



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Spring 2021 Newsletter



While the Fall 2020 semester was not typical, the School of Social Work faculty, staff, and students responded with grace as we learned to navigate during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the unexpected challenges, we had an extraordinary fall semester with the launch of new fellowships, expansion of partnerships, and development of a new minor. We are excited about the prospects of a new year and look forward to continuing to build with you.

Congratulations to our Fall 2020 Graduates

Below you will find a list of our Fall 2020 graduates with their location/option. These students were able to juggle coursework and complete their field placements all during the pandemic, demonstrating their tenacity.

We are immensely proud of the new SU School of Social Work graduates!

BASW Graduates

Haley Armacost (Salisbury)
Eric Michael Bianco (Salisbury)
Jade Monique Eichelberger (USMH)
Hannah Lorainne Fizer (Salisbury)
Elizabeth Lopez (Salisbury)
Dawn Denise Price (Salisbury)
Amanda Lynn Shaughnessy (Cecil)
Aleayah Marcella Waters (Salisbury)
Bethanie Morgan Watkinson (Salisbury)

MSW Graduates

Heather Lynn Adkins (Salisbury)
Suzanne Jaye Aldridge (Salisbury)
Jocelyn Crystal Arbeene (USMH)
Sarah Ayers (USMSM)
Danielle Baker (Salisbury)
Hannah Marie Barber (USMH)
Leah Patricia Baroch (Cecil)

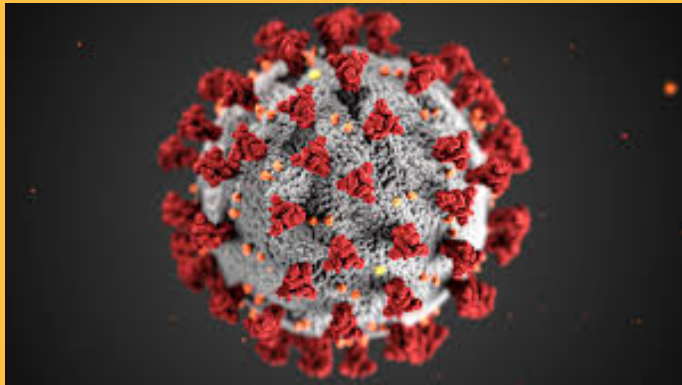
MSW Graduates (con't)

LaNell Janice Glover (Salisbury)
Bethany Morgan Goldsmith (Online)
Karin Allison Hahn (Cecil)
Sarah Jennie Hastings (Online)
Shane Daniel Hinkle (USMH)
Rachel Anne Hobbs (Salisbury)
Lolita Chante Hope (USMSM)
Kimberly Anne Hurlock (ESHEC)
Tiffany Jarvis (USMH)
Destiny Charis Jefferson (Online)
Alexa Jo Jessop (USMH)
Alison Lee Johnson (Cecil)
Elvira Lydia Johnson (Salisbury)
Itavis Johnson (Online)
Jessica Marie Johnson (Online)
Chloe Rachel Renee Jones (Salisbury)
Mallory Brianna Lloyd (Salisbury)
Victoria Elizabeth Miller (Salisbury)

Hannalee Billings (ESHEC)
George Frederick Bowden Jr (Salisbury)
Anthony Lamar Brantley (USMH)
Jessica Erin Buranen (Cecil)
Jason Sean Chrystal (Cecil)
Darnethia Cunningham (Online)
Nicole Amber Dando (Salisbury)
Kristina Dunkin (USMH)
Katherine Elizabeth Dunn (USMH)
Rebecca Gibson (Online)

Sarah Ann Murray (Cecil)
Judith Padilla (USMSM)
Samantha Rivera (ESHEC)
Veronica Rivers (USMSM)
Shamara Nicole Smiley (Online)
Mariah Grace Strock (Online)
Casey Vendetti (USMSM)
Gina Bernice Vides Gonzalez (Salisbury)
Victoria Lee Williams (Salisbury)
Allyson Morgan Wozniak (ESHEC)

Responding to COVID-19...



The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused a world-wide pandemic that has affected multiple factors in an individual's life, including students. The School of Social Work announced in June that all fall courses would be taught remotely with no face-to-face instruction at any of the program options. Given the regional differences of the spread of COVID-19 and the differing public health responses,

providing online education in the fall ensured a consistent approach to help mitigate the varied exposure of students, with many students completing their field placements (16-24 hours a week), holding courses online eliminated the possible risk of attending classes and helped to keep clients a little safer.

