

# REACH

YEAR IN REVIEW 2018-2019



**FACTOR-INWENTASH**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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## CONTENTS

- 
- 1 Dexter R. Voisin

---

  - 2 The Year That Was

---

  - 4 Convocation

---

  - 6 Setsuko Thurlow

---

  - 7 Amanda Grenier

---

  - 8 Carmen Logie

---

  - 9 Charmaine Williams

---

  - 10 Honours & Achievements

---

  - 12 We're Asking Big Questions

---

  - 14 Appreciation Event

---

  - 16 Your Support

---

  - 18 The Buzz

---

  - 20 Faculty News

---

  - 21 Numbers That Count
- 

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Photo: Connie Tsang

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## DEAN'S MESSAGE



It has been ten years since I first became dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and it is now my pleasure to welcome Dexter Voisin as the Faculty's next dean. When I was asked to become dean, I felt quite reluctant. But it has turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. And the major reason for that is because I had the chance to work with all of you—faculty, staff, alumni, students, Professors Emeriti, colleagues across the University and other universities, community partners and trusted friends, advisors and supporters.

There have been many successes over the past decade and I am enormously proud of what we have accomplished by working together. We've seen the Faculty become a leader in the integration of social work research and practice, internationally recognized for its innovative curriculum. Faculty members are pursuing cutting-edge global research; our graduates are making important contributions; and our community partnerships are strong.

Each one of you has played an important part in this Faculty's success and I am very grateful for your support. I cherish the strong friendships that I've developed and the deep bonds that connect us across the Faculty, the University and communities. It has been my great honour and pleasure to be dean of this amazing Faculty. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you.

With best wishes,

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



## DEXTER R. VOISIN APPOINTED NEW DEAN OF THE FACTOR-INWENTASH FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK



We are delighted to welcome **Dexter R. Voisin** as the incoming dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, effective July 1. An internationally recognized scholar on community violence, mental health and HIV prevention, he joins our Faculty after two decades as a professor at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service and Administration. He served as the Director of the STI/HIV Intervention Network and Co-Director of the Center for Chicago HIV Elimination.

"I am excited to become part of this world-class Faculty, in a leading global University, whose senior administrators understand the value of social work. It is unique to join a University where the Vice-President and Provost is the Faculty's former dean," he says.

Voisin's scholarship intersects with many Faculty initiatives and he anticipates building synergies across research programs to elevate the impact of social work with communities. "I am grateful to Dean Mishna for her extraordinary service on behalf of the Faculty and the University and I am honoured that she has passed the baton to me," he says.

Voisin is attracted to Toronto and its diversity. He spent his formative years in Trinidad and Tobago—the most diverse country in the English-speaking Caribbean. He brings a client-centered approach to his new role. "I strongly identify as a clinician and a servant leader," he states. "My years of practice are the lens I bring

to administration, research, teaching and community engagement. Among the Faculty's many strengths is its dual emphasis on research and teaching. Its signature pedagogy, simulation, is a tremendous innovation in social work education."

Voisin's research examines the impact of community violence on mental health, education and sexual trajectories, with a significant emphasis on HIV prevention and intervention. He focuses on the structural determinants of health among marginalized groups and the impact of trauma on educational failure, juvenile justice involvement and sexual reproductive issues with emerging adults.

With his upcoming book, *America the Beautiful and Violent: Black Youth and Neighborhood Trauma in Chicago*, Voisin seeks to elevate marginalized voices from communities that are affected by structural violence leading to silent traumas and homicide. In it, he cites a proverb often quoted by the great writer Chinua Achebe: "Until the lions write their own history, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter." Voisin says, "It is time for communities to tell their own stories."

# THE YEAR THAT WAS

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Left to Right: Outstanding Alumni Mentor Maribeth Christensen, MSW student Jenny Becker and Alumni Mentoring Program Representative Michelle English



Sharon Andria Allen and Judy Newman

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AGM AND ALUMNI REUNION

On May 23, as alumni gathered for the Alumni Association AGM and Alumni Reunion, **Judy Newman** concluded her tenure as Alumni President and handed over the leadership to incoming President **Sharon Andria Allen**. Judy Newman has been an excellent leader of the Alumni Association for the last two years and we thank her for her exceptional guidance and the infectious enthusiasm she brought to the role.

The Alumni Association has just come off another strong year. Highlights include the Distinguished Speaker Series event, a newly launched Book Club (which met four times), a second annual Habitat for Humanity build, a yoga evening and a webinar/workshop, “The Social Worker in Private Practice.” The AGM featured a ceremony honouring Outstanding Alumni Mentors. It finished on an inspirational note with an engaging presentation by wellness entrepreneur, **Amy Goldberg**, who urged the audience to live their most authentic lives.

## 9 NEW PhD THESES EXAMINING CRITICAL ISSUES

**Stephanie Baird** investigated conceptualizing and responding to trauma among women who have experienced intimate partner violence.

