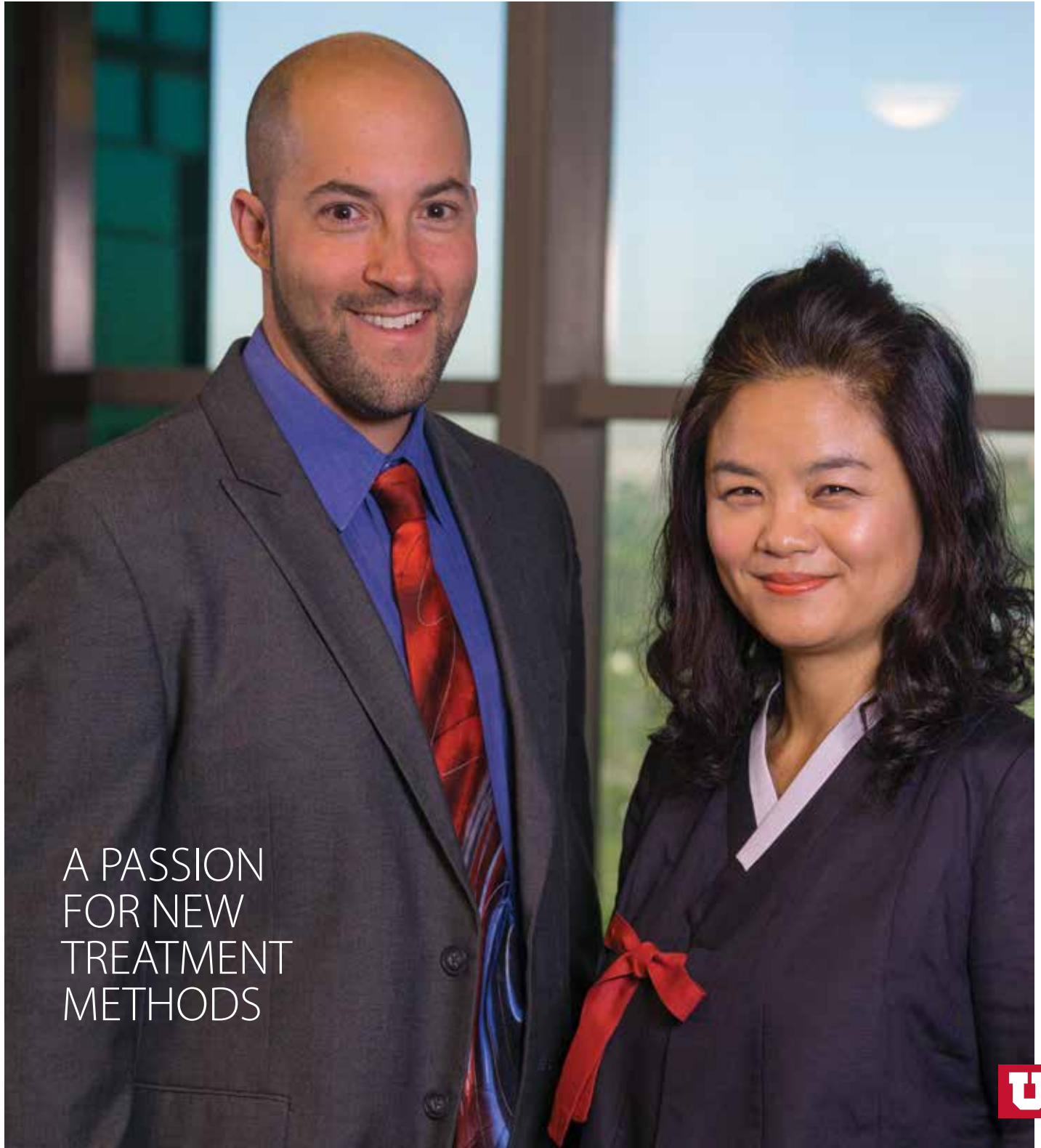


SOCIAL WORK  
**matters**

2016 – 2017

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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK



A PASSION  
FOR NEW  
TREATMENT  
METHODS





2016 – 2017

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**SOCIAL WORK matters**

*The University of Utah  
 College of Social Work  
 2016-2017*

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*Social Work Matters is published annually by the University of Utah College of Social Work*

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN**

**“W**hen we opened our Goodwill Humanitarian Building in 2008, I couldn't wait to show off the Bridge Training Clinic (BTC), a state-of-the-art facility comprised of four clinical suites equipped with one-way mirrors that allow students to observe live therapy sessions conducted by faculty. To date, the BTC has been used primarily for teaching purposes, but that is about to change. Thanks to the phenomenal success of Dr. Eric Garland, associate dean for research, in securing federal grants this past year (\$9.2 million to date, with another \$2.5 million expected in January), the BTC will soon be a hub of groundbreaking research activity. Over the next five years, more than 500 patients will be seen in the BTC as Dr. Garland and his research team conduct randomized clinical trials testing the effectiveness of MORE, a mindfulness-based intervention he developed, in treating chronic pain and opioid misuse (see page 8).

Targeting Hedonic Dysregulation to Address Chronic Pain and Opioid Misuse in Primary Care. This grant will treat approximately 250 patients by delivering MORE or the control group intervention at four University of Utah primary care clinics in the Salt Lake Valley. The project represents a true integrative medicine approach – using social workers to deliver a mindfulness intervention in the context of traditional medical care for chronic pain.

