal investigator.

How are we developing cyber related initiatives?

Cyber Related Initiatives; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

How can we improve health outcomes after pediatric solid organ transplants?

Improving health outcomes following pediatric solid organ transplantation; Samantha Anthony, principal investigator.

TANYA L. SHARPE

Addressing the Impact of Homicide Violence



Tanya L. Sharpe has been appointed an Associate Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work effective July 1, 2018. She holds the Factor-Inwentash Chair of Social Work in the Global Community. The recipient of multiple awards, including the Governor of Maryland’s Victim Assistance Award, Sharpe joins the Faculty after eleven years at the University of Maryland, Baltimore-School of Social Work.

Sharpe’s research entails explorations of the coping strategies of individuals surviving a loved one’s homicide. Her goal is to build a legacy of research based on learning from survivors and develop culturally responsive interventions to effectively help them manage their grief and bereavement.

“We can learn significant lessons by listening to survivors, asking about their experiences and, based on that knowledge, developing interventions to support them. The focus of my research is on learning about Black experiences with homicide victimization, understanding the ways socio-cultural factors influence how they cope, in order to appropriately address their needs. I focus on African American experiences because they are disproportionately impacted by this epidemic. I look forward to expanding my research to African and Caribbean communities here,” she says.

Sharpe arrived in Toronto this past summer just before the Danforth shooting. “I watched people struggling with their grief. It’s important at moments like these to have difficult, but necessary, conversations about why and how the violence occurred, identify measures that can prevent it from happening again and offer support and services. Survivors, service providers and researchers need to come together as a global community to explore diverse approaches to addressing homicide violence’s impact.”

Recently Sharpe launched the Homicide Research Consortium, bringing together global researchers. “Homicide violence is happening everywhere. My goal is to develop a hub at U of T to advance homicide research and practice,” she says.

Sharpe’s research, which she’s been doing for over two decades, comes directly from the voices of the people she interviews. And it’s listening to those voices that fuels Sharpe’s own dedication. “I’ve made a personal commitment to survivors. When you talk to a mom who lost a son or other family member – who may have lost not one, not two, but three family members – and you hear how she manages to function, getting up every day, going to work, taking care of her family, you can’t help but be moved by her grief journey. Whenever I get weary, I think of the survivors and I say to myself, if they can face another day, so can I.”

JIA XUE

Promoting Social Justice with Big Data



Jia Xue has been appointed as Assistant Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work effective July 1, 2018 in a newly created joint position, Big Data and Social Justice, with the Faculty of Information. Xue received her PhD from the School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania, a dual master’s degree in Statistics from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and a law degree from Tsinghua University, China. She has taught at Smith College, Rutgers University and the University of Pennsylvania and was recently a research fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Xue’s research interests reflect her global perspective. She focuses on intimate partner violence and sexual violence and has conducted research in China and the United States. She also explores the role that social media can play in promoting social justice and its potential to help abused and assaulted women. She asks such questions as: Can information and communications technology (ICT) serve as a potential tool for preventing violence and informing public policy? Driven by a desire to promote social justice and help vulnerable individuals across the globe affected by intimate partner violence, Xue’s commitment to these issues was first ignited while working as an intern in the Supreme Court of China.

A strong believer in the value of working collaboratively across disciplines, Xue is excited by the scope of the new joint position. “It’s a chance to apply social work values to big data. I want to inspire students in both Faculties to think about how big data can be used to promote social justice. As I see it, I have two roles. I serve as a data scientist to interpret results from big data and social media to social work students. I am also a social worker, whose research goal is social justice. I want to inform Information Technology students about ICT’s impact on vulnerable populations and to work with social work students and social workers to help them effectively integrate ICT in their practice,” she says.

“My long-term goal is to develop and implement a tool, a mobile phone app focused on intimate partner violence and sexual violence, that can serve as an intervention. I plan to work with students in Information Technology to develop a pilot model for this app. I want to find out if social media can play a key role,” she says.

Strong Year for Alumni Association



Alumni Association President Judy Newman speaking at the Distinguished Speaker Series.

It's been quite a year for the Alumni Association in which alumni had the chance to participate in a wide array of initiatives. Spearheaded by President Judy Newman – and reflecting the innovative ideas of board members – these initiatives constituted a deliberate strategy to foster engagement and outreach. First, there was the resounding success of the Distinguished Speaker Series, a powerful evening in which speaker and alumna Setsuko Thurlow inspired the overflow crowd with her impassioned story of courage and activism. Then there was the PhD Student Showcase webinar, an opportunity for alumni to stay current as Andrew Eaton, Bethany Good and Leslie McCallum presented their doctoral research. Another standout activity was the Habitat for Humanity Build day, a meaningful way to foster team building and giving back. Alumni also had the chance to connect with members living outside of Toronto through U of T's networking initiative, Ten Thousand Coffees, and they continued to provide invaluable assistance to new grads through the Alumni Mentoring Program. That's not all. Recognizing the importance of heightening awareness of the Association, board members visited classrooms, increased the Association's online presence and created a promotional brochure.

