



Salisbury University
School of Social Work
SU SSW

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Activities, services, and accomplishments in and out of the classroom this Spring demonstrate how the School of Social Work faculty, staff, and students (current and alumni) Elevate Social Work every day. And these are a reminder about what we do and why we do it—the outcome.

Learn more. Read on.

Student Advocacy Day

It would not be Spring without Student Advocacy Day. This year 79 Salisbury University School of Social Work students and faculty from main and satellite campuses traveled to Annapolis for the NASW-MD's Social Work Students' 22nd Annual Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD). In total, there were close to 400 students from social work programs and schools across the state, setting a record number of participants. Three of our students, Eleanor Brown, Rachael Okun, and Bianca Ruslander, represented Salisbury University School of Social Work at the assembly and observed Maryland's legislators in action. (February 28).



Elevate Social Work | Social Work Month

Working under guidance and support from Dr. Jewell and Dr. Anthony, a student planning committee initiated and executed a series of activities to commemorate Social Work Month.



Month long activities included daily trivia (congratulations to winner Aubrey New who had the most correct answers) and some photo fun at main campus and the satellites. Other spotlight activities include:

A student panel sharing insight and experiences about Salisbury University, the School of Social Work, field, and other campus and community engagements. Many thanks to panelists:

Eleanor Brown (BASW), **Johannah Cooper** (pre-BASW), **Edwin Alexander Hernandez-Martinez** (BASW), **Caroline Strohmeier** (BASW), and **Nyasha Wills** (MSW) and **Jennifer Marvin**, Director of Graduate Field Education for serving as Moderator. (March 5).



The 2nd annual Psychology/Social Work Networking Night featuring 20 alumni as prospective employers/field placement opportunities engaging with 55 students interested in the psychology and social work fields. Thank you to **Charlie Endicott** of Salisbury University's Career Services for sponsoring this event with **Dr. Anthony**, School of Social Work and **Dr. Steele**,



Psychology Department. (March 27).

Hagerstown's Social Work Student Association prepared and distributed 120 Social Work Appreciation Month gifts to faculty, staff, and students.

And Social Work could not/does not happen without community partners...

Social workers in Salisbury had a Social Workers Get Social event co-sponsored by the **School of Social Work, Arrow**, and the **Wicomico Department of Social Services** with venue host **Roadie Joe's**. (March 14).



The County Council of Wicomico County presented a Proclamation in recognition of March Social Work Month and **Dr. Jewell** provided remarks on behalf of Salisbury University School of Social Work (SU SSW). The Proclamation was spearheaded by our partners at **Wicomico County Department of Social Services (DSS)**, **Jami Truitt** (also SU SSW adjunct) and **Eleanor Brown**, a BASW Intern at DSS. **Pam Thompsen**, DSS and SU SSW adjunct faculty, gave remarks on behalf of DSS. (March 19).

Dr. Rebecca Anthony and **Jennifer Marvin** were on hand to join **Jami Truitt** at the Salisbury Elevate Social Work Walk as U.S. **Senator Chris Van Hollen** gave supporting remarks for the field of social work and presented Proclamations for Social Work Month, commenting what he says are "*tireless efforts to empower vulnerable people in [our]*

society". (March 30).



And the month concluded with an ELEVATE Social Work Walk at Salisbury City Park, spearheaded by the Wicomico Department of Social Services with ribbon cutting and an official start by **U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen**. Over 100 social workers from various private and public agencies and organizations from the lower Eastern Shore participated, including many current students and alumni from the School of Social Work. Donations were collected to help benefit **SU's Food Pantry**, **Food for the Flock**, the **Wicomico Child Advocacy Center**, and **Wicomico HOPE**. (March 30).





Seeking Feedback

Efforts are currently underway to collect and analyze feedback about this year's Social Work Month activities to help guide future years. It is not too late to respond and share your comments and observations:

salisbury.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eIBXfnra9UACTeR



Expanding and Imparting Knowledge

Spring has been a busy time with conferences and other learning opportunities. Many School of Social Work faculty and students attended and/or presented at conferences and trainings at the National, State, and local level.

Lisa Garcia-Batista, BASW alumni and current MSW student, co-presented at the SU School of Social Work Office of Professional and Continuing Education's 2nd annual human trafficking conference. (February 25).



In mid-March, several School of Social Work faculty and students attended and

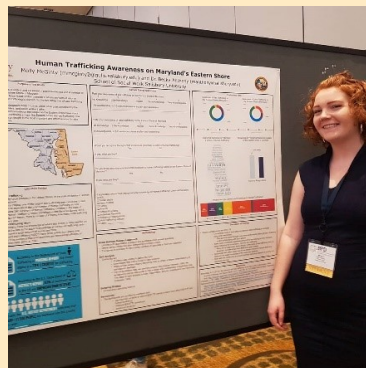


participated in the 5th Annual Culturally Responsive Teaching Conference in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. **Dr. Ellen Schaefer-Salins'** presentation was "Do you have to be deaf to understand?" and **Dr. Alessia Owens-King's** presentation was "Measuring Undergraduate Social Work Students' Values and Understanding of Privilege and Oppression". (March 21-22).

