

SOCIAL WORK  
**matters**

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

2019 – 2020

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Building resilient families  
through research  
Meeyoung Min







2019 – 2020

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**SOCIAL WORK**  
*matters*

*The University of Utah  
 College of Social Work  
 2019-2020*

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*Dean Martell Teasley talks with students about Utah's need for more social workers.*

## A Message from the Dean

If you read my earlier messages, or if we've had a chance to talk, you know my motto—we're on the move! As I begin my third year at the College of Social Work, I can tell you with confidence and enthusiasm, we are STILL on the move! This fall, we welcomed dynamic faculty, opened an exciting new academic advising office, and developed a more integrated classroom-practicum curriculum. As always, we continue to expand the life-changing research conducted by faculty in the College. This exciting mix of people, plans, and promise supports our primary objective—preparing more students than ever before to meet the steep workforce demand for social workers in Utah.

Our lofty goals are a good match for the University of Utah's capital campaign theme—Imagine New Heights. We also believe these goals will help our students soar to their own new heights. Here is a quick look at what we want to achieve in the next few years:

**For our students:**

- Increased access to education and practice—through growing scholarships, online programs, and licensure preparation support.
- Readiness to meet changing workforce demands—our community needs more social workers, and they need these professionals to be diverse, to work in rural areas, to provide telehealth services, and to collaborate across professions.

**Research guides our practice.** Consequently, we are focused on adding:

- Space—classrooms and labs in which our students learn and train, our faculty conduct research, and the community collaborates with us.
- An Endowed Chair in Research—to attract and retain strong researchers who advance the growth and success of the social work profession.
- Equipment—brain scanners that improve treatment plans, labs for telehealth experiences, and computers for online teaching and learning.

Some of our goals reflect good old-fashioned service; some of them involve cutting-edge technology. All of them are important. I hope to share more about these goals in the coming year—through local “Talks with Teasley” sessions and travel to other areas. I hope you will join me for the discussions and in our efforts to take the College to new heights.

*Martell Teasley, PhD, MSW  
 Dean and Professor  
 President, National Association of Deans  
 and Directors of Schools of Social Work*



# What's in Store for Utah's Future Social Workers?



hard to come by but are likely between 140 and 200 per 100,000, while here in Utah there are 98 LCSWs per 100,000. This shortage is apparent when looking at wait times in the state to see providers. Schools of social work are key players in a statewide effort to increase capacity.”

Next, Noelle Sudbury, director of the Salt Lake County Criminal Justice Advisory Council, moderated a discussion with Dean Teasley, Director Derrik Tollefson (Utah State University), and Director Mark Bigler (Weber State University). They talked about ways to increase enrollment, the diversity of student cohorts, and licensure exam pass rates, as well as how to encourage students to pursue careers in the public sector. Dr. Tollefson noted that the state’s workforce challenges were particularly acute in Utah’s rural areas.

Following a panel discussion with recent U social work graduates, summit participants broke into groups to generate ideas around three areas: compensation, incentives, and retirement; licensing, criminal records, and interstate compacts; and university faculty and staff.

Agency representatives and the deans and directors of Utah’s schools of social work agreed to put together a tangible package to present to the Utah State Legislature, advocating for some of the ideas generated during the spring summit.

In April, the University of Utah hosted a statewide summit to discuss the role Utah’s social work education programs must play in filling the state’s social worker deficit.

After a brief welcome from the University of Utah’s Dean Martell Teasley, Emily Bleyl, executive director of the NASW Utah Chapter, and Jenna Christensen, associate director of the Utah Area Health Education Center, outlined the scope of the problem. “There is a critical shortage of social workers (and other mental health providers) in the state,” said Ms. Bleyl. “Nationally, estimates of licensed social workers are

*“There is a critical shortage of social workers (and other mental health providers) in the state.”*

## New MSW Online Option

For many, getting to a university campus can be a challenge, whether that’s due to location, life circumstances, or physical ability. Fortunately, access to MSW education is about to get easier. In the fall of 2020, the U will welcome its first online MSW cohort! Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Joanna Bettmann Schaefer explained that the asynchronous program will offer the same rigorous, high-value education offered to on-campus students, but at a time and location convenient for individual students. “Students who earn their MSWs online will still be able to engage with some of the best scholars in the country and will still be a part of our robust learning community,” she said. Applications for the new online MSW option are now being accepted.