**Raluca Bejan** explored interrogating whiteness as a categorical marker within interpretative matrices of inclusion and exclusion.

**Ashley Lacombe-Duncan** investigated access to HIV-related and gender-affirming healthcare for Canadian trans women with HIV.

**Jennifer Ma** explored the overrepresentation of First Nations children and families in Ontario's child welfare system and the disparities in providing ongoing child welfare services.

**Leslie McCallum** investigated the experiences of individuals in midlife living with anorexia nervosa.

**Shira Moalem** examined using photo-elicitation methods to explore spirituality among people with dementia.

**Marie-Jolie Rwigema** examined Rwandan-Canadian perspectives on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

**Deborah Sinclair** explored how the experiences of early activists shaped Ontario's Violence Against Women movement.

**Roustam Souleymanov** explored Party-n-Play and gay and bisexual men.

## 4 BOOKS PUBLISHED THIS PAST YEAR BY FACULTY

Bogo, Marion, "**Achieving Competence in Social Work Through Field Education.**" (University Of Toronto Press, 2nd Ed.)

Bogo, Marion, "**Social Work Practice: Integrating Concepts, Processes, and Skills.**" (Columbia University Press, 2nd Ed.)

Editors: Lyn R. Greenberg, Barbara J. Fidler and Michael A. Saini, "**Evidence-Informed Interventions for Court-Involved Families: Promoting Healthy Coping and Development.**" (Oxford University Press)

Regehr, Cheryl, "**Stress, Trauma, and Decision-Making for Social Workers.**" (Columbia University Press)

## UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO REUNION CELEBRATING EVERY TEN YEARS

On Saturday, June 1, FIFSW alumni who graduated in 2009, 1999 and 1989 had the chance to reconnect with the Faculty and colleagues from their respective cohorts. Organized by a group of alumni from the class of 2009, the reunion at the Faculty was part of U of T's annual weekend of Alumni Reunion activities. It featured networking activities and presentations by Dean Faye Mishna, Professor Barbara Fallon and Professor Charmaine Williams, Vice-Dean of Students, School of Graduate Studies.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST ALUMNI

Spring Convocation June 4, 2019



1. Dalyce Cloes, Michelle Deherian, Julia Hensley, Maggie Lewis, Jessica Lloyd, Karen Lo, Tom Ngugen and Ariel Weber

2. Sabrina Hyatt and family  
3. Leslie-Ann Bailey-Morrison and family  
4. Jeremy Reinblatt and family  
5. Arooba Syed and family

PHOTOS: CONNIE TSANG





6. Cindy Tse and friends  
7. Dyshni Sritharan and family  
8. Sanaria Hussain and family

9. Yun Lin and family  
10. Henry Luyombya and family

## ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVIST AND ALUMNA **SETSUKO THURLOW** RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

“Think beyond yourselves. Life has so much more meaning when you do things for the collective good; things that you really don’t have to do, but which ultimately give your existence a sense of purpose. Get involved. Take action. Be agents of change. Make things happen. Persist. Rather than pity myself as a victim I have tried to understand the meaning of my experience and what could be done to prevent it from happening to anyone else. To this end I have educated myself, worked with like-minded people, spoken out and advocated for change. And, in this ultimate David-and-Goliath scenario, I have persevered through the difficult times.”

—**Setsuko Thurlow**

Our June Convocation ceremony was especially meaningful this year because Hiroshima survivor, peace activist and FIFSW alumna **Setsuko Thurlow** received an honorary degree, delivering a powerful speech about her life of activism to new graduates (excerpted here). We are delighted by this well-deserved recognition of her incredible accomplishments. As a young teenager, Thurlow witnessed and survived the catastrophic atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Seeing the selfless adults who helped on that day inspired her to become a social worker (BScSW 1956 and MSW 1960). Thurlow has dedicated her life to the fight to abolish nuclear weapons. In 2017 she accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).



Top: Photo of Setsuko Thurlow  
by Steve Frost/University of Toronto



## GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORKER **AMANDA GRENIER** JOINS THE FACULTY



**Amanda Grenier** has been appointed as Full Professor with tenure at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, effective July 1, 2019. She will hold the Norman and Honey Schipper Chair in Gerontological Social Work, a joint Chair with Baycrest Health Sciences, seconded to Baycrest for half of her time. Grenier joins the Faculty from McMaster University, where she was a Professor in the Department of Health, Aging and Society; the Gilbrea Chair in Aging and Mental Health; and the Director of the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging. Before McMaster, Grenier taught at McGill University's School of Social Work.

A respected interdisciplinary scholar, Grenier has led numerous provincial, national and international research teams. Her research focuses on such issues as life course transitions, social constructs of frailty, aging with a disability, homelessness among older people, social isolation among seniors and precarious aging. She is the author of *Transitions and the Life Course: Challenging the Construction of Growing Old*.

