

# Salisbury

UNIVERSITY

## SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMS

### Spring 2022 Newsletter

## Alumni Awards



**Susan Truitt  
Distinguished  
Alumni**

Two Salisbury alumnae were honored at the annual Social Work Alumni Awards and Continuing Education Event which was attended by more than 90 alumni. Awards were presented by Dr. Jennifer Jewell, director of the School of Social Work and Melissa Murphy Thompson, who will be handling remote clinical social work.

These awards recognize alumni who graduated more than ten years ago and demonstrate outstanding contributions to social work. Susan Truitt '06 was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award. Susan has supervised interns for over twenty years. She is a strong

leader and was lauded for being especially helpful and caring during the pandemic.

Samantha Wilt '12 earned the Rising Professional Alumni Award. Samantha developed technological improvements to processes and created updated contemporary programs. Those who work with Samantha find her professional, knowledgeable, and encouraging.

The event included a presentation on using social media in social work. Congratulations to both of our esteemed alumni. The School of Social Work is proud of these winners.

**Samantha Wilt  
Rising  
Professional**



**Samantha Wilt  
Rising  
Professional**

# NASW Lifetime Achievement

Salisbury's Professor James Forte of the School of Social Work has been selected as the NASW, MD Chapter, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient of 2022! He was nominated for the honor by Dr. Amanda Hill, Dr. Kimberly van Vulpen, and Ms. Eileen P. Gilheany.

Dr. Forte has an extensive background in the social work profession and has made contributions to the field far beyond the norm. He has written four social work books and published in excess of 40 research articles in his field. He has also served as a presenter at close to 70 regional, national, and international conferences, including those sponsored by NASW.

Professor Forte has been at Salisbury University since 2003. He has received acclaim with Faculty Awards and Excellence in Teaching Awards in the past. He also previously received the National Association of Social Work, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD), Social Work Educator of the Year Award in March of 2010.



**2022 Lifetime  
Achievement Award  
James A. Forte,  
PhD, MSW**

Dr. Forte's students admire him for both his teaching and as a role model for advocacy. For example, in his past, Dr. Forte was formerly the executive director of a community center for the mentally ill, was instrumental in establishing a community senior center, and served as an advocate for people with Down Syndrome. Additionally, he was awarded the Best Reviewer Award 2016 by the Council of Social Work Education.

Dr. Forte inspires his students to follow a path of social justice and advocacy in social work. Each year, his SU students are the largest group in attendance at the NASW Maryland Advocacy Day events. He also promotes student scholarship with team presentations and involvement in the SU Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) "Influencing State Policy" project.

Dr. Forte is respected by his colleagues, other social work practitioners, students, administrators, and community members. He has worked tirelessly for those in need of social justice, for his students, and for the advancement of his field. He is a social worker who represents the social work profession in the highest manner. Congratulations to Dr. Forte upon justifiably earning the NASW MD Lifetime Achievement Award.



# Student Awards

Four special students were invited to a College of Health and Human Services dinner April 24th to be honored. This year, these social work students received a plaque and a check in the amount of \$250.



**Josh Arinz**  
**BASW Student of the Year**

OURCA and SGA, and had his work accepted for presentations at both “Posters on the Bay” and the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Conference.

Christina Wattenschaidt received kudos as the MSW Student of the Year. Christina works for Family Violence Programs, interns with the local Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Shelter, facilitates groups in local schools for adolescent girls with experiences of early adversity, and is a celebrated student and practitioner. Christina had multiple nominations from the Cecil site.

Mark Lee is our BASW Outstanding Service Award winner. Mark is a veteran who gives back locally by

Josh Arinz was lauded as the BASW Student of the Year. Josh is known to many in the department, particularly at the Salisbury site. Josh serves as an Honors College Social Work Student ambassador, works with

OURCA and SGA, and had his work accepted for presentations at both “Posters on the Bay” and the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Conference.

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**Christina Wattenschaidt**  
**MSW Student of the Year**

volunteering with veterans and other students in a peer mentoring role. He served on a search committee



**Mark Lee**  
**BASW Outstanding a Service Award**

in our department, is a certified trainer with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and is an outreach coordinator and youth pastor with the New Victory Christian Church in Perryville.

Finally, Antwan Robinson is our MSW Outstanding Service Award winner.

Antwan is affiliated with the UMGC site. He holds a leadership role in our Social Workers for Racial Justice club, including serving as President since last spring. He leads monthly trainings and discussions and has been central to recruitment and membership retention efforts.