The importance of Dr. Garland's grant activity cannot be overstated. His research findings will inform practitioners and policymakers and benefit patients who struggle daily with chronic pain or opioid misuse, and very often both. These federal grants are funding genuinely life-changing research and dramatically raising the profile of the College as well as the University. Dr. Garland's accomplishments place the College of Social Work in some pretty rarefied air among schools of social work nationally. I for one am on Cloud Nine.

*Hank Liese*  
 Hank Liese, PhD  
 Dean

Dr. Garland's most recent federal grant represents a first for the College. This past September, he received a prestigious RO1 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse entitled,



Dean Hank Liese, SLCPD Social Work Manager Lana Dalton, Lieutenant Andy Oblad, and Sergeant Joe Cyr.

# To Protect and Serve – and Understand

**P**olice. Social Workers. Did stereotypes come to mind? They do for many, which helps explain the Salt Lake City Police Department's (SLCPD) innovative move to imbue a social worker in the force—and the College of Social Work's (CSW) offer to help write that job description.

Lana Dalton (MSW '13) was hired nearly a year ago as the manager of the SLCPD social work program. When hired, she was one of three social workers in the country imbedded in a police force—and perhaps the only one tasked with helping officers better understand mental health issues in connection with their work. Ms. Dalton finds it challenging and exciting to “essentially be creating a service program

from scratch within the SLCPD.” She has already hired three case workers, one therapist, two CSW practicum students, and two transportation drivers. Her to-do list includes hiring one more case worker and an additional two therapists.

Ms. Dalton and her team are already impressing long-time police officers. Colleague Sergeant Joe Cyr says he has a greater awareness for how important it is to get “to the root” of the problem. “I appreciate that jail won't fix mental health and substance abuse problems,” he explains. The sergeant also says his work with Ms. Dalton has made him realize why it is important that all SLCPD officers are mandated to participate in a crisis intervention training. Lieutenant Andy Oblad agrees that Ms. Dalton and her team are

serving the SLCPD—and the community—well. Lt. Oblad says he has realized that one of the hardest things for him to understand is “service-resistant” people. His use of the technical term suggests the social work influence is weaving its way into police culture.

A critical part of this new program will be an evaluation of its effectiveness. Chief Mike Brown has requested that all officers participate in pre- and post-surveys of the social work initiative. The College and BSW Director Jason Castillo are working with Ms. Dalton to conduct these surveys, the results of which could have a broad impact on our community and across the country as we work to improve understanding of one another and move beyond stereotypes.



## SERVICE INSPIRES YOUNG LEADERS

Over the last decade, the Dixon Girls Forums (DGF) experienced curriculum expansion, benefitted from a growing volunteer base, and created an inspiring group of DGF alumni. DGF participants benefited from curriculum that explored media messages of body image, delved into financial literacy matters, and developed public speaking skills. Service projects were also an important part of the DGFs. Participants prepared hygiene kits for the Road Home, assembled school packages for students living at the Road Home, and decorated doors of older adults at the Kelly Benson Apartments. Plans are underway to continue now-retired DGF founder and director Dianne Cunningham's outreach to the young women of our community through the Katie L. Dixon Women & Girls Leadership Endowed Fund, which supports the DGFs.



Combined Dixon Girls Forum at Murray High School.

## CONNECTING BEYOND THE CAMPUS

In the Fall of 2015, the College of Social Work launched an online BSW Program that quickly created a lot of buzz among our students. While the option for earning online degrees has been around for a while, the BSW degree—along with four other degree programs—represent the U's first foray into such an effort. Better late than never, say some; how do you do social work online, ask others.

One obvious challenge for any online social work degree involves the still-required practicum experience. Online creators carefully considered how to make this essential part of the curriculum work. Be assured, students will not be tasked with conducting online treatment sessions; rather they will serve in sites near where they live.

Our online courses offer flexibility in learning to students in that program, but also to our BSW campus students who might need or prefer to take a particular class from home, and for our distance students in St. George who benefit from the nimble schedule online provides. BSW Academic Advisor Elizabeth Perez reports, “Students have told me they appreciate the opportunity to take courses online so they can balance their academic, professional, and personal needs.”

Our online and campus students share similarities beyond a desire for flexibility. Ms. Perez has found that both groups of students report many different reasons for choosing this versatile degree. “During academic advising sessions, I like to ask students why they have chosen to major in social work,” says Ms. Perez. The reasons are numerous and varied. “Our current online students are interested in child welfare, addiction treatment, immigration policy, nonprofit administration, gerontology, rural community advocacy, law, and more. Many are already working in the field but need a degree in order to advance in their profession,” she explains.

However the students make use of our new online program, BSW Director Jason Castillo reports, “The College of Social Work is excited to have made this technological leap to better serve students seeking social work degrees.”



RETIREMENTS

# At the end of June, the College bid a fond farewell to several of our dedicated faculty and staff.



**PROF. FARRIÑA COULAM**, admissions coordinator for the MSW Program, retired after 19 years at the College of Social Work. She earned her MSW from the University of Utah and began teaching in the MSW Program in 1997. During her time as director of

the Professional and Community Education (PACE) program, she oversaw a dramatic growth of the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Training Certificate Program and served on the state committee that amended the Mental Health Practice Act to strengthen substance abuse counselor licensing.