Dr. Anthony and **Dr. Venable** presented their research for the topic, Economic Justice for Students: One Way Educators Can Address Textbook Costs, at the March Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors 2019 Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. And several of our pre and current social work students also participated and presented. (March 16).



Johannah Cooper



Molly McGinty



Caroline Strohmeyer

Johannah's research focuses on conducting a needs based assessment of our immigrant population on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. **Molly's** focus is on raising awareness about human trafficking in Maryland's Eastern Shore region. **Caroline's** research is looking at psychological impacts from lack of queer media representation.



And the road trip and imparting knowledge continued for **Johannah** and **Molly** as they joined other Salisbury University students who left campus on April 10 to travel to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Kennesaw, GA.

And.....

- School of Social Work faculty and students were prominently featured at the March Seeking Justice International Women's Day Conference, with presentations by **Dr. Jennifer Jewell** and **Dr. Sook Hyun Kim**, and **Nyasha Wills** (MSW Student) and **Bethany Goldsmith** (BASW Student). (March 8).

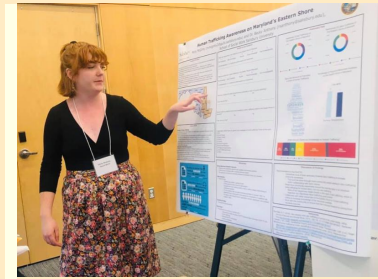
- **Jennifer Marvin**, Director of Graduate Field Education, presented at the 29th Annual Salisbury Conference for Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregivers. (March 21).
- Graduating BASW students **Suzanne Jaye Aldridge**, **Eleanor Brown**, and **Molly McGinty** presented at the SU Student Research Conference. (April 26).



Suzanne Jaye Aldridge



Eleanor Brown



Molly McGinty

In and About Field

As the 2018-2019 academic year wraps up, the School of Social Work is once again honoring the service of our Field Supervisors, Liaisons and Faculty at annual appreciation events across our stateside campuses. Each event includes a complimentary breakfast or lunch while providing a 3 hour continuing education session fulfilling the MD CEU requirement for licensed supervisors. School of Social Work faculty member, **Dr. Mark Shaffer**, is presenting the CEU with a focus on eating disorders. With 340 field supervisors and just under 400 students, this has been a busy year for Social Work Field and we are looking forward to showing our appreciation to all who support our field program!



And in other field news and activities...

Jennifer Marvin, Director of Graduate Field Education, attended an intern appreciation dinner for our students placed at Sante Group Mobile Crisis. **Kimberly Bailey**, **Sharonda Handy**, and **Jessica Stephenson** are students in our MSW online option. (April 18).





Jennifer Foxworthy (MSW student) represented her field agency, the Calvert County Health Department Crisis Intervention Center, at the Southern Calvert Family Resource Fair at Patuxent High School. (March 8).

Share Field News

More highlights about field students in action can be found in the School of Social Work Field Office Newsletter. If you have news and features relevant to the social work field to share, send them to Traci Johnson: tmjohnson@salisbury.edu.



Prospective Students | Class of 202#



With Spring comes applications and admissions and the School of Social Work has been busy. Saturday, March 30 was Admitted Students Day at Salisbury and 60 prospective students and family members attended the Social Work Academic Information sessions. **Lindsey Shockley** and **Gina Vides** met with the students during two different sessions to share details about the School of Social Work including the curriculum, field placements, and other opportunities. Attendees were also treated to some new School of Social Work giveaways. (March 30).

Faculty and staff have also been busy reviewing MSW applications with prospective students for the Salisbury campus, online program option, and at the various satellite campuses.

And speaking of prospective students and sparking interest in the field of social work...with **Lindsey Shockley**, the School of Social Work was one of 95 organizations participating in the Junior Achievement's Inspire event, introducing more than 1,200 students to a variety of careers and opportunities across the Lower Eastern Shore. Due to the success of the event, Junior Achievement plans to expand next year to include Maryland Lower, Mid, and Upper Shore students. (March 12).