“One of my big research questions is examining inequalities and aging and how they play out, for example, with populations such as homeless seniors. I’m a qualitative researcher. I am interested in marginalized groups, policy frameworks and stories about everyday lives among under-researched groups. Much of this work is drawing attention to under-recognized social issues and unmet needs,” she says.

“I’m very excited to be joining the Faculty. I see my role at Baycrest to be a social scientist working to develop a critical social science lens. At the Faculty, my focus will be on marginalized populations and inequality and aging. I also run a blog, [criticalgerontology.com](http://criticalgerontology.com). I founded it because I wanted to create a space for an international network of social science researchers to have a dialogue on aging,” Grenier says.

““ One of my biggest research questions is examining inequalities and aging and how they play out with populations such as homeless seniors.”

—Amanda Grenier

## NEW CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR **CARMEN LOGIE** FOCUSES ON GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY

Associate Professor Carmen Logie, Canada Research Chair in Global Health Equity and Social Justice with Marginalized Populations, is working to illuminate the social factors behind unequal access to HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) testing, treatment and care. Her aim is to reduce multiple, intersecting forms of stigma and improve healthcare rights, programs and access to care for marginalized people.

“My research examines the links between forms of stigma and health equity, and the effect on sexual and reproductive health and rights,” she says. Logie is pursuing community-based research, currently working in Canada’s Northwest Territories and across the globe in such places as Brazil, Jamaica and Uganda, by engaging with sexually and gender diverse people, ethno-racial minorities and migrant and displaced persons. Her goal is to develop community-based HIV and STI prevention programs.

“We have come a long way in developing medications but we have not done so well in combatting stigma and discrimination associated with HIV, gender, race and sexuality. This is an urgent crisis and a question of human rights. My growing focus is on refugees; there have never been so many displaced people in the world as there are today, over 68 million people. Stigma impacts health. In the Northwest Territories, for example, sexual and mental health disparities are more pronounced for Indigenous youth. HIV infection risks are shaped in the social world and so are the solutions. We can all challenge stigma. We can all be part of social change,” Logie says.



PHOTO: NANCY KIM



**We can all challenge stigma. We can all be part of social change.”**

**—Carmen Logie**



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## PROFESSOR **CHARMAINE WILLIAMS** APPOINTED VICE-DEAN, STUDENTS, SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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Professor **Charmaine Williams**, FFSW Associate Professor, has been appointed Vice-Dean, Students, at the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), as of July 1, 2019. Williams has been Acting Vice-Dean, Students, since May 2018.

“The best part of this job is seeing what’s happening across the University. When you are part of a University, you ask yourself, how is this place making society better? Part of the answer to that question is revealed in the amazing research students are conducting with their supervisors. Another part is seen in the work students and faculty are doing to improve communities. This job has given me a deeper appreciation of the kind of knowledge and creativity that emerges from this University. In this role, I am also working on issues of mental health, equity and inclusion. It is a good time at the University to have these conversations; we will be a better place having had them. I believe that the values and ideas I bring from social work are a valuable resource in this position.”



PHOTO: NATASHA LAN

“

When you are part of a University,  
you ask yourself, how is this place  
making society better?”

—Charmaine Williams

# HONOURS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Assistant Professor (Status Only) **Samantha J. Anthony**, Health Clinician Scientist in Social Work at the Hospital for Sick Children, received the Career Development Award from the Canadian Health Clinician Scientist Program.

Alumna **Stephanie Baird** (PhD 2018) received the Academic-Researcher Poster Award at OASW's Provincial Social Work Conference in November 2018 for the best poster in the Academic-Researcher category. Her poster offers a qualitative study investigating experiences of women attending counselling services for intimate partner violence.

Professor **Rupaleem Bhuyan** was honoured as a South Asian Trailblazer on Gender Equity by the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians for South Asian Heritage Month.

**Kelsey Block** (MSW 2019) and **Nolan Blodgett** (MSW 2019) are the two recipients of the FIFSW Benjamin Schlesinger Student Leadership Prize, which is awarded annually at June Convocation, presented by Emeritus Professor Benjamin Schlesinger, to a student in the final year of the MSW Program who significantly contributes to student life at our Faculty.

Professor **David J. Brennan** received the Endgame Leadership Chair Award in Gay and Bisexual Men's Health from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network for "Shifting Paradigms: Developing the Next Generation of HIV/STI Prevention Tools for Gay, Bisexual and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men."

**Rose Bright** (MSW 2019) 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 Robert S. Prichard and Ann E. Wilson to recognize the Honourable Hilary M. Weston's commitment to social justice as Ontario's Lieutenant Governor.