**DIANNE CUNNINGHAM**, director of the Katie L. Dixon Women & Girls Leadership Endowed Fund, joined the College of Social Work's staff 16 years ago as an intervention specialist in the College's Social Research Institute. A few years later, she began developing what would become

the Dixon Girls Forums, an in-school program to help young women develop leadership skills. Leading the Dixon Girls Forums for 12 years, she worked with more than 4,500 girls, ages 5 to 22, in 35 schools and agencies throughout the state.



**CHERYL GIBSON**, executive assistant in the dean's office, retired after 16 years at the College of Social Work. She skillfully served under deans Jannah Mather and Hank Liese. Ms. Gibson's knowledge of administrative business, her calm and pleasant demeanor, and her keen respect

for students, staff, and faculty made her a valuable employee and a dear friend to many. She happily traded her time with colleagues, however, for time with her treasured grandchildren.



**DR. NORMA HARRIS**, Dr. Norma Harris, director of the Social Research Institute (SRI), worked for the College of Social Work for 18 years. Under her leadership, SRI became known nationwide as a leader in the training of child welfare

social workers. Dr. Harris' research focused on child welfare and leadership, and she was the principal investigator for the two-year National Child Welfare Leadership Institute, as well as for the College's ongoing Title IV-E Program. She earned her MSW from the University of Utah and her PhD from Florida International University.



**DR. REIKO HAYASHI**, professor, retired after 15 years at the College of Social Work. Her research primarily centered on disability, health, diversity, and international social work. In 2011, Dr. Hayashi served as an honorary visiting professor for the School of Social Work at the University

of Costa Rica. She earned her MSW and PhD from the University of Washington.



**PROF. DORANN MITCHELL**, director of the Professional and Community Education (PACE) program, retired after four years as faculty, in addition to many years of teaching while maintaining her private practice. Her professional interests included adolescent dialectical behavior

therapy (DBT) and psychodynamic play therapy. She earned her MSW from the University of Houston.



**DR. NAOMI SILVERSTONE**, research associate professor, was part of the College's faculty for an impressive 34 years. She served as director of continuing education for 18 years, establishing the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Training Certificate Program and the

annual Summer Institute in the Human Services. Dr. Silverstone developed the award-winning Technology Literacy for the Whole Family program, and initiated the University's Social Soup Lecture Series. She earned her master's degree from the University of Chicago and her DSW from the University of Utah.

## FACULTY INTRODUCTIONS

### NEW ROLES



**AMANDA BARUSCH**

became the director of the MSW Program in August, 2016. She came to the College of Social Work in 1985, after earning her MSW and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. During her tenure, she has held numerous leadership positions while conducting research in the areas of gerontology and family relationships.



**JASON CASTILLO**

was appointed director of the Bachelor of Social Work Program in July, 2016, after serving alongside Patrick Panos for several months as co-director of the program. Dr. Castillo joined the faculty in 2007, after earning his PhD in social work from Arizona State University. His research has centered on fatherhood and father involvement; social work education, teaching, and ethics; and social welfare policy and poverty, in the U.S. and abroad.



**MATT DAVIS**

became the director of the Social Research Institute in July, 2016. He joined the College's faculty in 2011, after earning his master's and PhD in counseling psychology from the University of Utah. He is the principal or co-investigator on a number of federal and state-funded grants and contracts, including grants from the National Institute of Justice, the Children's Bureau, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Dr. Davis' research focuses on program evaluation, juvenile justice, and innovative training methods for mental health practitioners.



**ANNIE FUKUSHIMA**

took the reins of the College's Initiative for Transformative Social Work (ITSW) in July, 2016. Dr. Fukushima holds joint appointments in the College of Social Work and the University's new School for Cultural and Social Transformation's Ethnic Studies Division. She earned her PhD in ethnic studies from the University of California, Berkeley, with a designated emphasis in gender, women, and sexuality. She also holds leadership positions with the Human Rights Section of the American Sociological Association and the Freedom Network USA, a national network of professionals dedicated to addressing human trafficking.



**CHRISTINA GRINGERI**,

who joined the College of Social Work's faculty in 1990, was appointed director of the PhD Program in October, 2015. "Working with doctoral students is the best part of this role," she said, noting that she appreciates how well students work with their faculty mentors as they develop into engaged academics. "Our goal is to produce high quality scholars who will shape the present and future of social work through research and teaching. I'm constantly reminded of just how smart, motivated, hard-working, and creative our students are, which gives me great hope for their contributions to social work now and in the future." Dr. Gringeri earned her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research examines feminist research, religion and spirituality in social change, and social policy.

### WELCOME NEW FACULTY



**TASHA SENECA KEYES**

returns to the College of Social Work, where she earned her MSW. She did her doctoral work at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration and received the school's Bernece Kern Simon Teaching Fellowship. Her dissertation focuses on identifying factors important to promoting classroom belonging and academic engagement for high school students.



**CHAD MCDONALD**

has been brought on as the new Title IV-E Training and the Utah Division of Child and Family Services Employee Program coordinator. He served DCFCS as a new employee trainer/training manager for six years, leading to his research focus on improving the professional and organizational competence of child welfare entities. He is currently pursuing his PhD from the College of Social Work, where he earned his MSW.

A portrait of Dr. Eric Garland, a man with a shaved head and a light beard, wearing a dark suit, blue shirt, and red tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred office setting with large windows.