**Antwan Robinson**  
**MSW Outstanding Service Award**



**Field  
Supervisors  
of the Year**

**Winner of the  
Teresa F. Simmons  
MSW Field Supervisor  
of the Year Award**

**Richard A. Henson  
Cancer Institute/Tidal Health**

**Lisa Barnes**

**BASW Field Supervisors  
of the Year**

**James M. Bennett High School  
Laura Bradford**

**Sussex County Program  
in Education (SCOPE)**

**Rhonda Mitchell**

Field Supervisors of the Year were announced at the  
Field appreciation event on April 28.

**Deserving  
nominees for  
this honor were:**

**116th ACW/SGOW  
Air National Guard  
William White**

**Calvert County Local  
Behavioral Health Authority  
Andrea McDonald-Fingland**

**Chesapeake Health Care  
Madalyne Adams**

**Corsica River  
Mental Health Services, Inc.  
Paula Turner**

**Dorchester County  
Board of Education  
Kwana Webb**

**Laurel Advocacy  
and Referral Services  
Audrey Vaught**

**Lower Shore Early Childhood  
Mental Health  
Consultation Program  
Janelle Parker**

**Meritus Medical Center  
Gina Socks**

**The Pediatric Center  
of Frederick  
Eileen Stanzione**

# Phi Alpha Honor Society

## Congratulations Phi Alpha Honor Society Inductees

Brittany Arroyo  
Abigail Bonuccelli  
Brittany Callahan  
Stefanie Cullum  
Julie Burkett  
Sophia Darling  
Rachel Dougan  
Judy D'Souza  
Mirranda Frederick  
Sarah Gabriel  
Lauren Harris  
Diana Hoffmann  
Abigail Hottle  
Brittany Jackson  
Sarah Koehl  
Kristianne Leibley  
Wendy Macer  
Sydney McAnallen

Jennifer McClure  
Sarah Metz  
Jocelyn Meyers  
Daniel Moats  
Petra Mortimer  
Aleenia Nakamura  
Maria Pagan-Toussaint  
Casey Peer-Payne  
Cathy Rampulla  
Reina Ronquillo  
Sandra Salmeron  
Rachel Shelton  
Cristina Smith  
Abigail Stevens  
Jennifer Sullivan  
Alyssa Swann  
Danielle Tabor  
Lillian West



## Congratulations in the School of Social Work



**Lindsey  
Shockley**

We have some of our own Social Work Department graduates to congratulate.

Academic Program Specialist Lindsey Shockley

will receive her Master's degree in Education this year.

Academic Program Specialist and UMGC Europe Admissions Specialist Carrie Taylor is also graduating and will receive her Master's degree in Social Work.



**Carrie Taylor**

Additionally, Academic Associate Director of the Social Work program, Jenna Johnson, will receive her third master's degree from UMGC at the end of April. She is receiving this degree in Distance Education. She also holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and her first Master's which was in Social Work.

Chinyere Ahaghotu  
Nelson Andrade  
Kayla Applebaum  
Sara Applin  
Haley Armacost  
Stacie Athey  
Jordan Atwell  
Daniel Barr  
Anita Bender  
Caley Bennett-Sindy  
Darrien Bernett  
Maria Blackwell  
Cassandra Blake  
Abigail Bonuccelli  
Green Booker  
Hope Bowden  
Alexis Broom  
Jazmine Brown  
Keviona Bundy  
Julie Burkett  
Carolyn Caldwell  
Tekia Carroll  
Makenzie Cirrani  
Jessica Clark-Parrick  
June Cleary  
Jami Cook  
David Dahl  
Jazzmine Davis  
Tamara Davis  
Lizeth Del-Cid  
Rachel Dougan  
Kallie Duda  
Nicole Eder

Rachael Elliott  
Jennifer Evans  
Sarah Fegan  
Stephanie Fruehling  
Sarah Gabriel  
Brandon Ganz  
Te'Asia Garnett  
Sarah Getz  
Tim Gough  
Callan Grant  
Kaitlyn Griffin  
Rani Gutting

Imani Jones  
Cameron Keetley  
Kaitlyn Kimball  
Kiera Kline  
Allison Koska  
Ashley Leak  
Marisa Levin  
Allison Lewis  
Jasmine Lloyd  
Dawn Loewenstein  
Stephanie Lopez  
Breanna Mafnas