Professor **Esme Fuller-Thomson** was appointed a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in November 2018. The GSA is the largest interdisciplinary organization in the United States devoted to the field of aging. The status of fellow—the highest class of membership in the GSA—is an acknowledgement of outstanding and continuing work in gerontology.

Professor **Ellen Katz** was awarded The Larry Enkin Innovation in Teaching with Simulation Award from the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

Professor **Toula Kourgiantakis**, who has been instrumental in developing Practice Fridays at our Faculty, received a 2018–2019 University of Toronto Early Career Teaching Award in recognition of her dedication to teaching. The award recognizes faculty members who are effective teachers and demonstrate an exceptional commitment to student learning, pedagogical engagement and teaching innovation.

Professor **Carmen Logie**, Canada Research Chair in Global Health Equity and Social Justice with Marginalized Populations, received the Global Health Education Initiative Module Award of Excellence, University of Toronto. She was awarded the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies—Visiting Research Scholar Award, University of British Columbia. She was appointed as the 2019–2022 Eccles Centre Visiting Fellow, Eccles Centre for American Studies, British Library, London, United Kingdom. She was nominated to the Canadian Women in Global Health List (#CWIGH), Canadian Society for International Health, Ottawa.

Professor and Dean **Faye Mishna**, The Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Chair in Child and Family, received the 2019 OASW Beverly Antle Leadership Award at the 2019 OASW AGM. Mishna was cited for "her leadership at the University and the Faculty in advancing the role of social work in society at large. She has put social work 'on the map' in unique ways, spotlighting the multiple roles social workers inhabit and their invaluable contributions to individuals, families and communities."



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Professor **Michael A. Saini**, Factor-Inwentash Chair in Law and Social Work, received the Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award. The award is sponsored by the Oregon Family Institute and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (an international organization of over 5,000 members, including family law judges, lawyers, dispute resolution professionals and academics).

Professor **Tanya L. Sharpe**, Factor-Inwentash Chair in Social Work in the Global Community, received the Boston College School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni Award. Professor Sharpe gave the keynote address at the Research Summit on Violence Prevention and Community Engagement, University of Maryland. She was the Commencement Speaker for the Boston College School of Social Work. She was the keynote speaker at the Distress Centres of Greater Toronto's First Survivors of Homicide Loss City Forum.

Emeritus Professor **Lilian M. Wells**, who has spent decades advocating for seniors' welfare in Toronto and helped to design numerous programs for seniors, received a 2018 Ontario Senior Achievement Award. The award recognizes people who make outstanding contributions to their communities through voluntary or professional activities after the age of 65. Wells' work was instrumental in helping Toronto to receive the Age-Friendly City designation from the World Health Organization.

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## 2019 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. Two FIFSW students, **Dalal Badawi** and **Manaal Syed**, were recognized for outstanding extra-curricular contributions to the FIFSW and U of T this past year.

**Dalal Badawi** helped to launch numerous on and off-campus work and volunteer initiatives for her peers.

**Manaal Syed** was a member of the Social Justice and Diversity Curriculum Committee and a peer mentor.

# WE'RE ASKING BIG QUESTIONS

**How are we working to transform the child welfare system?** Canada Research Chair in Child Welfare; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about social policy and urban poverty?** Social policy and urban poverty in Canada; Dan Zuberi, principal investigator.

**How are we promoting global health equity?** Canada Research Chair in Global Health Equity and Social Justice with Marginalized Populations; Carmen Logie, 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.

**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 are we helping homeless youth?** Exploring the potential benefits of engaging homeless youth in group-based improv training; Stephanie Begun, principal investigator.

**How can research help to ensure LGBTIQ inclusion?** Mobilizing for a research revolution to ensure LGBTIQ inclusion: A high-impact, transformative, mixed methods research partnership in four Asian countries; Peter Newman, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about treating depression and anxiety?** Incentives and disincentives for treating depression and anxiety in Ontario Family Health Teams; Rachelle Ashcroft, 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 can we mobilize knowledge for older adults?** Engaged scholarship: evaluation of knowledge mobilization for older adults in the community; Lynn McDonald, 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 children exposed to intimate partner violence?** Children exposed to intimate partner violence: Expanding our understanding of vulnerabilities and resiliencies; Ramona Alaggia, 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.

**What are we learning about Regent Park?** This is my Regent Park: Perspectives from young people; Lin Fang, 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.

**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 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 the opioid crisis and seniors?** The invisible epidemic: A spotlight on the opioid crisis among seniors; Lynn McDonald, 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 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.

**How do organizations influence child welfare service delivery?** Understanding the influence of organizations on child welfare service delivery; Barbara Fallon, 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.

**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.

**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 J. 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 measure outcome in elder abuse?** Introducing individualized measurement to elder abuse interventions; David Burnes, 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 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.

**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.

**How do youth living with HIV support each other?** CONNEXIONS+: Youth living with HIV since childhood supporting each other; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

**How can we prevent elder abuse?** Enhancing service utilization in elder abuse interventions through client-centered practice; David Burnes, 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 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 J. 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 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 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.