*“Students who earn their MSWs online will still be able to engage with some of the best scholars in the country.”*

## A New Resource for New Mothers

The College of Social Work strives to provide the best resources for its students, which now includes a lactation room in the building. This new room is dedicated to mothers who need a private and quiet space to nurse or pump. The presence of an onsite lactation room reduces the need for mothers to hide in a bathroom or travel elsewhere on campus to nurse, decreasing distractions from school work, and enabling mothers to reach their full academic potential.



## A New Advising Approach

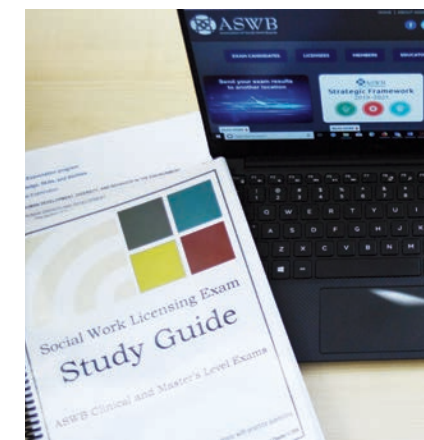
Planning collegiate careers can be overwhelming for students, making advising essential to their academic success. For that reason, it is imperative that the College of Social Work provides the best possible advising to its students. To most effectively assist and guide students through their academic endeavors, the College has expanded its Academic Advising team and shifted to one centralized office. The new team includes multiple experienced and supportive advisors who are able to provide consistent, helpful, timely information to each individual.



## Online Licensure Exam Prep Course

In direct response to student requests, the College of Social Work now offers a licensure exam preparation course. Open to second-year MSW students and recent graduates, the course covers topics such as test-taking strategies, assessment and treatment planning, diagnosis, and direct and indirect practice. “As a college, we are invested in the long-term career success of our students,” said Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Joanna Bettmann Schaefer. “With this course, we are excited to help support our students who are working toward licensure as part of their career goals.”

*“As a college, we are invested in the long-term career success of our students.”*





# Kudos!



Professor **David Derezotes'** Transforming Classrooms into Inclusive Communities grant was renewed to continue promoting diversity at the University of Utah.



PhD student **Kwynn Gonzalez-Pons** was selected as a Society for Social Work and Research Doctoral Student Communications Committee member and will support student work and development.



Associate Dean for Research **Eric Garland** and Research Assistant Professor **Adam Hanley** received a \$1.8M National Institutes of Health grant to study Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement as an adjunct to methadone treatment for opioid use and chronic pain management.



**Dr. Garland** was also selected as an American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare fellow.



Additionally, **Dr. Hanley**, Assistant Professor **Charles Hoy-Ellis**, and PhD student **Kwynn Gonzalez-Pons** received College of Social Work Seed Grants to pursue research projects.



The Katherine A. Kendall Institute awarded former Associate Professor **Rosey Hunter** and Assistant Professor **Aster Tecele** a grant for their global social work learning communities project.



**Dr. Tecele** also received funding from the U's Carnegie Community Engagement Classification Committee for the Case Management Certificate Program.



Assistant Professor **Jeremiah Jagers'** co-written article, "Environmental Stress Before and After a Suicide Attempt," received the 2017-2018 Journal of Mental Health Counseling's Outstanding Research Article award.



The University of Utah Office of the Vice President of Research awarded Assistant Professor **Tasha Seneca Keyes** a grant for her project examining culturally relevant restorative practices for improving school-based relationships.

MSW student **Angela Mesenburg** received a Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellowship, through which she learned more about providing substance misuse services to underserved communities.

The Children's Bureau awarded Research Assistant Professor **Chad McDonald** a contract to partner with the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

The U's Graduate School Diversity Office awarded PhD student **Hanna Morzenti** the Ronald E. McNair Fellowship.

The University of Utah Foundation selected Social Research Institute Director **Phillip Osteen** as a fellow to develop foundation grants.