## Dr. Garland Brings **MORE** Research, Funding to the U

*“I find research mentoring to be very meaningful, because each of my mentees has tremendous potential to affect the lives of numerous individuals through scientific discovery”*

—Eric Garland

It's pretty clear to anyone who has worked with Eric Garland: he loves research. In the last year, as associate dean for research, his passion and enthusiasm for developing, examining, and evaluating new treatment methods has been evident to the colleagues and students he mentors and with whom he works.

“I find research mentoring to be very meaningful, because each of my mentees has tremendous potential to affect the lives of numerous individuals through scientific discovery,” said Dr. Garland. “My aim is to inspire the next generation of social scientists to become engaged in applied research that directly promotes positive therapeutic change among individuals, families, and communities in need.” And indeed, he has inspired the next generation.

### **Dr. Garland is also setting a high bar when it comes to bringing in grant money to support his scholarship and open up new opportunities for students to gain research experience.**

Through the U's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), BSW student Martha Mendes was able to work with Dr. Garland for two semesters during the 2015-2016 academic year. “Working with Dr. Garland has strengthened my passion for research studies, and my desire to be part of the research community,” she said. “Working with Dr. Garland has changed my professional and educational goals tremendously, since I now want to get a PhD and, through my research findings, aim to impact people's life positively and improve their well-being.” Dr. Garland was so pleased with the caliber of Ms. Mendes' work that he hired her as his research assistant.

Dr. Garland is also setting a high bar when it comes to bringing in grant money to support his scholarship and open up new opportunities for students to gain research experience.

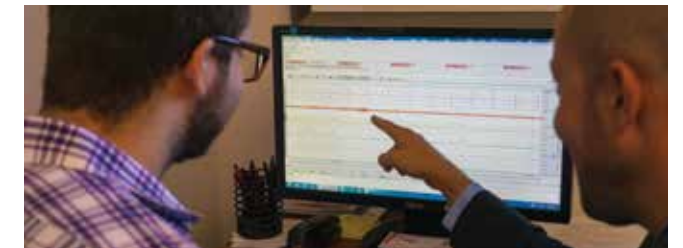
In September, 2016, Dr. Garland landed a five-year \$3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health. The grant, Effects of Mindfulness-Oriented Intervention on Endogenous Opioid Mechanisms of Hedonic Regulation in Chronic Pain, will use neuroimaging and genetic research methods to assess the effects of Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement (MORE) – a treatment modality developed by Dr. Garland – on restoring endorphins in chronic pain patients who are being treated with prescription opioids. The big picture? According to College of Social Work Dean Hank Liese, “By focusing in on a key mechanism

of this meditation-based intervention, this translational research project could provide a needed solution to an enormous public health problem.”

This prestigious award came just one month after Dr. Garland received a larger five-year, \$3.4 million grant from the Department of Defense (DOD) Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program. The project, Targeting Chronic Pain and Co-Occurring Disorders in the Community with Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement, will involve 260 active duty service members and veterans with chronic pain conditions who are on long-term opioid analgesic therapy. The community-based, randomized clinical trial will compare the efficacy of a combination of opioid pain management and MORE with a social support group plus opioid pain management. “Veterans and military personnel have even higher rates of pain-related conditions than the general population, so their risk for opioid-related problems is significantly enhanced,” explained Dr. Garland.

“Through this new grant funding from the NIH and DOD,” said Dr. Garland, “we will use our state-of-the-art Bridge Training Clinic facility to provide clinical training in innovative evidence-based therapeutic modalities, to attract high-caliber graduate students interested in learning how to pursue research with sophisticated social work neuroscience and clinical trial methodologies, and to attract outstanding junior faculty interested in conducting federally-funded studies of psychosocial interventions.”

Assistant Professor Jaehee Yi is among the College of Social Work's junior faculty who have already benefitted from Dr.



Garland's mentorship. “I don't know how he does it, but in spite of his busy schedule, he is very responsive to answering questions,” she said. In May, with Dr. Garland's support as a co-investigator, Dr. Yi was awarded a \$27,700 University Seed Grant for a pilot study (see page 10). The team already has plans to pursue more funding. “He pushed me to write a federal grant and, when my federal grant application got a good review, he got even more excited than I was!” said Dr. Yi. “Watching his great success with big grants is inspiring. I feel lucky to have someone at the College whom I can run to and ask questions whenever needed.”

Dr. Garland's stellar sense of promising research (and researchers) has been recognized at the federal level and is now being utilized beyond the walls of the College. This fall, he will begin reviewing NIH grants for the National Institute on Drug Abuse as a member of the Intervention to Prevent and Treat Addictions study section. In this role, too, Dr. Garland will help advance the generation of knowledge and evidence-based practice to alleviate human suffering.





## ANTI-VIOLENCE ICONOGRAPHIES

**Annie Isabel Fukushima** presented “Anti-violence Iconographies of the Cage: Diasporan Crossings and the (Un)Tethering of Subjectivities” at the Law and Society Association Annual Conference in Seattle Washington May, 2015. Dr. Fukushima explains that the theory for anti-violence iconographies is deeply inspired by Dr. Nicole Fleetwood, an American Studies scholar and the former director for the Institute for Research on Women. “Dr. Fleetwood, among other scholars, pushed my research and thinking to the next stages so I could imagine the book differently,” says Dr. Fukushima. “This then led to the chapter ‘Anti-Violence Iconographies.’ I feel deeply honored to have learned from her and the community at Rutgers. For me, it was seminal to contend with the iconic in human rights movements.” Anti-Violence Iconographies was a part of a special issue with *Frontiers: Journal of Women’s Studies*. *Frontiers* was housed with Ohio State University, but it will have a new home here at the University of Utah in collaboration with University of California, Santa Cruz.



