A time to reflect and celebrate our community achievements

There are many things to celebrate in this newsletter. Over the past two months, colleagues from our PhD in Social Welfare community have successfully defended their dissertations, presented at conferences or held professional development workshops, had papers published in academic journals, received funding, and were accepted into training and/or leadership positions that will further their dissertation work and strengthen the work of the Graduate Center. These achievements are vital to our program’s vision of “developing scholars, leaders, and practitioners prepared to contribute to public service, and to an enriched quality of life for individuals, families, communities, and societies in the 21st century”. I hope you all will join me in giving time to acknowledge and reflect on the critical work our community is making to the profession of social welfare and beyond. I would also like you to "save the date" for an End of Year Celebration on May 24, 2023 from 4:00 - 6:00pm at the Graduate Center.

- Barbra Teater, Executive Officer, PhD in Social Welfare
The 100HW scholarship was established in 2002 to recognize outstanding students enrolled in undergraduate colleges of The City University of New York, who have achieved stellar academic records and who are committed to social change and become active leaders in their communities and the world.

Interested in applying? See: 100 Hispanic Women
Mental Health Matters!

On March 24th, Victoria Murray facilitated a workshop on behalf of the Silver Lining Institute (SLI) Fostering Progress workshop series titled “Mental Health Matters!”. The workshop focused on trauma-informed approaches to supporting mental health of young people impacted by foster care. Topics included understanding trauma experiences related to the foster care system itself, how mentors and mentoring organizations can prioritize mental health in their programming and policies, and how to access mental health support while understanding and centering youth voice and rights. The SLI provides training and consulting for mentoring organizations across the country with a specific focus on youth impacted by foster care. SLI facilitates free bi-monthly training and workshops (held virtually) on a variety of topics related to mentoring and foster care. To learn more about the work of SLI and upcoming workshops, please visit the SLI website (www.silverliningmentoring.org) or follow the organization on social media (Instagram @silverliningmentoring and Twitter @SLMyouth) to stay up to date on upcoming offerings. Victoria is a first year doctoral student in the CUNY Social Welfare PhD program and works as a Technical Assistant Consultant for the Silver Lining Institute (SLI). Currently her research interests include re-envisioning child welfare practices and social welfare education.

BRES Doctoral Fellowship Recipients

On behalf of the Black, Race, & Ethnic Studies (BRES) Collaboration Hub at the CUNY Graduate Center, two PhD in Social Welfare students have been awarded a BRES Doctoral Fellowship in the amount of $4,000 based on their dissertation work. Congratulations Tiffany & Britton!

"We Cannot Labor Out of Oppression: Understanding Black Women's Experiences of Wealth"
- Tiffany Younger

"The Black Music and Performance (MAP) Project: A Black People’s Epistemology of Healing"
- Britton Williams
The Virtual Town Square:
Updates from our Program Social Media Fellow
Ian Williams 🐦 @igraywill

Change in data access policy for Twitter

In February, Twitter announced a plan to change its policy for data access. Previously, academic researchers could pull data for free with the Application Program Interface (API). With the new plan, it will cost $100 per month. Academic researchers are greatly concerned by this news and its implications for studying one of the world's major social media platforms.
Read more here: https://news.northeastern.edu/2023/02/15/twitter-api/

HASTAC: The Original Academic Social Network

The Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Technology Alliance and Collaborative (HASTAC) existed before other social media platforms took hold, and was created specifically for academics. This fall, they launched a new website, The Humanities Commons. Check it out and join here:
https://hastac.hcommons.org/

BIPOC-Authored Social Work Papers

Did you know there's a spreadsheet of BIPOC-authored social work papers? I learned this on social media. Check it out here (there are instructions on the first tab about submitting work to the add to the list):
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nzh_7pRGCi0F5XTqTqn7Pli1aS5_CNzrhGhai2bYXlkY/edit#gid=0

Open Social Work: An OER Resource

Open Social Work is a website for social work-focused Open Educational Resources (OER). It is run by Matt DeCarlo, PhD, LMSW, Assistant Professor of Social Work at La Salle University, and Kimberly Pendall, MSIS, Social Work & Social Science Librarian and Assistant Professor of Social Work at Portland State University.
https://opensocialwork.org

CUNY Academic Commons Page Under Construction

We are piloting our CUNY Academic Commons page. The goal is to share information and resources for current students. Stay tuned for more information or email with content ideas at gcsocialwelfare@gmail.com
https://socialwelfare.commons.gc.cuny.edu/

Follow us at linktr.ee/gcsocialwelfare
Student Spotlight: Jamie Borgan

Let's Have a Conversation with Jamie!

Why did you apply to the PhD in Social Welfare? - I had a long practice career before applying to the PhD program, mostly in nonprofit management. I didn’t plan on getting a PhD after finishing my MSW, but as I moved through my career at various levels (mostly related to issues of housing and homelessness, harm reduction, and social enterprise), I began working more with students and doing more community/state level trainings for organizations. In 2017, I started working as an adjunct at a college in Spokane, Washington, where I’m from, teaching classes on nonprofits and social enterprise, as well as in the Social Work department of our local university. I really enjoyed the dynamism of teaching, as well as working with agencies to incorporate new ideas and work on organizational change efforts. I began to consider a PhD and was very interested in CUNY because of its emphasis on publicly engaged scholarship and policy-oriented research.

What has been your favorite course so far as a student? Why? - I’m taking a class right now called Participatory Democracy and Social Movements; it’s taught out of the Political Science department, and it’s a really great supplement to the social welfare policy courses (which I enjoyed) that were part of our foundational coursework. It’s really helping me look more deeply at infrapolitics in social welfare, especially organizationally and more deeply analyze the role of community organizations in policy creation, implementation and elaboration.

What leadership and/or employment positions do you hold within CUNY? - I am currently the Program Coordinator for the Undergraduate Community Organizing Minor at Hunter and teach in that program. I’ve also been a Field Advisor for MSW students at Hunter.

What’s something that people would be surprised to know about you? - I have a lot of hobbies and interests that I’ve often parlayed into a “side hustle”, so over the years in addition to my “regular” job, I’ve been a pottery teacher, wedding floral designer, freelance journalist, beekeeper, Spanish tutor, nonprofit consultant and drummer, among other things.

What is the focus of your research? - I’m very interested in social welfare policy implementation, specifically the role of community organizations and social workers in policy implementation. I’ve been looking at the role of social worker discretion in policy implementation, as well as organizational factors that impact social worker discretion and perceptions of discretion and its impact on equity in policy outcomes. I’m very interested in these factors in housing policy implementation and around issues of public benefits access. I’ve also been involved in research on social work education, specifically around PhD students’ expectations of their education, as well as the experience of transgender and nonbinary students in social work education, research I’ve been doing with Jama Shelton.

What are you currently reading, watching, or listening to? - It’s that time of the semester where I kind of forget there’s something else to read outside of my studies and research, but during the spring recess I am hoping to read Fighting for Space by Travis Lupick about efforts in Vancouver to establish supervised injection sites. I make a point of listening to “Wait, Wait…Don’t Tell Me” on the weekends, because it’s silly, and it was a COVID ritual for me and my mom to sit outside on the porch on Saturdays to listen to it together during quarantine.

What’s something we should ask you? What’s your answer? - What do you miss most about living in the Pacific Northwest? My answer is coniferous trees. I have a mental map of all the evergreens in my neighborhood in Brooklyn, and I often run by them on my morning jog just to say hi.