Amanda Mumma  
Taylor Myers-Morgan  
Ashley Nicholson  
Elizabeth Norris  
Heather Nutter  
Callaghan O'  
Tabitha Payne  
Briana Pedroza  
Vega Perez  
Shelly Perkins  
Falista Phalwas  
Carlos Portillo

Rachel Single  
Jonathan Skinner  
Cristina Smith  
Jennifer Smith  
Meghan Smith  
Tasia Smith  
Tori Smith  
Jennifer Sova  
Aubrey Spadin  
Kinsey Sprecher  
Taylor Starliper  
Abigail Stevens  
Ternika Stone  
Daniel Suarez  
Carrie Taylor  
Carolyn Terrell  
Linzy Thompson  
Latoria Thornton  
Afi Toulassi  
Jason Vickodil



Christina Haas  
Anna Hall  
Megan Hardy  
Heather Harman  
Nicholas Harmer  
Ashley Hayden  
Grace Hayden  
Katelyn Henriquez  
Erin Hill  
Justin Howard  
Josie Inzer  
Rashida Joaquin  
Naomi Johnson

Cristina Mahmood  
Elizabeth Martin  
Savannah Martinez  
Chance Mason  
Shaniqua Maxwell  
Megan McCaskill  
Valencia McClarry  
Karyn Mierau  
Gennell Miller  
Mya Miller  
Emily Moats  
Anita Monyei  
Mya Mooney

Karla Portillo  
Tonya Prince  
Catherine Rickrode  
Anna Rives  
Maya Robinson  
Caisie Russell  
Leigh Sanford  
Madeline Scott  
Mary Scruggs  
Andrea Sengstock  
Marciana Senires  
Colin Simms  
Cindy Sindorf

Brooke VonStein  
Christina Wattenschaidt  
Jamie Weaver  
Destinee Webster  
Jessica Weddle  
Abigail Whittington  
Chelsie Willson  
Michael Wilmot  
Jessica Wise  
Parker Wise  
Kyra Wood  
Patricia Wright  
Jaleesa Young  
Kendall Zacker

## Field Experiences

### Cecil County Community Mediation Center

Mark Lee has completed intake and attendance mediation training to enhance his internship with the Cecil County Community Mediation Center. This training expanded Mark's experience to include co-mediating attendance-related cases in schools and truancy court. He has also learned reflective listening skills while conducting intake conversations with potential mediation participants.

Mark is active in outreach for the center. He is currently enlisting volunteers from the community to attend basic mediation training, and he is establishing a field placement partnership with Cecil College. Additionally, Mark's efforts to create a Peace Order Mediation Program in partnership with the Cecil County district court and the district court of MD ADR Office have been fruitful.

Mark has accepted a part-time program coordinator position with Cecil County Community Mediation while pursuing his master's degree in Social Work at Salisbury University.



**Mark Lee**

### Journeys Holistic Therapy Group

Nicole Smith has learned and grown in her role as a Social Worker and Therapist at Journeys Holistic Therapy Group. However this semester has been particularly challenging for her. Ms. Smith broke her foot in a car accident over winter break. She has been unable to drive, yet she has shown up at the agency through rain, wind and snow. Her persistence at completing her responsibilities has been evident.

One of Ms. Smith's goals in her Learning Contract was to look at community resources and possible hindrances to providing services to residents. She talked to our therapists about the difficulties she herself faced in accessing public transportation and maneuvering obstacles like curbs and sidewalks.

Barriers for people with disabilities, whether short or long term, are of serious concern. We are grateful to our intern for bringing this issue clearly to our attention!



**Nikki Smith**

# Salisbury University

by Levi Christopher Murray



**left: Helena Hill**  
**right: Levi Christopher Murray**

I have been with Salisbury University's Dean of Students Office for my field placement, and my title is Student Wellness Education Intern. This is a new position created to serve students referred to the Dean of Students Office following alcohol and/or drug-related incidents. My role is to work with students eligible for Medical Amnesty under the Responsible Action Protocol. This process diverts students from traditional disciplinary procedures to restorative measures such as education. My initial responsibilities included medical

amnesty meetings, documentation, and monitoring Students' Action Plan progress; however, partnering with the Dean of Students Office has additional opportunities specific to substance use and misuse among college students.

