Welcome to the Spring 2023 Semester!

I hope you all had a restful and restorative winter break and are enjoying the first few weeks of the Spring 2023 semester. Our program is starting off to a strong semester. In response to the external reviewers’ report from the 10-year self study, we are pushing forward with an identification of dedicated physical space at the GC, a review of our advising and mentoring practices, a review of our second examination, and ways in which to offer more social welfare electives. I want to thank everyone for your time and effort in contributing to the self-study, the 2-day site visit, and the response to the external reviewers’ report. For Spring, 2023, I would like to encourage us all to continue to engage in community building activities, to continue to foster our connectivity, and support for one another. I will leave you with a lovely memory from our “End of Semester” party in December. - Barbra Teater, EO, PhD in Social Welfare

FEATURING:

- Welcome to Spring 2023
- Abstract Deadline for Annual Program Meeting of CSWE
- Student Achievements
- Funding Opportunities
- Our February Graduates!
- Notes from our Social Media Fellow
- Student Spotlight

Abstract Deadline: February 10, 2023

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
69th Annual Program Meeting

Submit Abstracts here
The Spring 2023 Open Knowledge Fellowship provides a $2000 stipend for participating Graduate Center doctoral students. The Fellowship provides interactive, in-person training by Graduate Center library faculty on how to find and implement openly licensed resources for the course you teach. More information about the Fellowship can be found here: Open Knowledge Fellowship

Sabretta Alford, PhD Student

Accepted into the Spring 2023 Cohort of the Open Knowledge Fellowship

Sabretta is a licensed social worker and a Ph.D. student in Social Welfare at the CUNY Graduate Center. She is currently an adjunct instructor at the Silberman School of Social Work, where she developed a course on Intellectual Disabilities in Social Work Practice (SSW79735). She also teaches Social Work Research Methods I & II (SSW 75100). She is dedicated to designing and implementing dedicated coursework in the field of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Social Work.

Student Achievements: December & January

Miguel Rodriguez has been invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the Perspectives on Social Work, the journal of the doctoral students of the University of Houston.

Ian Williams has been accepted into the 2022-2024 HASTAC Scholars Program. The HASTAC Scholars Program consists of graduate and undergraduate students who work across the fields of technology, the arts, the humanities, and the sciences broadly defined. Ian will participate in the upcoming HASTAC conference.


Shermira Busby-Forrester has been appointed to the Continuing Education Association of New York (CEANY) Board of Directors. Among SUNY and CUNY leaders, Shermira will represent the East region. CEANY dedicates itself to promoting and supporting quality public continuing education programs in New York State. The Association advocates for the postsecondary adult learner and encourages the professional development of its members.

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The www.bellezeller.org scholarship of $5000.00 application is due on March 3rd. Eligibility includes completing at least 16 credits at a CUNY college, with a 3.75 GPA or better, and having performed significant community service.

Doctoral students, are you seeking training, mentorship, and professional development support as you navigate through your academic career? CSWE’s Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) doctoral application cycle for the 2023–2024 academic year is now open! The MFP team will be available to answer questions regarding the fellowship program, eligibility criteria, and the application process during scheduled Zoom information and application support sessions. Register to learn more or apply today.

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Congratulations to our February Graduates!

Yasmine Awais
“IT’S ALWAYS BEEN A BUSINESS MODEL”:
CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY FACULTY EXPERIENCES IN MANAGERIALISM
Committee: Mimi Abramovitz; Michelle Billies; Tamara Buckley

Glenearea Bates
EXAMINING FACTORS RELATED TO TOBACCO TREATMENT ENGAGEMENT AMONG TOBACCO DEPENDENT BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN; HISPANIC/ LATINO CANCER PATIENTS: AN ANALYSIS OF MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER’S TOBACCO TREATMENT PROGRAM
Committee: Daniel Gardner; Alexis Jemal; Michael Lewis; Jamie Ostroff

Julia Gomez
THE EFFECT OF RACE ON HOUSING STRATIFICATION AMONG LATINOS
Committee: Diane DePanfilis; Mayra Lopez Humphreys; Barbra Teater

Trang Kelly
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS SERVING CHILDREN IN VIETNAM: OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Committee: Harriet Goodman; Bin Chen; James Mandiberg

Emily Lopez
EXPLORING THE BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS OF PUERTO RICAN WOMEN SENIOR LEADERSHIP IN NEW YORK CITY NONPROFIT SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
Committee: Luis Barrios; Steve Burghardt; Barbra Teater

Jeanette Sucre
DEVELOPING A SCALE TO MEASURE INTERNALIZATION OF OPPRESSION AMONG LATINX LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY
Committee: Harriet Goodman; Luis Barrios; Rufina Lee
Social media, as a term, often gets used as if it were a monolithic entity. It is more accurate to refer to social media as plural and heterogenous. But what are they? Social media are digital communication tools, sometimes referred to as examples of "new media" (Young & Brady, 2022). What's different about social media than, say, this newsletter are interactive, dynamic natures and their capacity to disseminate and replicate user-generated content in real-time. This interaction forms social networks, which can mirror those in the offline world - or generate new ones.