Director of Academic Advising **Elizabeth Perez** received the National Academic Advising Association's Outstanding New Advisor Award in the category of Primary Advising Role.

PhD student **Sarah Priddy Reese** received a University Graduate Fellowship and the 2019 Society for Social Work and Research Doctoral Fellows Award for her dissertation proposal.

The Council on Social Work Education selected Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Joanna Bettmann Schaefer** for the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education program, which she attended in the summer of 2019.

PhD student **Lani Taholo** received the Salt Lake County Hero Award for her "Kaimana" intervention, a culturally responsive therapy that assesses mental health among Pacific Islanders.

Research Assistant Professor **Mike Tanana** received a National Science Foundation grant to improve training for mental health professionals and a National Institute of Mental Health grant to improve Motivational Interviewing assessment methods.



*Photos in order of mention; top to bottom, right to left.*

# Integrating Health Care for Improved Outcomes

When Megan Chepkwuri was a child, she remembers visiting her grandpa's office often. "Grandpa" was Rex Skidmore—dean of the College of Social Work from 1956 to 1975. When she went home, she and her sister would play "office"—Ms. Chepkwuri as a social worker and her sister as lawyer.

Her love for social work never left. When she earned a bachelor's degree through Utah State University, she majored in population and community health, with a minor in social work. She enjoyed the work her major funneled her toward but felt something was missing. She missed the advocacy that came with social work. So when she went back for an advanced degree, it was through the U's College of Social Work.

Ultimately, Ms. Chepkwuri landed somewhere in between the two worlds, combining both loves in the field of medical social work. Currently, she works as the manager of care management at Dixie Regional Hospital and oversees a team of 32 nurses and social workers. It's their responsibility to care for the biological, psychological, and social health of a patient from the moment they walk in the door until discharge. "Integrating the team is a way to address the big picture for the client," said Ms. Chepkwuri. "Hospital stays are usually moments of crisis for people. Most people don't plan to be in the hospital. By staffing dual teams—both a social worker and a nurse—we're able to respond to all the needs the client has."

Ms. Chepkwuri doesn't see much separation in the dual lines of the profession she's pursued. "Care management is part of community health, and it's part



*"Integrating the team is a way to address the big picture for the client."*

of social work. One of the pillars of population health is working with the social determinants of health, just like in social work." Ms. Chepkwuri continued, "Being a social worker, I'm able to bring another complementary skill set to do the work better."

Ms. Chepkwuri's influence is also reaching far beyond the walls of her office. Serving as president of the Utah Chapter of the American Case Management Association, Ms. Chepkwuri is involved in shaping the nationwide conversation on best practice in care management.



## Young Alumna Award

"The work I do is hard, the stories I hear can be painful, and the reason I do it is because of my story," said MSW alumna Lana Dalton, who was presented with the 2019 Distinguished Young Alumna Award during the University of Utah's annual Founders Day celebration last February.

The award recognizes outstanding alumni who have graduated within the last 15 years and who have excelled professionally, served local and national communities, and supported the University in its mission. The Distinguished Alumni Awards are among the highest honors awarded by the University of Utah.



*Scan to learn more about Ms. Dalton's work.*



# Building Resilient Families Through Research

MEET THE NEW BELLE S. SPAFFORD  
ENDOWED CHAIR

A three-day, 1,700-mile cross-country car trip would test any family. But when Meeyoung Min, her husband, and their two college-aged children finally arrived in Salt Lake City, they were in good spirits and eager to get to know their new home. Still, why make the long drive from Cleveland? To move Dr. Min into her new role as the University of Utah College of Social Work's Belle S. Spafford Endowed Chair. This prestigious position is dedicated to helping women and their families through the advancement of research. The charge of the Spafford Endowed Chair, paired with the College's expertise and leadership around substance use disorder interventions, made the position a perfect fit for Dr. Min.

She grew up in South Korea and earned her bachelor's degree from Yonsei University in Seoul before coming to the U.S. to earn her MSW from Adelphi University in New York. She then returned to Seoul, where she worked as a researcher for the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs' Division of Family Policy. Within this government-sponsored research agency (the South Korean equivalent of the National Institutes of Health), she provided guidelines for national health and welfare policies related to the well-being of children. This included documenting laws and policies supporting (or not supporting) children's rights in education, labor, leisure, and health; establishing national standards for childcare facilities and qualifications of childcare workers; and promoting institutional support for children, especially the children of working mothers.