I am most excited about having the flexibility to work on projects that are both important to me and beneficial to the students we serve. For example, I am conducting an inventory of all alcohol and/or drug-related policies, practices, and procedures at SU. I will use existing university data and relevant research to gauge their effectiveness. Identifying disparities in when, how, and whom interventions are utilized is an essential goal of this project. I will rely on supervision, the NASW Code of Ethics, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and the Maryland Collaborative's extensive best practice guidelines to guide work with students and advance equitable, evidence-based initiatives on campus. The overall goal is to identify ineffective drug and alcohol-related interventions and make research-informed recommendations to address them. Because of its long-term nature, I will not see this project through to the end. I am excited to contribute to it, nevertheless.



## The Family Center of Queen Anne's County



Meg Cayer



Jennifer Crossley, Director of The Family Center of Queen Anne's County and Anita Phillips, Child Development Specialist, are working with Salisbury University's MSW intern, Meg Cayer. The programs there serve families with children from prenatal up to age four. Children are given the opportunity to learn social and emotional skills while exploring developmentally appropriate classrooms. Parents are given the opportunity to learn about health, education, workforce skills, and parenting from each other, staff, and community resource people.

April is the "Month of the Young Child" and "Child Abuse Prevention Month." Meg has been helping to plan and execute an event at a local park to raise awareness of child abuse prevention. Pinwheels are a symbol of innocence and childhood so the event will incorporate a playgroup completing a pinwheel craft. Additionally, focus will be on parent education resources and include a time for fun and socialization for families.

## The Center for Healthy Communities (CHC) at Salisbury University

The Center for Healthy Communities provides a bachelor's level macro internship within the Salisbury University College of Health and Human Services. Its purpose is to positively impact community health through workforce development, grant activities, continuing education, service learning, community resource programming, and inter-agency collaboration.

Working with the CHC Program Coordinator, interns document meetings with state and local agencies such as county boards and community groups. Interns also assist in overseeing social media marketing of events and learn how to cultivate campaigns to reach target populations.

One of the valuable experiences of this internship includes learning how different agencies come together to impact change and develop resources in their communities. In the spring, an intern will use the skills and connections made to plan, advertise, and host the CHC Annual Linking Resources Fair held every April.



## CASA of Hartford County

by  
**Josh Arinze**

During this second semester at my field placement at Chesapeake Health Care, I am further gaining experience through mental health practice in school-based settings and with different methods. I have worked more with interventions that explore internal systems and the dynamics of behavior, while continuing therapeutic approaches to treating major depressive disorder, anxiety, minority stress, trauma, and other challenges. I have shadowed more sessions with therapists from a greater range of specializations and practice backgrounds. In this final semester of my field experience, I feel even more that I am receiving exposure to an expansive range of therapies and issues that are unique to clients at varied age levels and identities.

## Dorchester County Public Schools

**Summer Moore**

Summer Moore had the opportunity to work closely with school social workers and staff, students, and families in Dorchester County Public Schools. Her internship allowed her to engage in the day to day activities and responsibilities that come with being a School Social worker, including the trials and rewards that accompany it. Summer worked one on one, in groups, and in the classroom with students to help them achieve individual goals. She combined the knowledge gained from classwork with independent work on her own projects and objectives. Summer enjoyed the relationships and experiences gained from the program.

## Garrett County Health Department Substance Abuse Program.

by  
**Mikali Artice**

I am completing my first year of placement with the Garrett County Health Department Substance Abuse Program. This is an employment-based field placement. My primary role at the health department is providing services to inmates in the jail. Due to COVID, services are limited and have to be conducted over the phone, which has been challenging ...Working with inmates has been a rewarding and eye opening experience. I also work with outpatient clients who struggle with a variety of substance use disorders. I complete evaluations and intake assessments, provide counseling services for addiction and alcoholism, and make referrals to a variety of agencies when necessary. I have also been involved in Stand Together meetings, where many different agencies and individuals within the community attend to discuss the substance use issues in the county, upcoming events, and strategies or plans to reduce the drug activity in the area. Substance use is a challenging field but it has been... a great learning experience!

## Catholic Charities

Nicole has been a great asset to Catholic Charities during her internship. She has acquired robust knowledge of our agency policies and procedures. Nicole's first couple of months were spent shadowing therapy sessions and completing many mandatory trainings online. Nicole has successfully completed trainings on topics such as HIPPA, Columbia suicide completion, ethics, and trauma focused CBT.

