



## *Fall 2018 Newsletter*

# *Salisbury University School of Social Work*

### *Fall Semester Events and Highlights*



We say congratulations to all December graduates and the SU School of Social Work faculty wishes them well in their future social work careers!

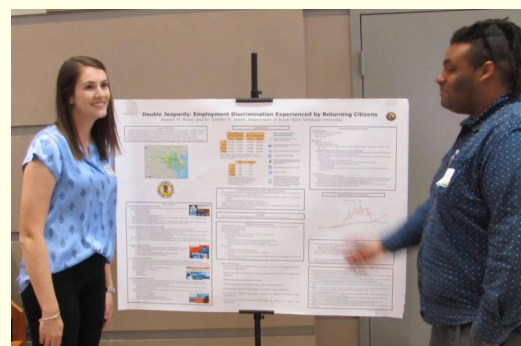
### **National Museum of African American History and Culture**

On 9/27, the SU School of Social Work hosted a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Students and faculty spent the day exploring the museum's 12 exhibition spaces and nearly 37,000 objects related to community, family, the visual and performing arts, religion, civil rights, slavery, and segregation.

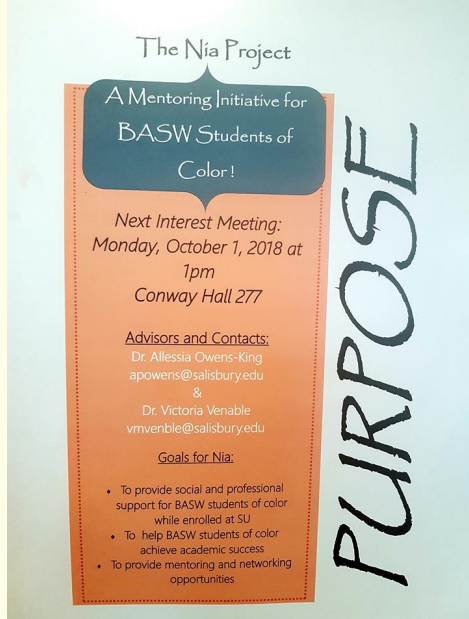




SU Social Work students attended the National Association of Social Work-Maryland (NASW-MD) Student Conference in Baltimore on November 3rd. Twenty students from the Salisbury, Hagerstown, and Southern Maryland campuses, and the Online MSW option attended. They engaged in groups discussing the Opioid Crisis, Immigration, Social Work Licensure, opportunities for international social work, and more. Dr. James Forte represented the SU SSW on a graduate school panel, providing information on our MSW program to potential students from around the state. And to make the day even better, SU BASW student, **Eleanor Brown**, received the award for outstanding student poster!



The Nia Project offers a safe environment for students of color to explore, share and find support around the unique experiences students of color have on campus. A discussion series will highlight the connection between personal well-being and academic/professional success.



Find out more about this special project by contacting [Dr. Victoria Venable](#) or [Dr. Allessia Owens-King](#)

**Community Conversations: Health and Wellbeing**  
**Across the Lifespan**  
***"Let's talk suicide prevention"***  
**with Dr. Mark Shaffer**

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Shaffer discussed the impact of suicide on the community and individuals, and ways to help suicidal family members, friends or yourself. He also provided information on tools for coping and local resources.



**The Council on Social Work Education held its 64th Annual Program Meeting in Orlando, Florida, November 8 - 11. Several of SU's Social Work faculty members presented at this collaborative meeting of social work education influencers.**