She came back to the United States and earned her PhD in social welfare from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. For her doctoral dissertation, she merged various county administrative (e.g., billing) data, including Medicaid, to identify factors related to psychiatric hospitalization and repeated crisis service use among adults with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance use disorder. Supported by the county mental health board, her dissertation was selected for an outstanding doctoral research award by the Ohio State University.

Her research today—some two decades later—knits together threads from her professional experience in South Korea, her doctoral research in the U.S., and her personal experience as a mother... along with 21 years of birth-cohort data on more than 400 pairs of inner-city child-mother study participants affected by substance misuse. Dr. Min is focused on developing a better understanding of two main areas: the long-term effects of childhood trauma among women with substance use disorder, and the developmental outcomes of children whose mothers used substances during pregnancy.

"Childhood trauma, such as abuse and neglect, is a primary predictor of later substance misuse, and substance misuse is strongly related to additional trauma and victimization," explained Dr. Min. People who experienced childhood trauma tend to have trouble making meaningful relationships, probably due to poor attachment—whether it's with peers, romantic partners, colleagues, or others. "Past experience tells them that relationships can be dangerous," she said, "so they tend to have smaller and less healthy and secure social networks, which affect their ability to parent."

Dr. Min also has published extensively about how a mother's substance use during pregnancy affects a child's cognitive, language, and social-emotional development. Her current National Institute on Drug Abuse-funded study investigates developmental trajectories of substance-exposed children, examining how the biological vulnerability marked with prenatal substance exposure may interact with gender and trauma/life adversity in determining life trajectories.

As the newly appointed Spafford Endowed Chair, Dr. Min said one of her ultimate goals is to build a network of support—connecting research, practice, community, and policy—that helps substance-using mothers become the mothers they wish to be. She strongly believes that with the proper support, women can become skilled mothers who can guard their children against the toxic effects of adversities such as poverty, discrimination, and violence—or at least reduce the impact of such toxic stressors—and promote the resiliency of their children.

*One of Dr. Min's ultimate goals is to build a network of support—connecting research, practice, community, and policy—that helps substance-using mothers become the mothers they wish to be.*





## NEW TO THE CSW

In 2019, the University of Utah was pleased to welcome six outstanding new faculty to the College of Social Work.

*Top Row: MSW Director Tiffany Baffour, Assistant Professor Christopher Cambron, Belle S. Spafford Endowed Chair Meeyoung Min  
Bottom Row: Assistant Professor Alysse Loomis, Associate Professor Sarah Canham, Director of Field Education Jamuna Jones*





## NEW FACULTY



Assistant Professor **Christopher Cambron** joined the College of Social Work after completing a National Institutes of Health-funded postdoctoral fellowship at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. He earned his MSW and Master of Public Policy from the U and a doctorate in social welfare from the University of Washington. His research focuses on reducing health disparities among historically disadvantaged populations, with a particular interest in addressing health behaviors that increase risk for cancer and other chronic diseases. “I am excited to continue collaborating with excellent researchers across campus, and to work with students in both the classroom and research lab,” he said.



Associate Professor **Sarah Canham** will split her time between the College of Social Work and the College of Architecture + Planning, and she will serve as associate director of the University of Utah Health Interprofessional Education Program. “I look forward to helping bridge the inter-professional work being done on the Health Sciences campus to that being done in the College of Social Work and the College of Architecture + Planning,” Dr. Canham said. She earned her master’s in applied sociology and a PhD in gerontology from the University of Maryland. Her research interests include social determinants of health, health and social services, environments and aging, homelessness, and substance use and dependence. “There are tremendous opportunities for research and teaching across the University,” she said. “I’m looking forward to new collaborations!”