Faculty News

SHRC Partnership Grant

Professor Shelley Craig has been awarded a 7-year, \$ 2.5 million Partnership Grant by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). INQYR (International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience) brings together over fifty academic and community partners from Canada, Latin America, the United Kingdom and the United States. The goal is to address the needs of gender and sexual minority youth and their use of technology within diverse global contexts; and train the next generation of scholars and practitioners who work with these youth.

Endowed Chair Appointments

Professor **Lin Fang**, FIFSW PhD Program Director, has been named the Factor-Inwentash Chair in Children's Mental Health. Her research areas include the etiology and prevention of substance abuse among adolescents; evidence-based practice implementation in social work agencies; and mental health services to immigrants, refugees, ethnocultural and racialized groups.

Professor **Michael A. Saini** has been renewed for a second five-year appointment as the Factor-Inwentash Chair in Law and Social Work. He is the Co-Director of the JD/MSW combined program with the Faculty of Law. His research focuses on post-divorce issues including visitation, co-parenting and high-conflict custody disputes.

Professor **Tanya Sharpe** has been named the Factor-Inwentash Chair in the Global Community. Sharpe, who joined the FIFSW on July 1, is profiled on p. 12.

Professor **Daniyal Zuberi** has been renewed for a second five-year appointment as the Factor-Inwentash RBC Chair in Applied Social Work Research. Zuberi is jointly appointed to our Faculty and the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. His social policy research focuses on urban poverty, inequality, health, education, employment and social welfare.

Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency Talking to the Students

It's been an exciting two years since we launched our newest MSW field of study, *Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency (ITR)*, and we are proud to announce that the first cohort graduates in November 2018 and the third cohort started in September 2018. Developed with the Middleton-Moz Institute and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, this two-year program is the first of its kind in North America. It's a chance, we believe, to bring about long-term change in global Indigenous communities. But it's the words of the students themselves that best convey this groundbreaking program's impact.

“The MSW-ITR is a holistic, strength-based program that blends Western and Indigenous knowledge. It is a way for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to reflect on their place in society and gain understanding of Indigenous experience and values. We are learning to foster our own wellness so that we can effectively engage with and support others. Graduates will have an understanding of the importance of building respectful relationships with Indigenous communities globally and the need for social workers to advocate for policy change on a large scale. This program honours where I come from, my perspective and my world view. Miikwec.”

Julie Blair
MSW-ITR Student

“The MSW-ITR has given me a profound awareness of how trauma affects us on all levels, body, soul and health, leaving its imprint on families, communities and cultures. I've gained a greater understanding of Indigenous culture and developed knowledge and a new toolbox enabling me to work more effectively with clients. I believe that graduates of this program will make an important contribution, working in communities across the globe. We are learning how, as social workers, we can mend bridges that have been broken and work together to heal communities.”

Corey Fisher
MSW-ITR Student

“The MSW-ITR offers a completely new kind of academic experience, both in its delivery and its focus on self-care and the emotional, spiritual, mental and physical dimension. Grounded in the importance of healing the healer, it has been developed holistically. For students, it is an extraordinary personal journey in which you feel cared about as a whole person. The goal is to ensure that graduates not only develop the skills and knowledge to help others, but are in a good space to use them for a long time. Our class has become a community.”

Dustin Moreau
MSW-ITR Student

HERE’S A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS THAT GENERATED A BUZZ THIS PAST YEAR.



Professor Emeritus **Donald Meeks** was honoured at a February 26 reception at the Faculty with a special plaque (now hanging in the Faculty’s 7th floor lounge). Named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2006, Meeks has had a groundbreaking career as a social work professor, internationally renowned leader in addictions and human rights activist. Choosing a career in social work grew directly from his own experience. Growing up in poverty in Pennsylvania mill towns, Meeks won a scholarship to an African-American university in Virginia. It was living in segregationist 1950s Virginia that inspired him to dedicate his life to serving the disadvantaged and battling racism: “As a Black person, I’ve had an interest in equity and social justice all my life. That was always a prime consideration in my work.”

On February 6, 2018, **Rebecca Martell** and **Brianna Olson** led a dialogue on a pressing issue they noted is far too under-researched: human trafficking. Martell, who teaches in the MSW-ITR field, is a Clinical Associate with the Occupational Performance Analysis Unit, Department of Occupational Therapy, University of Alberta, and a frequent collaborator on First Nations health initiatives. Olson (MSW 2018), a social worker and community activist, graduated with her MSW in the ITR field of study as a member of the first cohort. Martell said, “This is modern day slavery and I see children as young as nine or ten being trafficked.” Olson urged the audience to speak out. “We need champions and they have to be informed. We have to raise our voices for the marginalized children and adults who can not have a voice for themselves,” she said.

On April 11 to 13, the Faculty hosted the **2018 GADE (Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work) Annual Conference**. GADE is a worldwide organization composed of over 80 social work doctoral program directors who represent their Universities. The organization’s aim is to promote rigour in doctoral education in social work, focusing on preparing scholars, researchers and educators to function as stewards of the discipline. Participants had the chance to exchange ideas, network and attend panels, speeches and breakout groups. A keynote address by Professor Ron Levi of the University of Toronto’s Munk School of Global Affairs explored the conference theme of “The Future of Knowledge Production & Mobilization in the Era of Social Justice.”