**Dr. Becky Anthony**

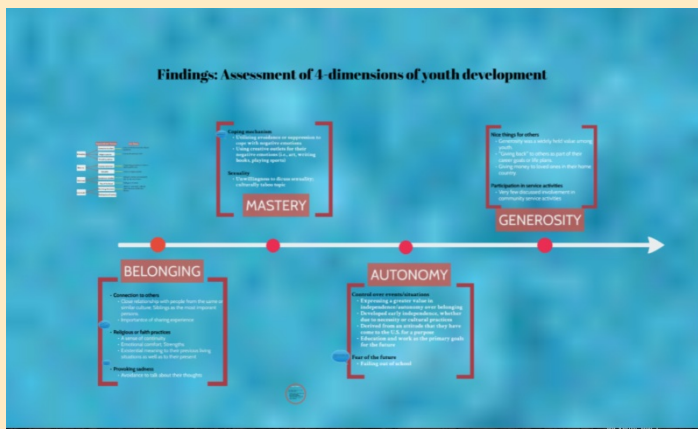
**Modeling Social Justice through Innovative, Low-Cost Textbook Options for Social Work Students**

This presentation discussed social work professors' experiences, including interprofessional support, with designing and self-publishing a low-cost textbook alternative for a generalist level basic interviewing skills course. Their student survey research findings identified areas of need, areas of strength, and possible options for improvement of the course workbook.



**Dr. Sook Yun Kim**

**"The experience of unaccompanied refugee minors in the U.S. foster care system"**



This exploratory, qualitative study gained deeper understanding of the experiences of unaccompanied refugee minors (URMs) who are in the American foster care system and identify both their risks and strengths. The 15 participants of this study were URM's from the URM foster program in New York ranged in age from 14 to 21 and were from Afghanistan, Congo, Eritrea, Central African Nation, Nepal, and Haiti.

### Dr. Jennifer Jewell, Dr. Becky Anthony and Dr. April Murphy

#### A Study of an Educational Tool Investigating Technology Effectiveness and Social Connectedness (TESCS)

Technology is an integral part of social work education and practice. Consequently, social work educators have a responsibility to teach social work students how to ethically and professionally use technology. This presentation discussed the development of the TESCS to assess the efficacy of incorporating Twitter in social work courses. Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

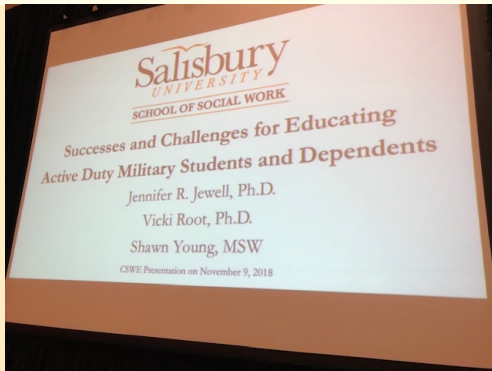


### Dr. Kimberly van Vulpen

#### Experiential Student Learning: Addressing Children's Grief through a Hospice and University Collaboration

Her presentation provided information on an interprofessional collaboration between a community-based hospice and Salisbury University. It focused on the development of a social work summer elective, Children's Grief and Bereavement, and the course's required student learning component of serving as camp counselors at Camp Safe Harbor. This course and camp collaboration and four years of program evaluation data were discussed





### Dr. Jennifer Jewell, Dr. Vicki Root and Shawn Young

#### Successes and Challenges for Educating Active Duty Military Students and Dependents

Providing social work education to active duty military students stationed overseas has unique challenges. Undergraduate and graduate social work faculty discussed challenges including distinctive needs of the military population, inter-institutional obstacles, field placement complications, and course scheduling issues, as well as successes and learning opportunities in this huge undertaking.



November 7th, the Social Work Student Association's (SWSA) Speaker Series met for a discussion about Therapeutic Foster Care. Guest speakers were Karen Watson, LMSW from Children's Choice and Dena Hall, MSW, LCSW, the Program Coordinator of CC. Students in attendance gained insights into the job of a social worker working with

children in the foster care system.