In addition to years of teaching, **Jamuna Jones** brought more than a decade of experience in behavioral health to her new role as director of field education. She earned her BSW and MSW from the University of Utah, as well as a perinatal mood disorder certification. Her scholarly interests also include anxiety, depression, trauma, and nutritional psychology. “I am honored to be part of the College of Social Work and have had a wonderful experience working with my team, faculty, and staff,” she said. “My goal in this position is to help create and maintain professional, high quality practicum experiences where theory and practice come together.”



“I’m thrilled to be at the University of Utah College of Social Work,” said Assistant Professor **Alysse Loomis**. “The school has a great reputation for doing strong research and for excellence in teaching. From my very first interaction with the faculty, staff, and students, I’ve found it to be such a welcoming place. I can’t wait to be a part of all that is going on here.” Dr. Loomis earned her MSW and PhD from the University of Connecticut, where her dissertation focused on the link between trauma, school relationships, and child well-being. This summer, UConn awarded her an Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award in recognition of her excellence in academics, research, and community service.

## New MSW Program Director Tiffany Baffour

Growing up on the East Coast, 11-year-old Tiffany Baffour was invited by her social worker father’s colleagues to participate in anti-apartheid protests in the Washington, D.C., area. “That was my first social justice work,” she said. She spent most of her high school years in Africa while her mother served as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Zimbabwe. “We literally lived on the doorstep of apartheid.” Witnessing the income disparity between the haves and the have-nots stuck with her and ended up shaping her career.



Last year, Dr. Baffour—then at North Carolina A&T State University—made her first trip to Utah. “When you think about Salt Lake City, diversity is not the first thing that comes to mind. But it’s such an incredibly diverse place, and that really interested me in the U,” she said. So, when she learned MSW Program Director Amanda Barusch was retiring, Dr. Baffour decided to apply for the position.

During her tenure as director of the MSW Program, Dr. Baffour hopes to further strengthen student engagement in community-based learning, and to better connect the curriculum to both social policy and the diverse community.

## RETIREMENTS



Amanda Barusch



Sheryle Bauer



Ruth Gerritsen-McKane



Rosemarie Hunter



Irene Ota

**Amanda Barusch**, professor and director of the MSW Program, began working for the College of Social Work just over 34 years ago. Dr. Barusch earned her MSW in 1981 and her PhD in 1985, both from the University of California, Berkeley. She has authored seven books and has published many articles in different academic journals. She later earned her MFA in fiction and book arts from the University of Utah and has gone on to write fiction and poetry.

**Sheryle Bauer** was the first face greeting visitors to the building for 11 years. She helped with any number of concerns, from offering a pencil and directing new students to classrooms, to playing piano at CSW events and removing foreign objects from a student’s ear (yes, this really happened). Ms. Bauer had a great sense of humor and made work fun for those around her.

**Ruth Gerritsen-McKane** began her time at the University of Utah in 1999 in pursuit of an MSW, graduating in 2001. She joined the College as faculty in 2006 and earned a PhD in social work from the U in 2009. During her time at the College, Dr. Gerritsen-McKane served as the associate director of the BSW Program, the director of field education for the BSW Program, the director of Global Social Work, and as an assistant professor/lecturer. She was active in seeking new learning abroad and practicum opportunities for CSW students.

**Rosemarie Hunter**, associate professor, joined the College of Social Work in 1995. In addition to teaching, she served as co-director of graduate field education and Global Social Work, and director of undergraduate field education. She was also appointed special assistant to the president for Campus Community Partnerships and served as director of University Neighborhood Partners. Dr. Hunter was known for her active engagement with the community and sought to provide educational resources to refugees, minority communities, and first-generation students. She helped establish the Case Management Certificate Program and served as director for the Bridging Borders project, which works to build the social service workforce in developing countries.

**Irene Ota** worked at the U for nearly 40 years, spending the last 15 in the College of Social Work. She served as an instructor and diversity coordinator within the College, but was also involved in inclusion efforts across campus and throughout the community. While at the CSW, she established and advised the Voices of Diversity student group, developed the Social Justice Lecture Series: Allies for Equity, and co-directed the Initiative for Transformative Social Work. Students and colleagues will miss her tireless dedication to the fields of social justice and antidiscrimination.