## TELEHEALTH PHOTO STORYTELLING

**Jaehee Yi** received a \$27,700 grant for “A pilot study of the Telehealth Photo Storytelling Intervention” through a Funding Incentive Seed Grant Program provided by the University of Utah’s Vice President for Research. Dr. Yi explains, “I will conduct a pilot study that tests the effect of the telehealth Photo Storytelling Intervention which aims to reduce posttraumatic stress and promote posttraumatic growth experiences.” The goal of the work is to eventually enhance quality of life among cancer survivors using visual images and storytelling through telehealth approaches. Results from this pilot will be used to support a future R01 application to conduct a full-scale randomized control trial of the intervention.



## EVALUATION OF EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Last fall the College of Social Work’s Social Research Institute (SRI) partnered with the Utah Attorney General’s Office (UAGO) and the Refugee and Immigrant Center/Asian Association of Utah (RIC-AAU) on a \$1.5 million project to combat human trafficking. Working from a victim-centered framework, the grant increases service availability for victims of human trafficking, and supports law enforcement to make changes to policy and procedure to increase arrests, prosecutions, and arrests of perpetrators while using trauma-informed best practices to advocate for victims. The evaluation, headed by Research Analyst **Allison O’Connor**, plays a key role by facilitating the data-driven feedback loop that informs development of policies and procedures for both service providers and law enforcement. O’Conner has been involved with this effort for over two years now. “In 2014 I worked with RIC-AAU on a pilot project, and while I was appalled by the pervasiveness of human trafficking, it was encouraging to find that quality programming can support victims to heal.” O’Conner greets this new opportunity with enthusiasm, noting, “My favorite part of working with community organizations is building sustainable evaluation systems, and I’m excited to be involved in the task force’s development.”

## NEW INITIATIVE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL WORK



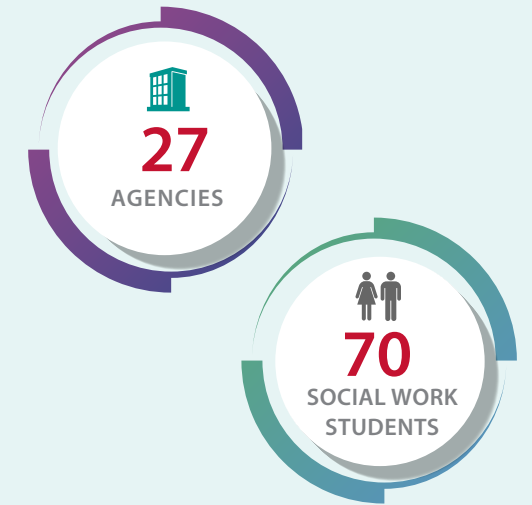
*The Initiative for Transformative Social Work 2016 Boot Camp.*

In December of 2014, College of Social Work (CSW) faculty, staff, and students coalesced to address recent events regarding community responses to police shootings. Students were troubled by the silence they felt in their classrooms, believing that no one was talking about the impact of police use-of-force, black lives and how they matter, and race-relations and racism. The activities resulting from that gathering led to the development of action items that would serve as the nucleus for the Initiative for Transformative Social Work (ITSW). Launched in 2015 by Dean Hank Liese, ITSW took its first steps under the direction of Christina Gringeri, who served as the first director for the Initiative.

ITSW seeks to develop and nurture an inclusive and empowering community that pursues equity in the College of Social Work by promoting greater understanding, dismantling privilege, and diminishing power discrepancies. ITSW’s vision is to create equity in the College through student-informed and student-driven initiatives that center on social justice ideals and anti-oppression activities. ITSW values community partnership and awareness-raising initiatives, peer support and collaborations with CSW educational units and student and faculty development. Since its founding, the Initiative has funded experiential student scholars and social justice projects.

During the summer of 2016, ITSW welcomed Annie Isabel Fukushima as the new director of the Initiative. Dr. Fukushima brings a wealth of experiences regarding social justice theory and practice as a trained ethnic studies and gender studies scholar activist. During the 2016-2017 academic year, Dr. Fukushima will work with four ITSW experiential scholars: MSW students Sarah Anderson, Aarati Ghimire, Jean Anewschka (“Ani”) Robles, and Hannah Wilde.

“ITSW’s priority will be inspired by student-driven projects,” explained Dr. Fukushima. “In all our activities, ITSW will seek to create belonging, inspire a community of encouragement that celebrates difference, and work to address silences in communities through strategic endeavors.”



## Exploring a New Career

In April, the College of Social Work hosted a job fair—27 agencies and 70 social work students met in the Okazaki Community Meeting Room to discuss job opportunities and ask questions of each other. For the students, it was a chance to explore a variety of career paths and practice their interview skills; for the agencies, it was a chance to recruit and review a new class of bright and dedicated social workers. Event coordinator and College PR Specialist Jennifer Nozawa said, “The job fair is a way for us to showcase our fantastic students and help our community partners find prospective employees.” Agency representatives were effusive in their praise of the fair and consistently described the students as professional and prepared. As one agency representative noted, we “enjoyed getting to talk to students and learn about their experience and interests. We talked to many students we felt would be excellent candidates.”