While some students were disappointed that courses would not meet in person, students understood their role in helping our clients and communities. Students have learned how to navigate Zoom with ease, use creative backgrounds including the personalized School of Social Work backgrounds, and have actively engaged in the remote courses that are offered both synchronously and asynchronously. The School of Social Work has held many online events, such as the Virtual Townhall and Lunch & Learns, and field trainings, such as telemedicine, via Zoom that have helped keep the students connected.

Dr. Victoria Venable, undergraduate (BASW) program chair, spoke about the changes that the BASW students are currently facing. She states the biggest challenge that she is witnessing from her undergraduate student is the area of field.

"The Undergraduate Field Office has worked very hard to help support students with creating alternative options for engaging in field. In addition, the BASW Program office has encouraged BASW advisors to increase their accessibility so that students could meet more frequently than just for program planning. In addition, mentoring initiatives like NIA (which is primarily focused on BASW students) have met regularly to connect with and support students during this time."- Dr. Venable

Dr. Mary Hylton, graduate (MSW) program chair, also let us in on how social work graduate students are facing our "new normal" this academic year.

"Our graduate students have shown great tenacity as they navigate the challenges associated with the pandemic. In addition to classes and field, many of our graduate students work and/or have significant care giving responsibilities. All of which have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and accompanying closures. I have been so impressed with all that our students are balancing and with their determination. The MSW advisors have stepped up to provide support to students when needed. Additionally, similar to the BASW program, the Field Office has truly responded with innovation, and flexibility to this unique context."- Dr. Hylton

Supporting Workforce Expansion in the Area of Behavioral Health

The Substance Use Disorder Workforce Expansion (SUDWE) Fellowship is an exciting opportunity for MSW students who want to become confident and competent in the treatment of substance use disorders.

Within Maryland, three graduate programs of social work received support from the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration to address the growing need of social workers, who are licensed and skilled to work with individuals seeking substance use disorder (SUD) treatment. The graduate social work programs include: University of Maryland Baltimore, Morgan State University and *Salisbury University*.

Ten Salisbury University MSW students were awarded the SUDWE fellowship for this academic school year, which includes a financial stipend of \$12,000 to reduce tuition cost and educational expenses. Students are required to complete their field placement in a SUD treatment setting and receive additional education and training in evidence-based practices regarding SUD. The students participate in a targeted field seminar with Dr. Ryan Messatzzia, a contingent faculty member, who has significant practice experience working in the area of behavioral health.

"As the opioid crisis in our country deepens, there is an urgent need for master's level social workers to address the growing demand for substance abuse treatment services. The SUDWE grant offers a unique opportunity for our MSW students to enhance their clinical knowledge while also gaining valuable experience in the field. I'm excited to be a guide for these students as they pursue their passion for helping others."- Dr. Messatzzia

Be on the lookout... SSW will be awarding **15 SUDWE fellowships** for the next academic year. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2021. Please contact **Danielle Murphy** for more information.

New Fellowship for Culturally-Responsive Social Work Leaders

The School of Social Work launched a new fellowship, called Comunidad and Umoja Scholar Program (CUSP), in the fall.



COMUNIDAD AND UMOJA
SCHOLARS PROGRAM
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK • SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

CUSP is a leadership development and mentoring fellowship designed to enhance the training of full-time, MSW students who show a propensity for culturally responsive practice and leadership. The purpose of the program is to 1) increase the numbers of culturally responsive social work practitioners and leaders 2) enhance individuals' sense of belonging through the development of relationships within the School of Social

Work as well as in the larger community and 3) increase leadership capabilities to make a difference in communities of color.

Scholars participate in bi-weekly leadership seminars, work with a mentor, and develop and execute a leadership project in their community. Scholars are awarded \$6000 per year and receive specialized training and professional development support. Seven MSW students were selected for the inaugural group of CUSP fellows.

CUSP Scholars 2020-2021

Monica Bonilla
Rashida Joaquin
NelQuisha Pitts
Ana Ramirez-Irineo
Tawanda Torres
Jalissa Worthy
Ashley Xelo

Monica Bonilla, CUSP scholar, states, *"CUSP has empowered me to pursue the type of work I want to do within the social work field. As a first-generation college student, I feel encouraged and supported by my mentor and fellow scholars. I am beyond grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of a program so great, that will help me become the culturally responsive social worker that I strive to be."*

To learn more about CUSP, please contact [Dr. Alessia Owens-King](#).
CUSP applications are due April 1, 2021.