**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.

**How are we promoting knowledge exchange on aging?** Annual NICE Knowledge Exchange; Lynn McDonald, 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.

**What are we learning about citizenship and belonging?** Contesting citizenship and belonging: Social workers’ response to India’s Citizenship Act to incorporate undocumented Bangladeshi into the body politic; Rupaleem Bhuyan, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about sexual rights social movements?** Exploring grassroots knowledge and coalition building across sexual rights social movements; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about developmental trauma?** Understanding developmental trauma to inform policy for vulnerable children and their families; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

**How are we promoting resilience?** Reducing HIV vulnerabilities and promoting resilience among self-identified heterosexual African, Caribbean and Black Men in Ontario; Charmaine Williams, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about sexual violence disclosures?** Ripple Effects: Examining the impact of the #MeToo movement on sexual violence disclosures in Canada; Ramona Alaggia, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about homeless youth?** An examination of homeless youths’ longitudinal aftercare experiences; Stephanie Begun, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about elder abuse?** Understanding engagement of older adult victims in community based elder abuse intervention; David Burnes, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about bullying?** Systematic Review and Meta-ethnography of the literature on bullying victimization of youth based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics; Peter Newman, principal investigator.

**How can technology promote wellness?** OHTN Applied HIV Research Chair; Examining emerging technology to promote optimal wellness for marginalized gay and bisexual men; David J. 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.

**How does social innovation flourish?** Creating conditions for social innovation: Organizational factors that support cross- and intra-sector partnerships; Micheal Shier, principal investigator.

**How are we learning from patients about mental health care?** Patient perspectives of the incentives and disincentives for quality mental health care in Ontario Family Health Teams; Rachelle Ashcroft, principal investigator.

**How can we promote gay men’s health research?** The Investigators Initiative; David J. Brennan, principal investigator.

**How are we mobilizing knowledge in child welfare?** 2018 Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse; Barbara Fallon, 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 can we prevent gender-based violence?** Preventing gender-based violence: Youth Healthy Relationship Program; Ramona Alaggia, 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 elder mistreatment?** Understanding the causes, consequences and severity of elder mistreatment: A longitudinal, population-based study; David Burnes, principal investigator.

**How are we mobilizing knowledge in child welfare?** 2019 First Nations/ Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about the Ontario child welfare system?** Developmental disruptions: Adolescent involvement in the Ontario child welfare system; Bryn King, 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 J. Brennan, principal investigator.

**How can we improve sexual health outcomes for youth?** Fostering Open eXpression Among Youth (FOXY) and Strengths, Masculinities and Sexual Health (SMASH); Carmen Logie, nominated principal investigator.

**What are we learning about online interventions?** Exploring perspectives of men using online interventions for mental health and well being; Tanya Sharpe, principal investigator.

**How are we working with Highland Shore’s Children’s Aid Society?** Highland Shore’s Children Aid Society; Barbara Fallon, 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 J. Brennan, 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 through technology within schools; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

**How are we tracking trajectories for vulnerable children?** Tracking trajectories for vulnerable children; Barbara Fallon, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about sexting in adolescence?** Consensual and non-consensual sexting in adolescence: Challenging conventional wisdom; Faye Mishna, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about sexual rights social movements?** Exploring grassroots knowledge and coalition building across sexual rights social movements; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

**What are we learning about HIV prevention?** Streamlining HIV prevention for gay and bisexual men in Toronto: Exploring task-shifting opportunities; David J. Brennan, principal investigator.

**How can we help refugee youth?** Grand Challenges Canada: Canada Stars; A participatory digital comic intervention for sexual violence prevention and post-rape care with refugee youth; Carmen Logie, principal investigator.

**What are new HIV/STI prevention tools?** Shifting paradigms: Developing the next generation of HIV/STI prevention tools for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men; David J. Brennan, 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.

**What are we learning about HIV care?** Social ecological approaches to research on care for HIV; Carmen Logie, nominated principal investigator.

# YOUR DONATIONS ARE A CRITICAL LIFELINE

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At the Faculty’s annual Appreciation Event on March 25, students had the chance to thank directly the generous people who donate to the FFSW through scholarships, bequests or by funding research. Expressing thanks on behalf of her fellow students, **Anna Amy Ho** (MSW Fall 2019) gave a powerful speech, excerpted here.

“When I was 5 and my brother 9, my mom fled my abusive father in Hong Kong and we immigrated to Canada. Five years later, her new boyfriend moved in and was very abusive. For the next three years, living in fear became the norm for me. On my Grade 8 graduation day, my nightmare only got worse. My abuser murdered my mom and grandmother, then took his own life. For reasons I’ll never fully understand, I survived. But I was drowning in guilt. I will never forget the hospital social worker who held my hand, assuring me that I was safe and it was NOT my fault.