From the students’ perspective, the variety of organizations was impressive and helpful. For one attendee, it might have been life-altering: “It was very nice to talk to potential employers. I even found an interest in an area I hadn’t thought of—corrections!”

The College looks forward to hosting the third-annual job fair on April 26, 2017.

## NEIGHBORS HELPING STUDENTS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Eight George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Neighbors Helping Neighbors Scholars served 200 older adults in our community this past year. The MSW students were responsible for assessing the physical and mental health of their clients—in the process they honed their skills as future social work professionals and got to know the special people with whom they worked. Their experiences are documented in a series of blog posts on our website ([socialwork.utah.edu/interaction](http://socialwork.utah.edu/interaction)). As Sarah Stephenson (MSW'16) notes in her post, "Loss happens during every stage of life. As a person begins to age, they learn to adapt to many different types of loss including physical, social, and emotional losses." The Eccles-NHN Scholars help alleviate the sense of loss their clients might feel, while also helping them stay connected with their community.



2015-2016 Eccles Neighbors Helping Neighbors Scholars.

## BECOMING A NATIONAL MODEL OF Migrant and Refugee Integration



**A** newly launched research center at the University of Utah's College of Social Work aims to advance the understanding and practice of effective integration of new Americans.

The Center for Research on Migration & Refugee Integration is the first academic center west of the Mississippi River focused on community integration of immigrants and refugees. It is the result of a year-long discussion between the College, University faculty, and community partners, including the Office of Refugee Services, International Rescue Committee, and the Utah Department of Workforce Services.

"The western U.S. has no research or academic center focused on these populations," said Caren Frost, center director and research professor in the College of Social Work. "Utah is a very successful resettlement state for refugees and we want to showcase success in working with incoming migrant populations."

The Center will create a network of university and community researchers who will explore issues related to immigration and refugee integration. Its mission includes education and outreach to refugees and immigrants living in the Salt Lake Valley as well as those attending the

University of Utah. Plans include a spring research conference and a "Welcome Day" for high school students at the U campus.

In June, President Barack Obama announced that the United States will increase the number of people it resettles to 100,000 by the end of 2017. Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert made national news in the past year after he reiterated Utah's commitment to accepting properly screened refugees.

According to the U.S. State Department, Utah received approximately 1,000 refugees from 23 countries between October 2015 and August 2016, a number that has held constant in recent years.

As the U.S. increases its resettlement efforts, "there will be quite a bit of focus on how to work with newly immigrating groups," Dr. Frost said.

Areas of immediate research focus will include: maternal and child health; developing a certification process to accept academic and professional degrees granted in other countries; assessing currently available services; and outreach efforts.

Across the campus and the state, the Center will be exploring "how we can work toward building a better welcoming community," Dr. Frost said.

## NEW SOCIAL WORK MURAL TELLS STORIES AND BRIDGES BORDERS



Associate Director of Field Education Trinh Mai, visiting artist Nyan Soe, and Associate Professor Rosey Hunter.

"This mural holds so many stories," said Program Assistant Linda Mendenhall, as she stood gazing at the newly installed mural on the second floor of the College of Social Work's Goodwill Humanitarian Building.

Indeed, it does. One story started in 2008, when Associate Professor Rosey Hunter travelled with colleagues to learn about refugees living at the border of Thailand and Burma (Myanmar) in order to better serve people from those communities now living in Salt Lake City. This trip evolved into Bridging Borders, a program co-directed by Dr. Hunter with Trinh Mai, associate director of MSW Field Education,

and Yda Smith, assistant professor/lecturer with the Division of Occupational Therapy. The program facilitates social work learning while bridging communities in Salt Lake City, Thailand, and Burma.

Bridging Borders works with community partners like Nyan Soe, an artist and activist originally from Burma, now living in Thailand. In March 2016, Nyan Soe found himself at the U, working with social work students, staff, and faculty to create a mural depicting the theme Bridging Borders: Local to Global Connections. More than 50 people contributed ideas and images on this theme. They explored the realities of border crossing and border bridging. Sharing an image of a living bridge made by weaving together roots of living trees, Public Relations Specialist Jennifer Nozawa said, "I love these living bridges because they can flex, grow, and get stronger over

time. One tree does not become the other; they remain separate, but become something much greater by working together."

Over the course of two days, students, staff, and faculty took time between classes and meetings to add to the mural. MSW student Elizabeth Gamarra painted a lotus flower as a centerpiece of the mural and explained, "I want to emphasize the need to recognize the beauty, openness, and lived experiences (voices) of local-global connections and efforts."

"Art," said MSW student, Jean Anewschka ("Ani") Robles, "is an avenue for students to raise social consciousness, mobilize, and intervene against systems of injustice."



## STUDENT STORIES



## AARATI GHIMIRE

When a massive magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal in April, 2015, BSW student Aarati Ghimire began working to help survivors rebuild her home country. Thanks to a partnership between the College of Social Work and Hinckley Institute of Politics – as well as the financial support of a Hinckley Global Scholarship – Ms. Ghimire spent Fall Semester 2015 completing her practicum halfway around the world with CHOICE Humanitarian, in partnership with Help International. “Early in my trip, I had the chance to visit my dad’s village,” she recalled. “Before the earthquake, the homes were full of people and excitement, but now they feel empty. As I visited more of these broken houses throughout my practicum, I realized the disaster also highlighted aspects of inequities in Nepali society spanning geography, income, and gender.” Ms. Ghimire graduated with her BSW and is currently enrolled in the Advanced Standing MSW Program.