Nicole is based in a level 5 regional school, which is a school for children who have emotional and behavioral challenges. Nicole has taken clients through the intake process, gathering all bio-psychosocial information and determining an appropriate diagnosis. Nicole has demonstrated ability to take this diagnosis and pair it with corresponding goals and objectives. Nicole has built rapport with her clients while seeing them for individual sessions on a weekly basis. Nicole has done a great job engaging parents for monthly family therapy sessions, which is no easy task. Nicole participates in individual supervision weekly, and has the option for peer supervision each week as well. This has certainly been an unfiltered look into the community mental health sector. This has been one of the most challenging years as our clients and their families are adjusting and adapting to the "new norms." It has been a privilege to see Nicole grow in this internship and gives me hope for future generations of social workers.



**Nicole Jenkins**

## Frederick Health Hospice

The Frederick Health Hospice Sunshine Fund was created to help spread joy and hope to patients and families during life's most challenging days. Social work Intern Sarah Getz joins her Field Supervisor Cathy Hanson to spread some birthday "sunshine" and emotional support to a caregiver during a February home visit.



**left to right:  
Sarah Getz, Intern;  
Martha Specht, Caregiver;  
Cathy Hanson, Field Supervisor**

# Sussex County Opportunity Program in Education (SCOPE)

by Elizabeth Norris

My field placement is at Sussex County Opportunity Program in Education (SCOPE) in Frankford Delaware. SCOPE is an alternative school that focuses on increasing at-risk 6th–12th grade students' ability to manage their own behavior, in an atmosphere that emphasizes personal choice, boundaries, and logical consequences. A majority of our kids and their families are in need of clothes, hygiene products, and food. My supervisor asked that I help start a pantry so we can send items home with families when they are in need. With permission, I posted on Facebook and the post blew up. Within a week I had cars full of donations coming in and people asking how else they could help! People from out of town who wanted to help sent me money and we raised over \$200. Bar guests from the restaurant where I work even donated! We send food home on Thursdays and the families and kids could not be more grateful. The pantry is going well, and this is a project I hope will continue for years after I leave my placement.



## CASA of Hartford County

Kathryn (Katie) Hanson's placement at CASA of Harford County affords her a wide range of experiences. For example, Katie was assigned to a case involving an adolescent girl. She worked with the family, DSS worker, attorney, and child in the child's reunification with her mother. Katie wrote a court report and advocated for her assigned child in court. She also attends weekly CINA (children in need of assistance) court where she hears the foster care cases in Harford County. When a child or case is referred for a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), Katie enters that information in our database system. She then updates referred cases with new information as it arrives. Some of the case document data Katie uploads includes court orders, DSS reports, and additional court records. When we receive a document pertaining to an assigned child, Katie notifies the associated CASA volunteer.

Katie provides tremendous support to our program as noted above. Additionally, she also attends and participates in committee meetings on fundraising, DEIAB, aged-youth transition, and recruitment and retention. Katie was instrumental in creating a new procedure on safe visit strategies that our organization has put in place for CASA volunteers. She participates in outreach events and attends continuing education trainings and staff meetings. Katie has become an important and integral part of our CASA team.



**Katie Hanson**

## Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services



**Samantha  
McJilton**

Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services, a private, non-profit organization in Berlin, Maryland, has served the community since 1975. Sev-

eral of its programs help empower children and families. These include Health Counseling, Youth Mentoring, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Resource Navigation, Youth Enrichment, and Community Outreach.

Samantha McJilton will gain experience in all of the nine Social Work competencies and each level of Social Work practice during her internship. Her duties include: helping with the youth mentoring program; finding resources for the SHINE taskforce (a resource navigation database); participating in ALLIES meetings and activities for the LGBTQ+ community; doing research and advocacy for CASA about the VOCA Fix Act; and outreach including enrichment activities for children in Berlin.

# Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

## Carlos Portillo

Carlos Portillo is in the Salisbury/UMGC MSW program. He is also serving the LRMC/KMC military community. Carlos served as an intern provider with the Child and Family Behavioral Health Clinic (CAF-BHS) at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. While there, he provided behavioral and mental health services for active duty civilian adults and children.

Carlos also served as the provider of the day with the Behavioral Health Clinical Liaison Services/ Multi D emergency response team for Suicide prevention during his internship. Carlos recommends this avenue of social work for anyone who decides to choose the MSW program and the opportunities which are available in the Salisbury/ UMGC program.

# USO Deployments

Cole Rollins has been a reliable assistant, especially when volunteer attendance was at an all-time low during a difficult year. Cole has often sacrificed his own free time, and he has helped with events such as “Operation Allied Welcome.”