Meet our CUSP Scholars with Dr. Owens-King



Congratulations to the new Phi Alpha Inductees



The Chi Eta Chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society at Salisbury University promotes high academic achievement within the School of Social Work. The Honor Society supports superior educational & ethical standards among our social work students.

Congratulations to these fall inductees...

Melody Bell
Joyce Birch
David Dahl
Keith Daugherty
Kaislie Duffy
Montana Dye
Jaime Engrum
Tengwera Kaunda

Grace Kim
Kristen Lesneski
Ebony Murray
Andrea Sengstock
Emily Snapp
Morgan Stumpf
Jada Tarver
Sarah Whalen

Preparing for Practice

The Maryland Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing state that there are 1.2 million deaf and hard of hearing people in Maryland with a growing population of deaf and hard of hearing people on the Eastern Shore. The beach resorts of Ocean City, Bethany, and Rehoboth are attracting culturally deaf people who are retiring, and the services are not keeping up with accessibility issues. According to Deaf Independent Living Association (DILA) in Salisbury, there is a lack of social workers, medical professionals, American Sign Language interpreters, and other professionals with the skills and knowledge to work with the deaf and hard of hearing community on the Eastern Shore. Seeing a need, the



School of Social Work partnered with the Modern Language and Intercultural Studies Department to create a Deaf Studies Minor.

Dr. Ellen Schaefer-Salins, Assistant Professor and advisor to the new minor, states *"The Deaf Studies Minor was set up because learning the language and culture of people who are deaf and hard of hearing is important to work with this population. People who are deaf feel that they are part of a cultural and linguistic minority more than a disability minority. Deaf culture developed because deaf people have their own language, schools, social clubs, and more. A Deaf Studies Minor introduces students to the language and the culture of the deaf community in order to work in that community in the future."*

Professor Schaefer-Salins gives us a better look at what this new minor entails. *"The Deaf Studies Minor can be combined with any major at the university. It is housed in the School of Social Work so we hope that some social work majors may add the minor. It would also be a good minor for people majoring in nursing, education, psychology, and sociology in particular"*.

The minor in Deaf Studies requires 20 credits, two courses from the School of Social Work and three courses from the Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies Department. The minor requires the following courses: SOWK 351: Deaf Culture/Deaf History, SOWK 454: Multidisciplinary Practice with People who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, ASL 101 Elementary American Sign Language I, ASL 102 Elementary American Sign Language II, and ASL 201 Intermediate American Sign Language.

In addition, there is now an ASL Club on campus and the Center for Equity, Justice, and Inclusion (CEJI) in Blackwell Hall will now have an American Sign Language room where students can practice the language and learn more about the culture.

For more information, contact the Deaf Studies Minor Advisor, [Dr. Ellen Schaefer-Salins](#).

Responding to the racial reckoning in the U.S.

On September 16th and 17th, a 2-day Anti-Racism Virtual Summit was held by **Social Work Helper** and co-hosted by the **SU School of Social Work**. Four hundred of our SU social work students participated, along with another 7000 worldwide.

Over the two days, 16 workshops were held on topics ranging from social work education to the criminal justice system. Below are some of the workshops that SU students highlighted.

- Social Workers in the Movement for Social Justice (Khalilah Collins)
- Dismantling White Supremacy in Social Work (Dr. Jennifer Jewell, our own School of Social Work Director, and Crystal Hayes)
- Racism in Child Welfare (Charity



Aji Sarr, MSW student, reported "this virtual summit was well needed, especially within our practice. How can we build empathy and cultural humility if we are not knowledgeable about racism that goes on around us and in the systems in which social workers practice? This summit was powerful!"

Hillary Agyemang, BASW student, reported that overall the summit was

Chandler-Cole)

- Developing Empathy and Understanding for the Trauma, Grief, and Loss of Families Impacted by Violence (Gwen Carr, Mother of Eric Garner, who was killed by NYPD officer using an illegal chokehold during the arrest).

Overall, the Summit was a success with some calling it "one of the most important events held this semester." Not only did SSW students interact with other current social work students and practitioners around the country, it provided insight into one of the overarching national issues that social workers have the opportunity and ethical obligation to solve.

[Learn more about SWHELPER](#)

informative and the most impactful workshop for her was on Racism within Child Welfare by Charity Chandler-Cole. Hillary stated "It was captivating and heartbreaking at the same time hearing how the system fails most children and youth. It is time to change the narrative surrounding foster children and youth."