## BRIAN TEASE

At age 23, MSW student Brian Tease’s life began spinning out of control after the accidental death of his twin brother. “I started going in and out of jails, I got involved with motorcycle clubs and gangs,” he said. “The more I used, the more I drank, the more I sought out people like me. I didn’t have any skills to fall back on.” But in 2007, a judge gave him one more chance to turn his life around... and he did. “I got into the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center and began working to help people with addiction and mental health problems.” Today, Mr. Tease works for the Salvation Army while earning his MSW. “It’s important to recognize that there are people among us that have changed our lives with the right amount of encouragement and guidance. People like me can change.”



## ELIZABETH GAMARRA

Elizabeth Gamarra received the University of Utah’s 2016 Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award for the College of Social Work in recognition of her record of commitment and contributions to research. Ms. Gamarra worked with Joanna Bettmann Schaefer on a manuscript that focused on the resettlement experiences of latency-aged children from refugee backgrounds. “Elizabeth worked with me for two semesters as a UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program) student and then continued for another semester as a volunteer research assistant to bring a manuscript to publication submission,” said Dr. Schaefer, who described the then-BSW student’s assistance as “invaluable.” Ms. Gamarra, who is now in the College’s Advanced Standing MSW program, was honored to be involved in the UROP program and Dr. Schaefer’s research. “I have learned so much,” reflected Ms. Gamarra. “Dr. Joanna has been a mentor, and exemplar that I have called on to discuss ideas, challenges, and goals.”

## New Initiative for Practice-Research Integration



**E**mbodied in the Council on Social Work Education’s Core Competencies is an expectation for social work students to be trained to (1) use practice experience and theory to inform scientific inquiry and research; (2) apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methods; and (3) use and translate research evidence to inform and improve practice, policy, and service delivery. To that end, in the fall of 2015, Dean Hank Liese established the Initiative for Practice-Research Integration (IPRI) and invited Joanne Yaffe to direct the effort.



*Dr. Yaffe’s background and expertise – as typified by her involvement with the Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations – are the perfect fit for leading this new initiative,”*

—Dean Liese

“Dr. Yaffe’s background and expertise – as typified by her involvement with the Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations – are the perfect fit for leading this new initiative,” said Dean Liese. “Working with program directors and other faculty, she will develop pathways for infusing the concepts and principles of practice-research integration across our curriculum at all levels – BSW, MSW, and PhD.” He went on to explain that because practice/policy concerns emerge from the community and help define faculty’s research agendas, it is incumbent upon the College that the new IPRI disseminate research findings and evidence back to practitioners, policy makers, and the public to inform decision-making and effect meaningful social change.

## AWARDS, HONORS &amp; RECOGNITIONS

## NATIONAL PRESENCE

Joanne Yaffe is representing the College of Social Work (CSW) on the national stage. In July 2016, Dr. Yaffe was appointed for a three-year term to the Council on Social Work Education’s Commission on Research. The Commission’s mission is “to advance rigor, relevance, and high ethical standards in the teaching and conduct of research related to social work education.” Noted Dean Hank Liese, “This appointment dovetails nicely with Dr. Yaffe’s role as director of the CSW’s Initiative for Practice-Research Integration,” an appointment the dean made in November 2015. Additionally, Dr. Yaffe learned in September 2016 that she is part of an interdisciplinary team comprised of scholars in statistics, law, and psychology from the University of Virginia that was awarded a three-year, \$1,369,931 research grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. Dr. Yaffe will represent Social Work for the University of Utah on the project titled, “Understanding and Improving Effectiveness of Eyewitness Identification Procedures.”

## AWARD-WINNING VIDEO

The CSW’s Voices of Diversity (VOD) student group won second place in a video contest sponsored by the University Office for Inclusive Excellence. VOD’s video, titled “Tunnel of Oppression,” featured VOD members Karson Applin, Q Porschatis, Alicia Poore, Martha Mendes, Sage Service, Aarati Ghimire, Ani Robles, and America Lopez making their way down a long tunnel while holding signs that shared painful messages they had heard over the years—judgements based on race, addiction, gender identity, learning abilities, and more. As the members reached the end of the tunnel, they turned over their signs revealing ways each had challenged or overcome the negative perceptions. Their successes included marriages, graduations, children, and sobriety—and the many happy emotions that accompany such milestones. The final message, presented by student advisor Irene Maya Ota: Stand together united! The nearly four-minute video, which was filmed and edited by Cedar Gonzalez, can be seen at: [youtube.com/watch?v=sDaCOFel3vc](https://youtube.com/watch?v=sDaCOFel3vc).





# Honoring Legacies and Encouraging Students In Perpetuity

**T**he College of Social Work (CSW) was fortunate to add two endowed scholarships to its rolls this year. The Gilbert Teemley Smith Scholarship, established by MSW Director and long-time faculty member Amanda Barusch and her husband Larry, and the Sarah Jane and Jeffrey J. Dunn Scholarship, established by Ms. Dunn (MSW '99) and her husband. Such

scholarships provide financial support to social work students in perpetuity.

They also provide some heartwarming benefits to the donors. As Dr. Barusch explains, "My dad was a simple man. Even in the advanced stages of dementia, he was gracious and engaged with the people around him. When Alzheimer's forced him into assisted living it felt like the end of the world to my family. We found solace

in setting up this scholarship in his name. It was a life-affirming act, a way of pushing back the darkness."