Professor **Michael Dentato**, School of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago, discussed an emerging interprofessional practice model for screening individuals for alcohol and substance use (the SBIRT Model) on September 22, 2017 at the Faculty.

Professor **Daphne C. Watkins**, School of Social Work and The Research Center for Group Dynamics at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, explored “The ‘Men’ in Mental Health? Implications of the Gender Epidemic in Social Work Research and Practice” on November 9 and 10, 2017 at the Faculty.

The Practicum Office offered workshops for field instructors: “Professional Development: Evaluation in the Field” on November 17, 2017 and “Professional Development: Orientation and Integrating Theory and Practice” on December 8, 2017.

On November 28, 2017 at the Faculty, Professor **Peter Lloyd-Sherlock**, School of International Development, University of East Anglia, provided insight into “Researching Care Home Quality in Argentina: Ethics and Human Rights Abuse.”

At the Faculty on January 23, 2018, **Karen Martin**, Chief Practice Information Officer & Senior Director Health Professions & Practice Innovation for Collaborative Academic Practice University Health Network, discussed her experience and issues related to “Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and Social Work.”

On March 13, 2018 at the Faculty, **Brendan Penfound**, Community Outreach Officer, Caritas and **Stephanie Stylianou**, Peer Support Worker, Caritas, discussed “The Opioid Crisis: A lived experience.”

“Community Dialogues: Social Work Policy Practice” took place on April 2, 2018 featuring discussion by Social Justice and Diversity students.

Celebrations for **Black History Month** were held this past February at the Faculty organized by the FIFSW Black History Month Committee (comprised of FIFSW MSW, PhD students, faculty and staff members). Designed to honour the legacy of Black Canadians and heighten awareness of Black history, events included an art wall exhibition and a February 5 screening of the 2015 National Film Board of Canada documentary, “Ninth Floor.” Directed by Mina Shum, this meticulously documented film focuses on a crucial moment in Canadian history. In 1969 six Black students at Sir George Williams University in Montreal accused a professor of racism and occupied the 9th floor computer room in protest for two weeks. A well-attended panel discussion on February 28 concluded the month of events. Panelists were Professor Charmaine C. Williams, Associate Professor FIFSW and Acting Vice Dean, Students, School of Graduate Studies; Hoda Samater, FIFSW PhD student and owner of Begin To Heal Counselling and Consulting Services; and Racquel Hamlet, social worker/therapist at TAIBU Community Health Centre. They provided thoughtful explorations of healing practices in Black Communities, generating strong dialogue, leading one audience member to tell the lively crowd that the evening had left her feeling inspired.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS CHANGE LIVES

The March 26 Appreciation Event at the Faculty was a wonderful chance for students to thank the people who changed their lives this past year by donating to the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. Speaking on behalf of her fellow MSW students, Hanna Sullivan (MSW 2018) expressed the gratitude of so many in the room, thanking all the generous FIFSW supporters who create scholarships and bursaries or fund research.



"There is no doubt in my mind that the lives of students have truly changed for the better because of the contributions from those of you in this room to our Faculty. Words cannot express how thankful I am to pursue my dream career, at



my dream school. This year, the feeling of increased financial stability allowed me to push myself, take a risk and pursue an international practicum experience. I've been accepted as the first University of Toronto MSW student to complete an internship at Stanford Health Care in Palo Alto, California [the practicum began in May]. It is my hope and belief that myself and my colleagues will in turn go on to positively impact the lives of our clients and families, support those most vulnerable and fight the injustices we see and learn about every single day."

Hanna Sullivan (MSW 2018)



NUMBERS THAT COUNT

425

MSW STUDENTS IN THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

987 PRACTICUM HOURS IN THE 2-YEAR MSW PROGRAM TO GRADUATE, EACH MSW STUDENT IN THE 2-YEAR PROGRAM ACCUMULATED 469 HOURS IN YEAR 1 AND 518 HOURS IN YEAR 2

20 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

+2 EXCHANGE MSW STUDENTS FROM HEBREW UNIVERSITY, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

30 FACULTY

168 ADJUNCT LECTURERS

67

ALUMNI MENTORS WERE MATCHED WITH 63 MSW STUDENTS

52

PHD STUDENTS AT THE FACTOR-INWENTASH FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK IN 2017-2018

8 ADJUNCT PROFESSORS

20 STATUS ONLY PROFESSORS

32 SESSIONAL LECTURERS

1246 VIEWS

OF THE SOPHIE LUCYK VIRTUAL LIBRARY IN 2017-2018

Thank you to Lynn Factor and Sheldon Inwentash for their continued support, dedication and advice.

HERE'S HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

VISIT US

246 Bloor St. W.
Toronto, ON
Canada M5S 1V4

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is at the intersection of Bloor Street West and Bedford Road, just west of the Royal Ontario Museum and across from Varsity Stadium. The front door is a few steps from the St. George subway station's Bedford Road exit.

VISIT US ONLINE

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