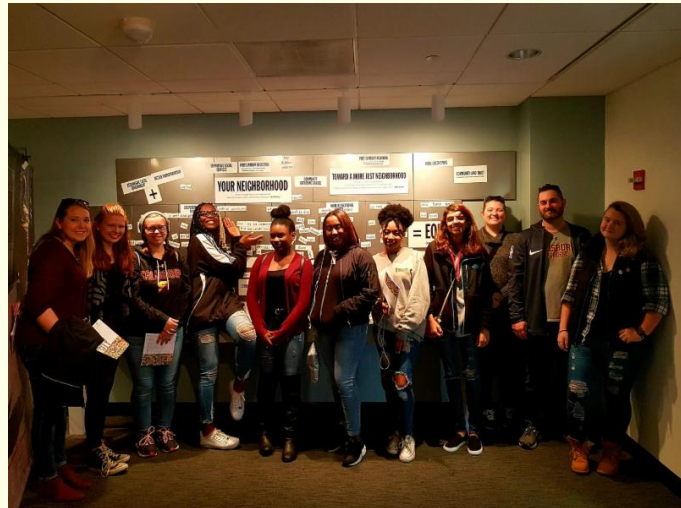
On November 14th, Dr. Aaron Willis, Asst. Professor of Social Work, moderated the panel discussion for a community forum on Understanding the Opioid Epidemic.

**Christina Bowie**, SU MSW student and the Wicomico County Opioid Coordinator, was a panel member along with Hailey Cox, the OOCC Statewide Opioid Coordinator, a mother who lost her son to an

overdose, a peer from the Connects Patients to Opioid Treatment (COAT) program, and SU Philosophy Professor, Timothy Stock.



On November 3rd, the Social Justice Living Learning Community (LLC) visited D.C. While there, they learned more about specific neighborhoods & community advocates in DC at the Anacostia Museum.



The School of Social Work's 1st Annual Job/Internship Fair was held on Nov. 1st. There were many networking and connecting opportunities and we are thankful to our partner organizations. Stay tuned for our 2nd Annual event happening next fall!



In November, SMHEC's 1st annual job/internship fair gave students to network with 8 providers.





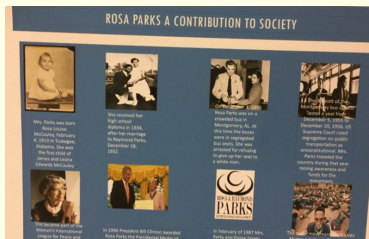
**UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND**  
University College

**EUROPE**

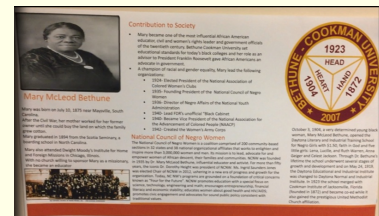
This fall, Drs. Alessia Owens-King and Victoria Venable visited the University Maryland University College Europe (UMUC) in Kaiserslauten, Germany. They met with the onsite coordinators of Salisbury University's online option. Since 2014, SU has offered BASW and MSW programs for members of the U.S. Armed Forces, American employees of the U.S. government, and their family members.



## *Special Projects and Activities*



In November, first year BASW students from the SOWK 306 class held a Gallery Walk at the USMH campus. The exhibit honored the history of Social Welfare and highlighted the achievements of influential Social Welfare ancestors. Congratulations to all of the students for creating this great tribute!





Mathews, Interim Director of SSW, and Dr. Fiala, Transitional Dean of the College of Health and Human Services attended along with SU President Wight. SSW had the largest contingent of participants and several faculty members were instrumental in bringing the workshop to campus. Be on the lookout for next steps.

---

Thank you to four students, who represented the School of Social Work at the National Association of Social Workers -Maryland Student Leadership Conference October 5th. Molly McGinty(BASW), Eleanor Brown (BASW), Natalie Bowers (BASW), and Allie Chinn(MSW) learned about legislative priorities for the profession and our community.



---

## ***Student Spotlight***



### **Alejandro Castillo**

Alejandro is one of our overseas students. After having been out of school for 15 years, he enrolled in the Salisbury MSW UMUC program in 2017. Originally from California, he has lived abroad for 5 years, mostly in Europe and Asia. Alejandro is currently stationed at the Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily.