The social media landscape is continuously changing and evolving; user bases and patterns are not static, and companies rise and fall. Remember Myspace, or Friendster?

Last fall, concerns about Twitter's private equity acquisition by Elon Musk led to significant user growth on Mastadon, a decentralized, open-sourced platform designed according to different values than most major platforms. Unlike the dominant Web 2.0 big social media such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, Mastadon does not have a central stream of information, and it does not harvest user data for ads. Instead, it operates as a series of federated servers, each managed and hosted independently, but interconnected as Mastadon. Messaging and communication on Mastadon do not have single pathways; users can have multiple presences on different "instances," each of which is separately hosted and maintained. This facilitates smaller communities, which can be more intentionally organized around a theme, topic, or interest, but also are a bit more difficult to try to reach a large audience.

Check out some of the servers here: https://joinmastodon.org/servers

Have an idea about content to share? Fill out our this quick form:

bit.ly/gcsocialwelfareshare
Student Spotlight: Diana Melendez

Let's Have a Conversation with Diana!

Why did you apply to the PhD in Social Welfare? - I have been fortunate to receive the support of mentors throughout my career, as early as my BSW and MSW education, who encouraged me to think about pursuing a PhD at some point. Around the time I decided to apply to the Social Welfare program I had realized I yearned for a space to further refine my visionary inclinations. I have always been a very intellectual person and thrive in spaces where I am challenged to expand or deepen my understanding of the world. My decision to apply to the Graduate Center was finalized after meeting Dr. Willie Tolliver and Dr. Alexis Jemal through a Liberation Based Healing Conference held at Silberman School of Social Work. Knowing there were people within this program whose values and aspirations for the field aligned with mine made all the difference.

What has been your favorite course so far as a student? Why? - I cannot speak highly enough of my experience with the Interactive Technology and Pedagogy certificate program! Dipping my academic toes in the world of critical digital pedagogy was very energizing for me as a learner and as an educator. Another formative experience was a course on the history of CUNY with Dr. Steve Brier who introduced me to critical university studies.

What do you want to do after you graduate? - Growing up I remember people talking about being “in the zone” when playing sports. I believe I am most in my zone when I am teaching. This does not have be restricted to a classroom setting though. I see myself facilitating liberatory learning spaces for social workers, social work students and anyone else invested in actively shaping our world for the better.

What leadership and/or employment positions do you hold? - My most recent role within CUNY came to be through grant funding under CUNY’s Black, Race, and Ethnic Studies Initiative (BRESI). I am collaborating with Dr. Robyn Brown-Manning, Dr. Gleneara Bates-Pappas and Michelle Desir in a project titled “A Space to Breathe” located in room 310 in the Silberman building. We are curating a physical space which centers the tranquility and healing of BIWOC, trans, gender nonconforming, gender expansive and femme folks of color who must navigate micro aggressions based on cisgender normative patriarchy and white supremacy on a daily basis. In the past I served on the Admissions Committee and I am currently an adjunct lecturer at the Silberman School of Social Work.

What’s something that people would be surprised to know about you? - I grew up in dance school and even in college I was a dance minor. I am in my third week on the job, and I’ve been reading a lot of information pertaining to the New York City council. I am also in the process of finishing up my second-year exams.

What is the focus of your research? - The focus of my research is exploring the potential for liberatory praxis within social work education. I am starting by addressing the need for mechanisms of institutional accountability for initiatives falling under the umbrella of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

What are you currently reading, watching, or listening to? - I am currently reading "What My Bones Know: A Memoir of Healing from Complex Trauma" by Stephanie Foo and "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. I just started watching “The Last of Us.” My most recently played podcast include "The Emergent Strategy Podcast" and "Green Dreamer" which accompany me on my commute.

What’s something we should ask you? - Hmm... I am a fan of making space for joy any chance we get- what brings me joy? Here’s a short list: conversations with close friends that include laughter and end in “love you”, a good nap, seeing birds outside and knowing what type of bird I’m spotting, playing with my cat, rubbing my family dog’s belly, finishing the latest draft of my dissertation proposal, catching the sunset right when the clouds are bright orange, purple, or pink.