## Meet the Postdoc

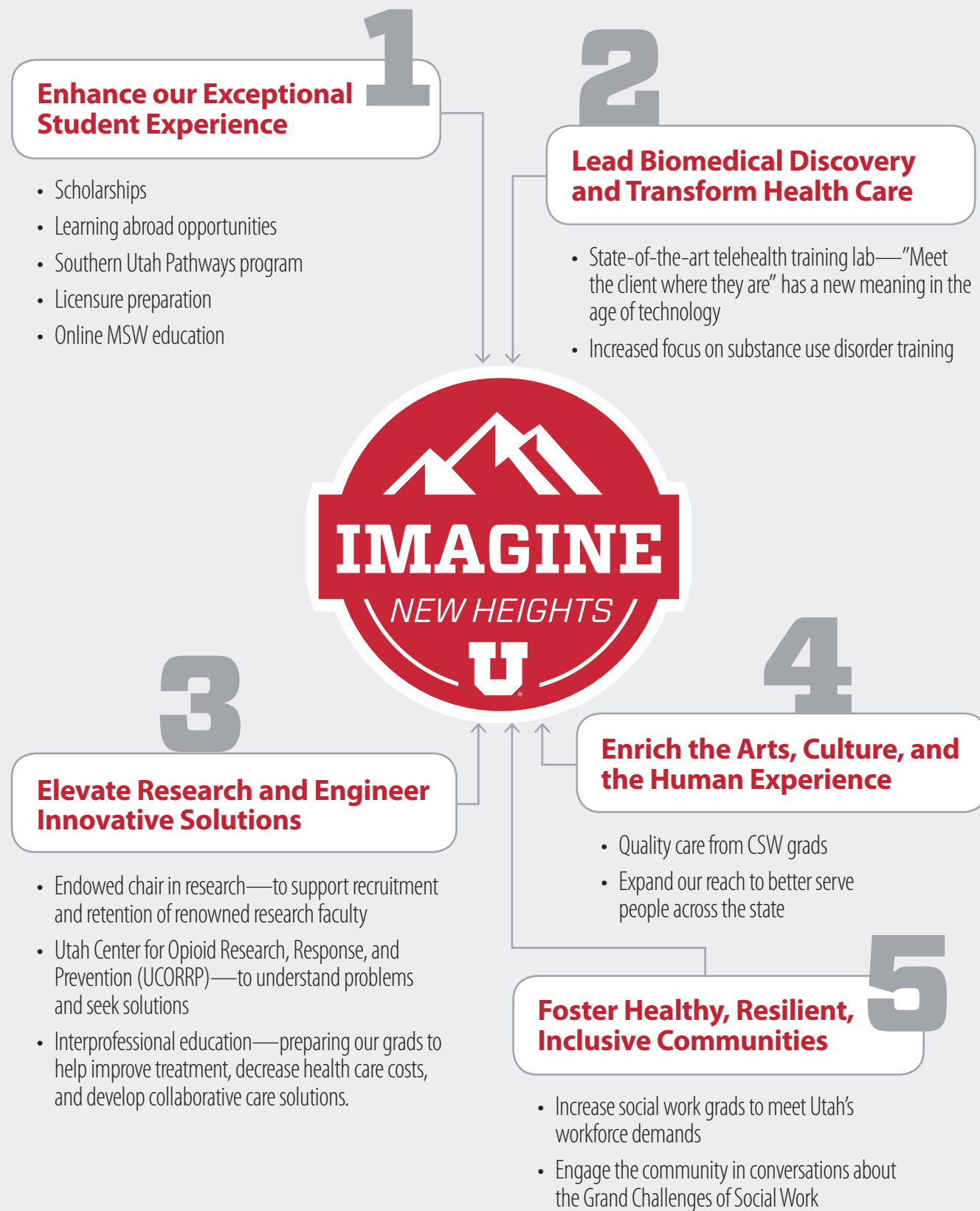
After nearly seven years in Germany, Justin Hudak—the newest postdoctoral fellow in the College’s Center on Mindfulness and Integrative Health Intervention Development (C-MIIND)—is excited to be back at the U, where he earned his bachelor’s degree. He earned his master’s in neuro- and behavioral sciences and his doctorate in clinical psychology/neuroscience from the LEAD Graduate School and Research Network at

the University of Tübingen. With his new colleagues at C-MIIND, Dr. Hudak is focused on exploring the (neuro) physiological changes brought about by Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement (MORE) and their role in mediating opioid dose reduction and alleviating chronic pain. “I couldn’t be happier with my choice to come to the U,” he says. “Dr. Garland and his team are doing cutting-edge research in a very important field.”