Scholarship created in honor of Dr. Marvin Tossey

The School of Social Work is excited to announce the creation of the Dr. Marvin Tossey Scholarship for Social Work in honor of his legacy at SU.

Dr. Tossey has taught thousands of students as a professor during his 40+ years at Salisbury University. Beyond the classroom, his leadership lead the way for the establishment of the graduate social work program and dual degree program with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and helped expand social work education beyond the Salisbury campus to the four satellite options. His innovative spirit and vision for the unit provided the foundation for the powerhouse social work program that exists today.

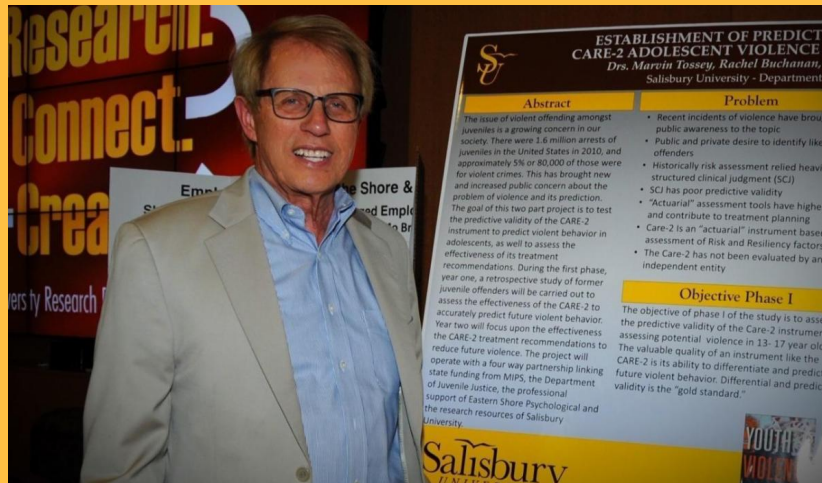
As Dr. Tossey is preparing to retire at the end of this academic year, please consider a gift to this scholarship in his honor. The scholarship will be given to social work students who demonstrate a financial need.

If you had Dr. Tossey as an instructor, you can thank him.

If you graduated from the dual degree option with UMES, you can thank him.

If you graduated with your MSW, you can thank him.

If you graduated from one on the four satellite options, you can thank him.



Thank him today with a donation to the scholarship named in his honor. [DONATE HERE](#)

Social Workers for Racial Justice

Educate, Elevate, Empower



Founded in the Fall Semester of 2019, Social Workers for Racial Justice (SWRJ) is a club led by Salisbury University social work students to educate, elevate, and empower the community in a safe and inclusive space. The mission of the SWRJ is to dismantle systemic racism and white supremacy by facilitating anti-racist conversations that address the reality of race-related stigma.

Linda Zelaya, Co-Chair of the club says *"Through advocating for justice for Black, Indigenous and People of Color, we work towards developing a campus and community that embraces diversity and encourages change. We hope to create an environment for open dialogue where students can express themselves and talk about their experiences regarding race without feeling like they will be criticized or excluded for 'saying the wrong thing.'"* To this end, SWRJ held a well-attended event on how to have courageous conversations around race with family prior to the Thanksgiving break.

The club has been busy in the Fall 2020 semester with hosting monthly meetings focusing on the 2020 election, self-care strategies, how to talk about race and politics, while at the same time developing the organization, which included forming board positions, establishing a mission statement, a purpose statement, core values, and creating a website. Club members voted for the theme of "Dismantling White Supremacy" for the focus of the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Social Workers for Racial Justice Stands UP!

Members of SWRJ join NAACP-SU and ChangeSU as they participate in a Black Out on Salisbury University Campus in the Fall of 2019.

[Click here to learn more about SWRJ and How YOU Can Join!](#)



Support the School of Social Work

Each year, the School of Social Work supports the growth and development of BASW and MSW students through the generous donations of the students, alumni, and friends of the School. With your donations, we have been able to provide scholarships, participate in Campaign School for Social Workers, and support students in conducting research and attending research conferences.

Please consider a *tax-deductible* donation to the School of Social Work. [*Donate HERE!*](#)

Interested in pursuing your MSW...

Our early consideration review on January 15th is fast approaching.

Scholarship. Grants, and Funding opportunities available.

Email [Lindsey Shockley](#) for more information.

(Upcoming consideration dates: January 15th, April 1st, & May 14th)