Cole has a great work ethic, is willing to learn, and has a desire to improve his skills to contribute to the USO. He has even acted as a USO representative.

Though he is still learning, Cole has gained much knowledge as an intern. He has aided the organization by working on a range of tasks from large holiday events to simpler ones that focus on catering.

Cole took the initiative to form his own event around “Dungeons and Dragons” which has already shown moderate success. As Cole continues to improve his skills, he will gain the experience needed to become a capable social worker.



**Cole Rollins**

# Ansbach Education Center in Germany



**Kiera Kline**

The Ansbach Education Center hosted their 3rd Annual “Mardi-GrAnsbach Lunch and Learn” in March. Intern Kiera Kline of Salisbury University, who is serving as an education counselor at the center, gave a detailed presentation on public service loan forgiveness. She explained that it is a “federal program designed to encourage students, [and] those pursuing bachelors or masters degrees or the equivalents thereof... to have federal student aid forgiven by working for a nonprofit or government organization for at least ten years. ”

Kiera’s complete presentation is available on the USAG Ansbach Community Facebook page. Those who work with Kiera say she is doing a fantastic job, they find her a delight, and they are impressed with her job performance.

## Pyramid Healthcare

Kinsey Sprecher began her journey at Pyramid Healthcare as a BSW intern in 2016. After completing her internship, she became a full time drug and alcohol counselor for the organization. Kinsey facilitated group and individual therapy with people seeking addiction recovery services. While at Pyramid Healthcare working with clients suffering substance use disorder, Kinsey built a vast clinical skillset including motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy, and becoming a strong group facilitator. Kinsey was promoted to Lead Counselor at Pyramid in 2019. Now she serves as a mentor to her peers and assists them in growing their own clinical skills.

Kinsey entered the MSW program at Salisbury University in 2019 and started her MSW Practicum with Pyramid Healthcare in August 2021. Her primary focus was building skills in assessing and diagnosing clients with mental health disorders since the

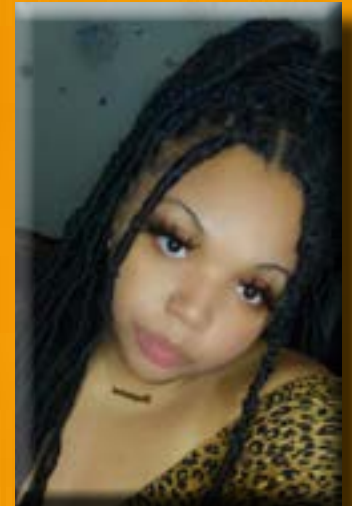


**Kinsey Sprecher**

majority of her drug and alcohol clients suffer from dual diagnoses. Kinsey excels in diagnostics when completing mental health level care assessments. She has also grown her knowledge of evidence-based practice by meeting with individuals for mental health therapy sessions. Kinsey has furthermore gained knowledge of administrative tasks and the macro components of overseeing a program. She has excelled in her career and practicum. Pending completion of the MSW program at SU, Kinsey will be promoted to Clinical Supervisor of Pyramid Healthcare

## Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force

Raven Lake is a valuable resource as an intern to the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force. The Task Force is a loosely structured volunteer organization dedicated to preventing and curtailing human trafficking throughout the Eastern Shore. Creating public awareness about the existence of



**Raven Lake**

sex and labor exploitation and what everyone can do to protect boys, girls, men, and women is the focus of the Task Force.

Raven prepared a press release for “National Human Trafficking Awareness Month” in January. The release went to newspapers, radio and TV stations, and local governments resulting in media interviews and discussions that reached the public across the Eastern Shore. Raven reviewed and offered suggestions for how the Task Forces’ website should be updated and made effective as a means of communication. She is also revising the rack card used to spread information about anti-human trafficking.

## Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center (EPEC)



**Melanie Kozak (3rd from left)  
in Charleston, WV**

Melanie Kozak is completing her Field work at The Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center (EPEC). Melanie works with victims and survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking. As a victim advocate, she provides services which include answering hotline calls and on-scene crisis intervention. She also helps to provide financial assistance, access to shelter, food and clothing, emotional support, and court and law enforcement advocacy. Every day is different at EPEC, and the mission is to make sure clients have access to a safe and violence-free life in the community.