# University of Utah Capital Campaign

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK OBJECTIVES



## Uncharted Therapy

Outward Bound is an organization that provides outdoor adventure trips for veterans in an effort to help them readjust to life at home. The programs focus on two things: getting people into the wilderness, and helping them process what happens while they are there. What’s typical, and hoped for, are improvements from the beginning to the end of the program. After evaluating Outward Bound, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Joanna Bettmann Schaefer found something unique: “This is the first time I’ve evaluated a program where participants continued to improve after the program ended.” On several variables, participants didn’t just improve from the beginning to the end of the program, but showed continued improvement a month later. “I think what’s happening with programs like this is they’re doing something that isn’t therapy but is therapeutic,” explained Dr. Bettmann Schaefer. “Veterans participating see how it might be helpful for them to get more formal, individualized, therapeutic support. And that makes me excited about how therapeutic adventure can help veterans get where they need to go.”



## Investing in Fatherhood, Investing in Success

Historically, publicly funded programs that support poor families have focused on single mothers. These programs have often perceived noncustodial parents—usually fathers—as of interest based on whether they were paying child support.

The Utah Department of Workforce Services is trying to change that. They recently piloted a program for formerly incarcerated fathers that focuses on employment, fatherhood, and reentry into society. Christian Sarver, associate director of the Utah Criminal Justice Center, is excited about this different direction for resources. “Thinking of fathers as part of the family benefits the whole family, regardless of the status of the family.” Dr. Sarver emphasized the importance of taking a broader life approach in combating recidivism. “We want more than to just keep them out of prison or jail. We want to help them participate in life again—to create a life they don’t want to interrupt.”

## Waves of Change: Creating Culturally Responsive Therapy

Recent PhD graduate Lani Taholo has had varied and extensive experience in the decades she’s worked as a social worker. Through it all, the need for cultural integration into mental health practice has resurfaced again and again. As a Pacific Islander herself, and as a practitioner working in Pacific Islander communities, she has seen ways that key aspects of her culture haven’t been used to inform practice—to the detriment of her clients and community. “Therapists today are using a Western cultural assessment tool for a non-Western way of living,” she said.

Using information found during her doctoral research, Dr. Taholo has created an indigenous mental health curriculum, called Kaimana, focused on addressing mental health issues centered around Pacific Islander cultural values. Dr. Taholo is currently adapting her curriculum for publication so it can be used in other indigenous communities. “The purpose of Kaimana is to pipeline indigenous mental health approaches all over so people don’t have to wait,” she said. “We need this now.”





# Robin Arnold-Williams Fulfilling a Dream

Robin Arnold-Williams was organized, hardworking, ethical; a woman with a vision. She played a critical role in the administrations of two governors and helped thousands of people through her policy work. Robin was dedicated to social work—as an educator and as a professional. Consequently, her husband, John, was not surprised that her long-term plans included



Robin Arnold-Williams

establishing a social work scholarship through an estate gift—the estate the couple anticipated would be hers to distribute as the surviving spouse in their marriage.

But life does not always go as planned. When Robin died in 2017, John was unexpectedly faced with the loss, Robin's vision, and an estate that was solely his to distribute. John took time to assess these circumstances and ultimately took his cue from his shared life with Robin—he decided to fulfill her dream of creating a scholarship at the University of Utah College of Social Work.

"It was an interesting relationship we had," John reflected. "I knew from the start how much Robin's career meant to her, and how much she loved being in the public service field. It was an understanding that wherever the jobs came up for her, that's where we would go." John recalled how Washington Governor Christine Gregoire always laughed when recounting Robin's call to John after she accepted the position of Secretary of the Department of Social and Health

***John decided to fulfill Robin's dream of creating a scholarship at the University of Utah College of Social Work.***



Robin Arnold-Williams' husband John Williams

Services in the governor's cabinet. "We're moving to Washington!" Robin exclaimed without preamble. John said, "Robin knew that if it was what she wanted to do, I would do it without hesitation. I got a lot of satisfaction supporting her dreams and her career." The scholarship is a way for John to follow Robin's lead one more time and fulfill this dream for her.