The Dunns created two endowed scholarships at the University of Utah this year—one each for their respective graduate programs. Mrs. Dunn says, "We wanted to help with scholarships, and the endowments are a sustainable option. My husband is a third generation pharmacist.



*Dr. Amanda Barusch and her husband, Larry Barusch (not pictured), established the Gilbert Teemley Smith Scholarship this year.*



*This year, Sarah Jane and Jeffrey Dunn (pictured with their children) established the Sarah Jane and Jeffrey J. Dunn Scholarship.*

His grandfather, who is 93-years-old, was in one of the first classes of the pharmacy school at the University of Utah. We lost Jeff's father a few years ago and wanted to create a scholarship in his name. We also decided to create a scholarship in my graduate program. Not only is the program personally meaningful for me, but we want to support social workers. Social workers tend to give up so much to help other people."

Similarly, Dr. Barusch is keenly aware of the kindness and care her father received in his final years, care that came from the medical community and from social workers. Additionally, Dr. Barusch recalls that many people went out of their way to help her family members succeed when they were immigrants to the United States. Through the Gilbert Teemley Smith Scholarship she hopes to

support students who likewise face extra challenges in pursuing their education. Mrs. Dunn, whose scholarship will benefit MSW students with demonstrated financial need, summarizes, "Social work is about using our resources to help each other out."

Dean Hank Liese enthusiastically celebrated these new endowments noting, "Through the years, some amazing people have chosen to demonstrate their confidence in future generations of social workers by establishing endowed scholarships and awards. The Baruschs and the Dunns join others whose endowed funds have supported and encouraged hundreds of students over the past three decades." Dean Liese observes, "It is exciting to realize that these 30-plus years are really only the beginning of what these perpetual honors will do for social work students."

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN!** Please contact Lisa Himonas ([Lisa.Himonas@socwk.utah.edu](mailto:Lisa.Himonas@socwk.utah.edu) or 801-587-8387) if you are interested in providing a one-time gift, committing to a long-term pledge, or creating an endowment.

## LEGACY GIFTS

Donors to College of Social Work (CSW) endowed funds read like a list of dear friends we would invite to our home for a special dinner. "That makes sense," explains Assistant Dean for Development Lisa Himonas, "as these funds are frequently established by people with close ties to the College." It also means the annual award and scholarship dinners that unite donors, recipients, and College representatives are akin to festive reunions. Unfortunately, when we lose a member of this "family," the effects are felt deeply. This past year, the College bid farewell to



*Dr. Carl Woolsey (center) with 2013-2014 Woolsey Memorial Award recipients Miriam Hermanson and Deanna Jeffrey."*

three of our best friends. "**Farol Thackeray, Carl Woolsey, Sr., and Lee Skidmore** all were closely connected to the College and proudly claimed endowments in their respective family members' names," said Ms. Himonas. The Thackeray family has had a scholarship in former Associate Dean Milton G. Thackeray's name for nearly 20 years; Dr. Woolsey established two awards in memory of his wife and son, both graduates of the CSW, and left a significant estate gift to secure student awards in perpetuity. Lee Skidmore and his wife, Christine Pugmire Skidmore, generously supported a scholarship in former Dean Rex Skidmore's memory; with Lee's unexpected death this summer, the Skidmore family is now in the process of creating an endowed scholarship in Lee's memory.

Speaking on behalf of the College faculty and staff, Ms. Himonas noted, "We miss all three immensely, but we are extremely grateful their legacies will continue through their family endowments."

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*I am in awe that people provide scholarships to help strangers with their education. Mary and Roger Lowe will be forever engraved in my heart, as their Lowe Legacy Scholarship eased my worry over pursuing my education while providing for my family. I told my children these kind people helped their father get an education to make a better future for them.*

—George Talakai, MSW Student



To help provide critical support to extraordinary students like George, please visit [socialwork.utah.edu](http://socialwork.utah.edu) and make a gift.

\*Deceased

*Our goal is to express our gratitude to each of our investors with accuracy. Despite our best efforts, however, errors sometimes occur. In that event, please notify our Development Office by calling (801) 587-8387 or email [Lisa.Himonas@socwk.utah.edu](mailto:Lisa.Himonas@socwk.utah.edu).*

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Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the College of Social Work this past year. We are fond of saying every dollar matters to our College. We say it because it is true. Your collective gifts sustain us through endowments, special project support, and the phonathons—whose callers you willingly and joyfully, we are sure, allow to interrupt your busy lives. We are so very grateful to you all.

This year, we offer a special word of thanks to a new group of donors—those who have made sustaining pledges to their alma mater. We greatly appreciate their monthly support and hope we continue to merit their generous and loyal interest. One recent sustainer enlightened us about her willingness to join these ranks. Doctoral student Karla Arroyo explained, “I know that the small

amount I donate every month may not make a huge difference today, but I believe that it is the act of giving on a regular basis that will make the difference when I have the resources to create a scholarship fund so that I can help as much as I have been helped.”

The desire to “give back” is a recurring theme among our sustaining donors—as it is among all our donors. But whether the sustaining gifts honor past financial support or reflect a general gratefulness for an education that led to a fulfilling career, we and these donors appreciate that small monthly contributions inspire big changes over time. As the College of Social Work approaches its 80<sup>th</sup> year of success, time is on our side. We thank all of you for being there, too!



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