Beyond giving direct service, Melanie has also had the unique opportunity to work on a team providing macro advocacy state-wide. This year she went to Charleston, the capital of West Virginia, for both “Sexual Violence Awareness Day” and “Domestic Violence Awareness Day” where she met with legislators to educate them about bills that would specifically affect the safety and well-being of the population served by EPEC. Melanie has been a great addition to the EPEC team.

## Neurofeedback and Counseling Clinic of Utah

by

**Briana Pedroza**

I am responsible for providing mental health services (individual psychotherapy and instructing an online stress management class) at the Neurofeedback and Counseling Clinic of Utah. My core professional values are compassion and integrity. I'm grateful for this amazing opportunity to work at the mental health clinic. The experience and knowledge I gain will positively impact the individuals and groups I will work with in the future. I'm blessed to be a part of such an incredible team of practitioners. My supervisor and mentors have been phenomenal individuals to work with.



**Briana Pedroza**

I have also worked with the Army's Family Advocacy Program and focused on raising awareness about domestic violence to keep the military community safe.

In my spare time, I volunteer for Soldier and Family Readiness Groups across the installation. To me, education is empowerment and a beautiful gift that can't be taken away.



## Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) in Germany

Amy Wahl spent her generalist year at the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) in Kaiserslautern, Germany with a focus on suicide prevention. Her favorite aspect of her field experience was community engagement. She did interviews with the local radio station AFN, helped conduct a number of suicide prevention programs, and conducted Unit Risk Inventories with Military Units assessing critical risks like substance abuse and self-harm. She also worked on a grant to secure funding for a new resiliency program and did social media and marketing for Alcohol Awareness Month. Amy has discovered that she enjoys macro social work tasks, and her placement helped clarify that macro is the level of social work she prefers.

Nicola Wentholt has also spent her generalist year at ASAP. Her site supervisor helped her learn to address community risks such as suicide ideation, driving under the influence of alcohol, housing issues, child-



**Amy Wahl**

care shortfalls, and how to facilitate community change. This macro placement, through ASAP, encompassed an array of community supporters. The stated purpose of the Commander's Ready and Resilient Council is

to “synchronize multiple efforts and initiatives to improve the readiness and resilience of the Total Army-Soldiers, Army civilians, and families.” Nicola found it rewarding to see how this group and community members working with the group systematically addressed gaps in service to make community change happen. Some of the ways Nicola participated in the mission of the organization was to interpret survey data measuring risks and to work with groups developing, evaluating, and adapting initiatives to address risk factors.

Nicola also conducted Unit Risk Inventories and spoke to groups of newcomers to the community. Some of the topics she covered included alcohol, suicide, and gambling issues. Additionally, she worked on a grant to secure funding for a new ASAP program. Nicola's outreach efforts included doing a campaign for April's Alcohol Awareness Month, writing a newsletter article, formatting social media posts, speaking on the radio to raise awareness, and presenting at schools among other activities.

Nicola's previous experiences in counseling psychology at the micro and mezzo levels are still of interest to her, but she thoroughly enjoyed this internship as an introduction to the power and efficacy of macro work.



**left: Amy Wahl  
right: Nicola Wentholt**

## Allegany County Department of Social Services



The Allegany County Department of Social Services has been providing field placement opportunities to Title IV-E Interns at

Salisbury University for several years. Students have been able to take advantage of valuable learning opportunities in all areas of Child Welfare within the local Department. Placements for Interns have included: Child Protective Services, Jane's Place -Allegany County's Child Advocacy Center, In Home Services, Out of Home Services, and Crisis Prevention Services. This year we were excited to expand into another placement area. We were fortunate enough to be able to advocate with a student to fulfill her request of focusing on a macro level placement for her final internship opportunity. We worked collaboratively with the University and DHS's HRDT Office to be able to offer an Administrative Services placement for this student. It has not only been a wonderful opportunity for the student but also for the Department to see how this track is helping to grow and support up-and-coming leaders.

During the 2021-2022 school year, The Allegany County Department of Social Services provided Internship and Supervision to three (3) Title IV-E students. Internship placements this year included Jane's Place, a placement within the Out of Home unit focusing on Crisis Prevention Services and an Administrative Services placement which has encompassed a larger focus on Administration and Supervision.