While he credits Robin with the vision, John is quick to recognize former Utah Governor Michael Leavitt and the Leavitt Partners, Inc. employee support program, as well as family, friends, colleagues, and classmates for their generous contributions. Their collective generosity enabled the scholarship to be initiated and grow quickly enough to be awarded within one year—an exciting and heartwarming legacy to Robin.

Among these classmates is Marghi Barton (MSW '80). Marghi recalls Robin as humble, gracious, always prepared for class, and game for any Utah activity from rafting to skiing. After running through a long list of adjectives and activities connected to Robin, Marghi paused. "You know, I don't think Robin and I ever

***"I got a lot of satisfaction supporting her dreams and her career."***

had a class together," she said. But Robin was always there, ready to participate, to support, to encourage. "Robin had a good sense of work-life balance," observed Marghi. "Robin was also instilled with a strong sense of independence." Robin's mother was a single parent who chopped wood to keep the fires burning during cold Michigan winters. Robin worked hard for all she achieved, didn't take opportunities for granted, and set the bar high for those who worked with her. "She was a role model for many, and a steady force behind so many people and projects," recalled Marghi.

For Marghi, the scholarship is a way to encourage students to be like Robin, to be inspired by her career in macro social work. Speaking as a clinical social worker, Marghi noted, "There's value in one-on-one, but policy leads to big differences—one sweeping change can have a broad impact. And there's no better time!"

John also sees the scholarship as a continuation of Robin's work. He recalled that someone once asked her how she could possibly do the work she did for so many years, given all the bad things that happen in social services. Robin's answer stuck with him. "She said, 'All populations seem to have problems. If there weren't people in the world who had problems and needed help, there wouldn't be a Department of Human Services, and I wouldn't have had a chance to work with people who needed help.'" Robin understood that if you gave people the right help and did it in a caring and loving way, you could really make a difference in their lives. "She wasn't out to make a fortune or get famous, she was just there to make a difference in people's lives." John said Robin truly wanted to pass that passion on—to find others who wanted to do this, too. He feels good about following through with the scholarship as Robin wanted. He noted, "The wonderful thing is, I actually get to see the scholarship established and meet the scholars. That was never in the cards as a final estate distribution. With that, it has become our scholarship now."



## Donor Honor Roll

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS WHO GAVE JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019.

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#### \$25,000 or more

The Callon Family Trust  
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## Message to Our Donors

### Accio Generosity!

Myth and magic worked their way into the College of Social Work's great halls this spring, as the University of Utah held its first-ever "Giving Day." In between faculty discussions about interventions for Harry Potter characters (visit <http://bit.ly/sw4hp19>) and e-owls delivering messages of thanks, we welcomed Platform-Level gifts (of 9 and ¾, of course!) and other enchanting gift levels as we conjured up \$2,208.34 in scholarships for BSW, MSW, and PhD students.

Thank you to all who joined in this adventure—and thank you to all the other muggles listed above who also gave generously to the College last year.

— Lisa Himonas, Assistant Dean for Development



*We solemnly swear that, in raising funds for student scholarships, we were up to something truly good.*





**College of Social Work**

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## Supporting Doctoral Students

*The College of Social Work has long been grateful for the William McPhee Endowed Scholarship that supports doctoral students and honors Dr. McPhee—a professor who earned his PhD at the U and taught here for many years. College faculty, staff, and students learned more about the family's dedication to education in an email exchange between 2018-2019 McPhee scholarship recipient Malisa Brooks and Dr. McPhee's daughter, Katherine Hinds. Ms. Hinds wrote:*



***Both my parents believed in the value of higher education and wanted to help qualified students. My two sisters and I both have graduate degrees, and our grandmother graduated from the University of Utah in 1900! Education is truly important."***



*William McPhee*