**Nyasha Willis**

Nyasha is an Advanced Standing student who will be completing her MSW in May. She became interested in social work as a freshman in the Human Services LLC. Having always wanted to help others, especially children, she discovered that social work allows her to feel a constant sense of fulfillment.

This year she is interning at the Wicomico County DSS in the Child Protective Services unit and appreciates the autonomy of having her own caseload of families to serve, working to connect her clients with resources, and engaging with the community.

After graduating, Nyasha will be returning to the Baltimore area. She's interested in working in a non-profit agency serving children, such as an after school program, behavioral health program, or in group and individual counseling. Her ultimate goal is to support and uplift children in marginalized populations.

In addition to being a MSW student, Nyasha is also a representative on the Diversity Committee and the Graduate Assistant for LGBTQIA+ Programs. She is currently developing an Awareness Campaign emphasizing the importance of using and accepting pronouns and preferred names. The campaign will begin next semester, so look for a great series of speakers and events this spring!

---



## Jillian Salerno

Jillian completed her BASW requirements last spring but chose to stay at SU for an additional semester to complete her art degree. Having studied art since she was six, Jillian has discovered a unique way to combine social work and art, and describes her work as a collaboration between the two curriculums.

The style and choice of media for each her artworks is carefully selected based on art therapy and mental health research, and personal experiences in her undergraduate social work field placement at the Personal Wellness Center in Salisbury. Her art is now on display through 12/15 at the SU downtown gallery located at 212 West Main Street as a part of SU's 59th Biannual Senior Fine Art Show. We congratulate her for being chosen to receive the show's President's Award!

Jillian's next steps are to complete the Advanced Standing MSW online program, get a licensure in art therapy and pursue a career as an art therapist working with women and children.

Visit her website at [jsartwork.net](http://jsartwork.net).

---

## Kheona Ratliff

Kheona is in the final semester of her Bachelor of Social Work as a student through the SU/UMUC partnership. She's an Air Force veteran with eight years of experience as a health care manager and medical administrator. Kheona enjoys traveling and experiencing different cultures around the world. She recently moved from Germany to Huntsville, AL, with her church, Life Changers International. As the oldest of six siblings, Kheona loves her family and they're a huge inspiration as to why she has chosen a career in

social work. She loves to help others, and she is especially passionate about helping youth reach their maximum potential in every way. When she is not at work, she is volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club in North Alabama as a teen coach. Upon graduation, she plans to continue working with the youth and other community organizations that seek to improve living conditions and quality of life for the underprivileged population.



## Savannah Bozman

One of the School of Social Work's new alumni, Savannah Bozman completed her MSW in May. After graduating, Savannah spent 10 weeks in Ghana this summer completing an immersive program with the NGO Child Family Health International. CFHI provides opportunities to learn about global health in programs in eleven countries. Individual trainees and university partners are imbedded in existing health systems and social services and work alongside local community members. While based in the capital city of Accra, Savannah engaged in Sexual Health and Reproductive Human Rights and mental health outreach, rural social work outreach and education, and worked with both the youth activist movement and the Young and Wise Science Club in Accra. She explains that social work is still a developing field in Ghana and as such faces many challenges. Much of the current work focuses on case management but it is beginning to branch into community outreach and programs such as those she worked with this summer. She sees two main areas for growth to be overcoming the stigma against mental illness and treatment, and developing awareness and support for sexual reproductive and health rights, most particularly in rural areas. She encourages anyone interested in global social work to go for it, and recommends remaining open to new experiences and embracing local cultures and people. She also says that if you are planning to work abroad, apply early for visas and other permits as there is often a very long wait for processing.



## Spotlights on SU Social Workers Making a Difference

Savannah was the first to be featured in our new social media series on the School of Social Work's many outstanding faculty, staff, alumni and students. Look for more profiles coming soon on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Next up will be Dr. Vicki Root - Professor, former Graduate Program Chair and the primary force in the development of our online BASW and MSW programs.



***Happy Holidays to all from the  
Salisbury University School of Social Work!***