## Village of Hope

**Hillary Agyemang  
and Kayla Cox**

The Village of Hope (VOH) is a destination site for interns studying social work. Hillary Agyemang graduates this fall with a Master of Social Work degree, and Kayla Cox is enrolled in SU's Bachelor of Social Work program. These interns from Salisbury University work with Lead Case Manager, Ms. Romanda Hutt and Case Manager Ms. Paula Beachley to gain practical experience in a human/social services organization. They provide case management to two participants each, and they regularly participate in case reviews and team meetings

Additionally, Hillary and Kayla provide support to the VOH children's project coordinator by delivering enrichment and educational activities throughout the year. They also assist with new participant orientations by presenting program information via PowerPoint presentations and other multi-media tools. The VOH staff welcomes and appreciates the support interns provide and the collaborative relationship maintained with their professors and advisors.

## Wicomico County Judy Center

The Lower Shore Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (LSECMHC) collaborates with the Wicomico Judy Center. Interns from Salisbury University's Social Work Department, Chloe Birch and Sean Bellgowan, recently helped to prepare for a special event at the Judy Center's "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" Outreach Meeting.

During the event, the Program Coordinator of the agency, Janelle Parker, LCSW-C, shared different approaches to discipline. She explained that providing expectations, flexibility, and positive behavior support are evidence-based practices for discipline and produce better outcomes than traditional discipline. According to the Judy Center, it was "an inspiring success!" Additional information can be found at the website [www.devereux.org](http://www.devereux.org).



**Intern Consultant  
Cristina Mahmood with  
grandchildren of attendees  
as she helps them make  
"Calm-Down Kits!"**

## News



### Jillian Amodio

Our own Jillian Amodio is doing great things. She was invited to New York to be part of a photo shoot and article for "Psychology Today" Magazine. Her story was included in a piece on self-forgiveness published January 4, 2022. The article can be found at <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/202201/how-forgive-yourself>. More recently, Jillian was also interviewed on WUSA9 "Great Day Washington" about Period Poverty and ways we can address it in our communities. Jillian is the founder of "Moms for Mental Health" and was part of a segment during March's Women's History Month. Her goal was to bring awareness to period poverty through a Menstrual Hygiene Drive. She says "that education is as important as access to products!"

# NIA Mentoring Initiative



The NIA Mentoring Initiative was established in 2018 to provide a forum for exploring the unique college experiences of students of color. Salisbury University School of Social Work faculty, alumni, and community members mentor social work and nursing students as they complete their degrees. This spring (March 15, 2022) NIA mentees and mentors volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club at Leonards Lane - Cambridge, Maryland. They facilitated a module from the "SMART MOVES" curriculum which focuses on youth emotional wellness.

**Pictured are:**

**NIA Advisor:**

**Dr. Owens-King (red shirt)**

**NIA Mentor:**

**Mrs. Chalarra Sessoms  
(burgundy shirt)**

**NIA Mentees:**

**Gere Greene ( long black sweater)  
and Jayla Jones (black hoodie)**



# Bits of News

## The Sue Park Student Resource Center

A student resource center will open in the fall at ESHEC in the name of our colleague, Sue Park. The School of Social Work will be providing resources, games, and posters for it. There will be a ribbon cutting, likely in the summer.



## BASW Online Option

The BASW Online option received full USM-approval to rollout. It will begin in the fall with one cohort of no more than 20 students. Classes will be synchronous online on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Copy and paste the link below into your browser to check out an article about the online option: <https://www.salisbury.edu/news/article/2022-4-20-SUs-School-of-Social-Work-Announces-New-Online-Option-for-BASW-Students>

## CHHS Giving Day 2022 Winners

Faculty and staff making gifts of \$20 or greater and students making gifts of any amount were entered into drawings for \$100 Amazon gift cards. The Faculty/Staff Winner was Dr. James Forte, and the School of Social Work student winner was Ashley Johnson. \$1000 in prize money was divided between the CHHS scholarships with the most money raised. First place, winning \$400, was the Marvin G. Tossey Scholarship for Social Work.

## SU CELEBRATES THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2022!

SU is hosting a commencement grad walk for May graduates on Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21. The Grad Walk will be held at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center. Graduate's names will be read as they cross the commencement stage, professional photographers will take formal photos, and graduates will receive a Salisbury University diploma cover. This is a non-seated event and is expected to take approximately 20 minutes from check-in to exit. Festivities will continue at several on-campus "Celebration Zones." The Grad Walk will be live-streamed on the SU website for family and friends who are unable to attend the live event.

Visit the Grad Walk Experience page on the SU website to learn more about this in-person commencement event.

## Student Government email shout-out to SSW

*Thank you to the school of Social Work faculty members for their continued efforts in education, social justice, and service to our community. You are all amazing and we couldn't do this without your support!*