Spotlight on Students | Current and Alumni

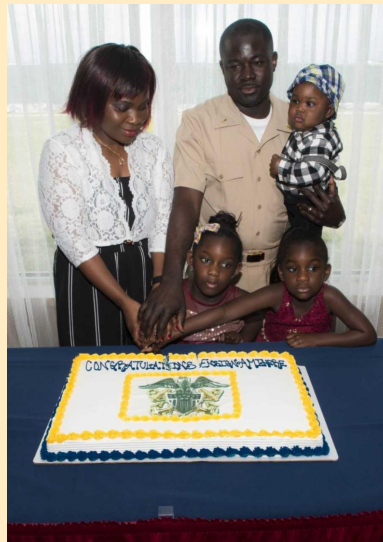
Collins Amihere | MSW 2018. Join us in congratulating Collins and thanking him for his military service which now includes social work through the Navy's Medical Services Corp. Collins was commissioned on April 12th as a Naval Officer after serving as enlisted personnel as an Aviation Support Technician.



He'll spend the next two years with clinical supervision and then test for his LCSW. Collins' particular area of interest is working with troops as they deploy and return. By way of background, Collins graduated with his MSW in 2018 on a four rather than a planned two year schedule. During this time, Collins balanced his military service, including two deployments, the academic program, and field placements. While deployed to Italy, Collins' first field placement was with the Center for Immigration Integration in Gairre, Sicily. This was particularly gratifying for Collins as he assisted immigrants from Africa; he himself had immigrated to the United States from Ghana in December 2008. The second field placement was with the Center for Child and Family Services, Hampton, Virginia.

Collins credits his success in completing the MSW program to support from his family, Salisbury University faculty, especially **Dr. Root**, and flexibility of the social work program. Collins credits a professor (Dr. Frances Dufie Azumah) during his undergraduate studies at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), in Kumasi, Ghana for sparking his interest in social work. After having been an educator for four years, Collins had thoughts of pursuing law but was placed into KNUST's sociology/social work program.

Again, congratulations to Collins on melding his military service with social work to support our troops.



Eleanor Brown | BASW 2019. On May 23rd, Eleanor will walk across the stage earning dual degrees in Social Work and Political Science and a minor in Psychology. In addition to her academic coursework, through the Honors College, Eleanor has been working on and now completing an undergraduate thesis examining the presence of employment discrimination for previously incarcerated individuals who return to Wicomico County, under mentorship of **Dr. Jewell**. Eleanor's engagement in campus activities range from Undergraduate Student Representative on the Institutional Review Board and OURCA Undergraduate Research Fellow to Treasurer/Fundraising Chair/Past President of Student United Way, and student member of the Non-Profit Leadership Alliance. Eleanor's internship experiences include: Wicomico County Department of Social Services (current), the Lower Shore Child Care Resource Center, United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore, the Maryland General Assembly's Women's Caucus, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services through the Maryland Governor's Fellowship Intern Program. She has also been volunteering as a



book group discussion facilitator at Eastern Correctional Institution. In addition, Eleanor represented Salisbury University at the National Association of Social Workers – Maryland's Student Leaders Retreat & Conference and the 2018 National Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Conference. On March 29th, the National Association of Social Workers Maryland Chapter honored Eleanor as BSW Student of the Year, commenting on her outstanding accomplishments as a student leader and her commitment to improving lives of others.

When asked to reflect on her undergraduate studies and experiences, Eleanor shared....*"I will be extremely proud to call myself an alumnus of the best undergraduate institution, the Salisbury University School of Social Work! The faculty, staff, and adjunct professors truly go above and beyond in engaging students both in and outside of the classroom setting through active community engagement, professional opportunities, research, civic discourse, and so much more. I came into the School as a pre-social work major unsure of what specialization or direction to take within the field, but through the guidance of professors and one amazing faculty mentor, I have been able to find my passion and be extremely prepared for the future".*

Post-graduation, Eleanor will complete a service year as an AmeriCorps Fellow through The Choices Program working with youth in Maryland's highest risk communities. Her future academic plans include an MSW with a macro concentration.

Gina Vides | BASW 2019. As Gina's undergraduate studies are concluding, so is her role as President of Phi Alpha Honor Society. Gina was inducted into Phi Alpha in Spring 2018 (her Junior year), and while sitting with School of Social Work faculty at a University event, became inspired to get further involved with campus and School of Social Work activities. This led to a leadership role, becoming the first Latina president of Phi Alpha in Salisbury University's history. Her new role is in addition to academic coursework, a field placement with the Family Visitation Center through Life Crisis, and a full personal life that includes two young children.

Members of Phi Alpha meet monthly and sponsor and support a range of community activities. One example is a blanket drive for HALO done in partnership with Alpha Phi Omega. You also may have also seen Gina out and about (as illustrated in this picture at the recent Elevate Social Work walk) supporting Phi Alpha's fundraiser, which is a good reminder that School of Social Work tee-shirts and polos are available for purchase. Check with the School of Social Work front office for details.