“Statistically speaking, I shouldn’t be here. In Ontario, only 46 per cent of youth in care graduate high school and only 2 per cent go on to post-secondary education. I was orphaned at 13 and living on my own by age 16—and what my past has taught me is that we are all resilient. No matter what we go through, we *can* and *will* overcome. Everyone in this room has a story. We have all faced challenges, barriers and vulnerable situations. Life is all about how we navigate the twists and turns. Some students struggle to make ends meet. Some face discrimination and prejudice. Others struggle emotionally.

“Donors, the scholarships and bursaries you so generously provide are a critical lifeline. Your support can be the reason we are financially able to complete this program and we are extremely grateful. These awards go beyond us. Our collective resilience, diversity, passion and commitment to social justice will propel us to transform systems, communities and change lives—hoping to build a better world for ALL.”

—Anna Amy Ho (MSW Fall 2019)

We thank **Lynn Factor** and **Sheldon Inwentash** for their continued support, commitment and advice.

If you would like to discuss how you can have an impact by creating a scholarship, leaving a bequest or by funding research, please contact the Advancement Office at [fund.fsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:fund.fsw@utoronto.ca) or 416-978-4437.



Student recipient Anna Amy Ho and Lynn Factor



Left to Right: Roberta Markus, student recipient Weijia Tan and Terry Markus



Left to Right: Student recipient Jacalyn Tanner, Kasia Seydegart, student recipient Jasmine Nadarajah and student recipient Jessica Hsieh



Larry Enkin and student recipient Bridget McInnis



Grace Chum and student recipient Adrianna LeBlanc



Lilian Wells and student recipient Betty Huynh



# YOUR SUPPORT CAN HAVE A POWERFUL IMPACT

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## ARTHUR DALFEN ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

**Arthur Dalfen**, a Toronto-based financial consultant, has established *The Arthur Dalfen ITR Scholarship in Honour of Faye Mishna* at the Faculty and we are extremely grateful. “I’m a junior philanthropist and a humanitarian. By creating this scholarship, I hope to inspire others to join me in supporting it,” he says. This scholarship will be awarded to an MSW student in the Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency (the ITR) field of study.

“I believe very strongly that we are not doing enough to help Indigenous communities,” says Dalfen. “The Faculty’s ITR program is serving a crucial need. I also wanted to take this opportunity to honour Faye. She has achieved a great deal as dean over the past ten years and she will continue to make a strong contribution for some time to come. I am a man of the people and I think it is important to support social workers. They are following their passion and I respect that. Social workers provide a real benefit to society and they do not get the recognition they deserve.”

Dalfen, a committed supporter for several years of our Faculty, was a member of the Executive Committee for the FIFSW Boundless Campaign. He also has an impressive record of donating to a wide range of arts organizations, hospitals, universities and not-for-profit charities. A major donor to McGill University (he graduated with a B. Com. in 1960), he is affectionately known as “King Arthur” at Toronto’s JAZZ.FM91 radio station, in recognition of his continuing support.

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work thanks Arthur Dalfen for his generosity in creating *The Arthur Dalfen ITR Scholarship in Honour of Faye Mishna*.

## PAST PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PETER MURCHISON SETS UP LGBTQ SCHOLARSHIP

Alumnus **Peter Murchison** (MSW 1974) has established the *Peter M. Murchison Scholarship* at our Faculty and we are extremely grateful. The scholarship will be awarded to an MSW student focusing on LGBTQ studies with preference to a student demonstrating leadership and advocacy in the LGBTQ community.

Murchison—who received the University’s Arbor Award in 2007 in recognition of his committed service to our Faculty and the University—created the scholarship because he believes in giving back. “I’ve been thinking about this for a long time. I’m forever grateful for the support and excellent education I received at the Faculty. It is very rewarding personally to contribute in this way and I hope to inspire others,” he says.

“As a senior gay male, I wanted to create a scholarship to support LGBTQ studies at the Faculty. It is fifty years since homosexuality was decriminalized in Canada and the Faculty is well positioned to play a pivotal role in LGBTQ issues. This scholarship enables me to support students interested in the area. I hope to improve the situation for the community and society,” Murchison says.

Murchison held a number of senior positions in health, social services and citizenship administration in the Ontario Public Service. He completed two terms as Alumni Association President; served as a guest lecturer, field supervisor, mentor and Faculty representative on the College of Electors; and was involved in fundraising for the Distinguished Speaker Series and the Alumni Scholarship. The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is grateful to Peter Murchison for the dedication and generosity he has demonstrated in establishing the *Peter M. Murchison Scholarship*.



It is very rewarding personally to contribute in this way and I hope to inspire others.”