Dr. Owens-King, current faculty sponsor of Phi Alpha shares the following about Gina: *"Ms. Gina Vides is an excellent student leader. While serving as president of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, she has coordinated, contributed to, and attended multiple community service efforts including the Eastern Shore Mission of Mercy dental clinic. She also represented SUSSW during a recent interview with Ms. Isabel Sanchez of WBOC. Ms. Vides is self-motivated, highly intelligent, and committed to serving our community; these qualities ensure that she will be an excellent social work professional".*

Recognizing her commitment to social work and successes and contributions, congratulations are also due Gina, to celebrate receiving the School of Social Work BASW Student of the Year award.

Gina will continue pursuing social work as an Advanced Standing MSW student, anticipating an 18- month schedule with a field placement at PRMC supporting the partial hospitalization program. Gina made the connection that led to this field placement at the March 26th Psychology/Social Work Networking Night. Look forward to seeing Gina back on campus this Fall!

Other Recognitions and Congratulations

Faculty and Staff

Traci Johnson (Administrative Assistant II). Traci was recognized as Employee of the Month for April 2019. She was nominated by Interim Director of Graduate Field Education, Jennifer Marvin, and Interim Director of Undergraduate Field Education, Brenda Jordan, for her teamwork, dedication and positive attitude. The nomination states, *"The School of Social Work recently implemented a new internship tracking software. Traci Johnson has been instrumental in every way as we learn this new program."* The nomination recognizes Traci's intensive work related to implementation and the initiative she's taken to orient herself and others to it while completing her regular duties. In closing, the nomination states, *"Traci is absolutely our go-to person regarding this program and we would not be where we are today in the implementation process if it wasn't for her hard work."*

Carrie Tingle (Administrative Assistant II). Carrie is joining the School of Social Work faculty and staff team as our new Office Manager. Carrie brings experience and insight about Salisbury University as she is transitioning from SU's University Analysis, Reporting and Assessment office. Welcome aboard!

Students | Current and Alumni

Tinsley Foster (MSW 2019 | BASW 2018) who will be joining the Peace Corps post graduation. Tinsley will first join the Class of 2019 in receiving her MSW as an advanced standing student. Her undergraduate studies involved double majors in Social Work (BASW) and Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution. Tinsley is also concluding a field placement with the BHIPP program at Chesapeake Healthcare.

Tinsley departs for her Peace Corps assignment in September 2019 and will be in eSwatini, Africa for a total of 27 months. She will be working closely with teachers, religious leaders, and coaches to help implement youth programs focused on healthy living skills and HIV/AIDS prevention. eSwatini has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the world. She will also be involved in promoting gender awareness and empowering young girls. Tinsley will be living with a host family and will learn to speak their local language.

After Peace Corps, Tinsley plans to return to the Salisbury area (she's from the Eastern Shore) to work locally for at least a few years.

When asked about to reflect on her academic experience, Tinsley shared *"I have truly loved my experience at Salisbury University. Salisbury University and the School of Social Work has made me feel prepared and ready to take on different adventures and challenges"*.



Danesha Owens-Harrell (MSW 2018 | BASW 2015) who was awarded a Fulbright grant for the upcoming academic year. Dana will be teaching English in the Netherlands. Postscript: Salisbury University is one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright Students for 2018-19 by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Daneshia (pictured center) was recognized at the May 3rd Honors Convocation with **Chrissie Bowie**, MSW Student of the Year (pictured left) and **Gina Vides**, BASW of the Year (pictured right), pictured with **Drs. Venable, Jewell**, and **Anthony**. Congratulations school of Social Work honorees! (May 3).

Nyasha Wills (MSW 2019 | BASW 2018) who was awarded the graduate student's 2019 President's Diversity & Inclusion Award. Nyasha is a Graduate Assistant for LGBTQIA+ in Multicultural Student Services and the LGBTQIA+ liaison with SU's Women's Forum. Thank you for all you do to support diversity and inclusion on and off campus. (April 29).



Congratulations to the School of Social Work's 2019 MSW graduates who completed the program at UMUC Europe, Kaiserslautern, Germany. (May 5).



© Lifetime Visions Photography
Stephen Mathews

And thank you to our trio of student workers who have been at the front door of our offices and supporters of our work for two or more years.

Tayler Ables has worked with the School of Social Work since Fall 2017. She will join the Class of 2019 when she receives her Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. Tayler will be joining the Navy later this year with plans to pursue holistic medicine.

Chloe Jones has also worked with the School of Social Work since Fall 2017. She will be amongst the 2019 graduating class, receiving her BASW. Chloe will continue to be out and about campus and the community post graduation pursuing her MSW, working as a graduate assistant, and having a field placement.

Ashley Marshall has worked with the School of Social Work since Spring 2017. She too will be a member of the Class of 2019, graduating with a degree in Communication Arts. Post graduation, Ashley will be joining the corporate community working for Enterprise.



Some faces from Salisbury & Satellite Campuses helping to recognize Social Work Month.



***Thank you to all for a great Spring.
Congratulations to 2019 Graduates!
Salisbury University School of Social Work***