—Peter Murchison

## DEAN EMERITUS WES SHERA ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP TO PROMOTE LEADERSHIP

We are delighted that dean emeritus **Wes Shera** has established the *Wes Shera Scholarship in Leadership & Organizational Change* at the Faculty. For Shera, creating this scholarship was an opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to the Faculty and to support issues that have been a passion for him over his career – issues that he believes are essential to the future of social work as a profession. “I wanted to create this scholarship because there continues to be a real need to promote leadership and organizational change in social work. More and more, we’re seeing our graduates move into leadership positions, frequently only a few years after graduation. Historically, there hasn’t been enough emphasis on these issues in social work,” says Shera.

Shera, who played a significant leadership role at our Faculty as dean from 1995 to 2002, has been the driving force behind a number of initiatives focused on fostering leadership skills and organizational change. The new scholarship will be awarded to a FIFSW MSW student preferably in the Faculty’s Human Services Management and Leadership field of study – a program Shera was instrumental in designing and implementing. “With this MSW field, we are training the next generation of leaders in the social sector,” says Shera.

Working closely with the University of Toronto’s School of Continuing Studies, Shera also helped to develop a Certificate program in Human Services Management and Leadership. “Providing this Continuing Studies program was an important way to reach out to the community and respond to clear needs,” Shera explains. As well, Shera has had a strong impact on future leaders through his involvement in United Way Greater Toronto’s City Leaders program. Developed in partnership with the FIFSW, this leadership program promotes civic engagement by youth from Toronto’s marginalized neighbourhoods.

The Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work is extremely grateful to dean emeritus Wes Shera for his generosity and commitment to our Faculty and future social work leaders in creating the *Wes Shera Scholarship in Leadership & Organizational Change*.

# THE BUZZ

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Here's a look at some of the events that generated a **BUZZ** this past year.

Dr. **Michael Yellow Bird**, Professor of Sociology and Director of Indigenous Tribal Studies at North Dakota State University, explored “Using the Medicine Wheel to Transform Indigenous People’s Health” on September 28.

**Marie Lorenzoni**, a retired ESL instructor, and **Maggie Veltheir**, Program Director of Home on the Hill Supportive Housing, discussed “Family and Caregiver Experience within the Mental Health System” on October 16.

**Marie Eve Ayotte**, Coordinator of Mental Health Services at the Centre Francophone de Toronto, and **Domine Rutayisire**, Mental Health Counselor at The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, described working in the francophone community on October 23.

**Farwa Syed**, Mental Health Coordinator, Caritas School of Life, examined the opioid crisis on October 30.

**Michael Lander**, Intake and Parent Training Team of the Toronto Autism Services at Surrey Place, provided a discussion of developmental disability services on November 5.

**National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women** (December 6) was commemorated at the Faculty at a lunchtime gathering on December 3.

A discussion exploring the issue of medical assistance in dying was facilitated by **Karen Martin**, Chief Practice Information Officer and Senior Director, Health Professions and Practice Innovation for Collaborative Academic Practice UHN on January 15.

**Jennifer Burt-Yanoff**, Professional Practice Associate at the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW), provided an introduction for students to the OCSWSSW and the regulations related to the practice of social work in Ontario on January 29.

A Q&A for students on competitive practicums and practicums located outside the GTA was led by **Miri Ben-Dat**, Practicum Coordinator on February 26.

A discussion took place at the Faculty on “Recognizing and Countering Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia: An Anti-Racist Approach to Building Allies” facilitated by **Shahid Akhtar** and Dr. **Karen Mock** on March 19.



## TIMELY TALK BY NAOMI ALBOIM GENERATES STRONG RESPONSE

This year's fifth **Annual Distinguished Speaker Series** on April 9 featured a provocative speech by alumna **Naomi Alboim** on the global refugee crisis. The Distinguished Speaker Series, which is open to the public, was developed to provide an opportunity to hear cutting-edge speakers discuss some of the most crucial challenges we face as a society today. Alboim's speech—which spoke to humanitarian issues straight off the front page of every major newspaper—did exactly that.

Alboim, a Fellow, Adjunct Professor and Chair of the Policy Forum, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University, is a former deputy minister for immigration in Ontario and the founder of Lifeline Syria (an organization dedicated to helping Syrian refugees resettle in Toronto). Her speech, "The Global Refugee Crisis: Lessons Learned from the Canada-Syria Experience," attracted a lively and engaged audience of alumni and community members from across the city.

Alboim compassionately alerted the audience to what needs to be done, both by private citizens and governments, to increase the number of refugees arriving in Canada and help them integrate into Canadian society. "We need to have a national conversation on these issues, on the kind of country Canada wants to be, and what this means for Canada's future," she said. Many in the audience carried on discussing ideas raised by Alboim long after the speech had ended—a testament to the power and strength of this important series.



## HONOURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Black History Month** was celebrated at the Faculty with a number of innovative initiatives. An exhibit of photos of Black FFSW students, faculty and staff was installed on the Faculty's third floor Art Wall from February 3 to March 29 (see REACH 2019). Photos were taken by **Natasha Lan**, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Dean, Academic. A screening of the National Film Board's "Journey to Justice" was held on February 25. The documentary recounts the story of six courageous Canadians who took racism to court.

"Honouring Black Social Work History: An Intimate Conversation with **The Honourable Wanda Thomas Bernard, Senator**" took place on March 5 at Massey College. The inspirational evening featured a conversation between Senator Bernard and students **Khadija Ahmed, Egag Egag, Sabrin Hassan** and **Yasmin Johnson**. Egag, Hassan and Johnson are MSW students. Ahmed, a Fellow at Massey College, is a Master of Global Affairs candidate at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Senator Bernard responded to questions with candour and passion, providing insight into how she deals with challenges. Discussing her career as a Senator, emeritus professor at Dalhousie University School of Social Work, researcher and community activist, she enunciated her strong belief in the power of social change. "Some people wait for things to happen but I say we must all be willing to lead the change you want to see in the world," she said.

Left to Right: Senator Wanda Bernard, Sabrin Hassan, Yasmin Johnson and Egag Egag



# FACULTY NEWS

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## APPOINTMENTS

Professor **David J. Brennan** has been appointed as the new Associate Dean, Research at the FIFSW for a three-year term, effective July 1, 2019.

Professor **David Burnes** has been appointed as the new Associate Dean, Academic at the FIFSW for a three-year term, effective July 1, 2019.

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## PROMOTIONS

Professor **Ramona Alaggia** was promoted to the rank of Full Professor, effective July 1, 2018. Her research is focused on understanding the effects of trauma and the role of resilience in children and youth who have experienced violence and abuse.

Professor **David Burnes** has been granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, effective July 1, 2019. His research focuses on elder abuse, facilitating the development of knowledge and innovative intervention strategies.

Professor **Shelley L. Craig**, Canada Research Chair in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth, was promoted to the rank of Full Professor, effective July 1, 2018. Her research focuses on the role of information and communication technologies in fostering the resilience of sexual and gender minority youth and the development and testing of evidence-based interventions to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Professor **Barbara Fallon** was promoted to the rank of Full Professor, effective July 1, 2018. Fallon's research is focused on collecting data in order to inform policy development in child welfare systems.

Professor **Micheal Shier** has been granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, effective July 1, 2019. His research focuses on the mechanisms and conditions that support social innovation and social entrepreneurship within the non-profit and voluntary sector.

## BLACK SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED

The Black Social Work Student Association was established this past year at the Faculty. MSW students, **Egag Egag**, **Sabrin Hassan** and **Yasmin Johnson**, are the Presidents and co-founders.

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## INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY

Accessibility Services at the St. George campus recently became even more accessible. Since the fall of 2018, On Location Accessibility Advisors have been working onsite within a number of academic divisions. Until now, all Advisors were based at the central office at 455 Spadina Avenue. This shift is part of a broader initiative by the University to embed Student Life services across campus. At our Faculty, Accessibility Advisor **Reshma Dhrodia** (MSW 2012) now has an office, where she is serving the needs of students from the FIFSW, OISE and Faculty of Law. Advisors provide academic accommodations to students who live with a range of health issues including mental health challenges, sensory impairments, chronic health conditions, learning disabilities and ADHD. They also support students with temporary disabilities or injuries.

# NUMBERS THAT COUNT

## 435

MSW students in 2018–2019

## 11

Adjunct professors

## 52

PhD students in 2018–2019

## 19

Status only professors

## 994

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 525 hours in year 2

## 33

Sessional lecturers

## 575

Field instructors  
worked with MSW students  
in 2018–2019

## 22

Administrative staff

## 49

Alumni mentors were matched  
with **46** MSW students

## 32

Faculty

## 200

Adjunct lecturers

## 14,173

Views of the Sophie  
Lucyk Virtual  
Library in 2018–2019



# HERE'S HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

## VISIT OR CONTACT US

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

Phone: 416-978-6314  
Fax: 416-978-7072  
[www.socialwork.utoronto.ca](http://www.socialwork.utoronto.ca)

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.

## 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 + Friends and clicking on Stay Connected and Get Involved. If you would like to receive e-Reach, REACH or the Year in Review or if you have any comments on any of the stories you have read here, please e-mail us at [fund.fsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:fund.fsw@utoronto.ca) or phone 416-978-4437 or visit us online at [www.socialwork.utoronto.ca](http://www.socialwork.utoronto.ca).

## SUPPORT US

To invest in the future of this Faculty by making a donation, please contact the Advancement Office at [fund.fsw@utoronto.ca](mailto:fund.fsw@utoronto.ca) or 416-978-4437 or visit us at [www.socialwork.utoronto.ca/donate](http://www.socialwork.utoronto.ca/donate).

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