Welcome to our Spring/Summer newsletter. As we approach the end of another hectic academic year, we are all looking forward to some “down time” over the summer.

One of the important faculty activities this past fall involved recruiting new faculty for our Regina campus. We were extremely pleased that Professor Lise Milne and Dr. Amanda Gebhard accepted our offers of employment. Lise started her position with us in January 2017. Amanda will begin in July 2017.

The University of Regina will be hosting the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in 2018. Congress, as it is also called, is an annual event which brings together about 70 scholarly associations. Congress usually takes place during the last week of May and into the first week of June. We anticipate this will be one of the largest academic conferences ever hosted in Regina. Each association holds its own annual conference. Our Faculty of Social Work will work with the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) to host our own annual conference and annual general meeting, as part of Congress. We have already convened a working committee and will be reaching out to community partners and students to assist with organizing this event. Our Faculty Champion is Dr. Gabriela Novotna who has also been our CASWE Faculty Representative.

We hosted the Regina Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting in April and were pleased to hear about the different community initiatives and developments. This meeting is one of my favourite meetings because it provides opportunity for us to hear about what is happening within the wider community. We are also able to use these meetings to update members on new policies and initiatives within the Faculty. There are other opportunities to network with our community partners: the Field Instructor Training events, the CAB meetings in Saskatoon, our sessional instructor meetings, and our individual meetings with representatives from community agencies and organizations. We want to thank all of our community partners for their time and ongoing support of students and faculty.

We are hosting the second refugee children and youth summer project (Prairie Beginnings). I want to thank the faculty and staff who have continued to support this project. Particular thanks to: Amanda Noubarian, (Academic Advisor) based at the Regina campus, Line LeRuyet, (Regina Practicum Placement Coordinator), Dr. Miguel Sanchez (Associate Dean), and Dr Daniel Kikulwe (Assistant Professor) for their leadership and steadfast commitment to the project.

Finally, I want to extend congratulations to our most recent long service award recipients: Dr. Garson Hunter, who celebrated 20 years with the Faculty and Ina Kurtz, who celebrated 25 years. Both Garson and Ina have had significant impact on the work of our Faculty and I want to thank them (again and again) for their contributions.

I want to wish everyone a fun, yet relaxing summer. Judy White, Dean

Our Mission

“The social work program of education, research and community service is designed to prepare students for critical generalist social work practice with diverse peoples. Informed by the principles of indigenization, sustainability and social justice, the social work program encourages students to identify the needs of the disadvantaged, marginalized and oppressed. It supports students in developing the commitment, knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills required to confront structural inequalities, and to empower individuals, families, and communities to realize their full potential.”
Reducing Isolation of Older Adults in South and Central Saskatchewan

Dr. Bonnie Jeffery, with the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU) is leading a team of researchers to conduct a collective impact evaluation of several interventions designed to reduce social isolation of older adults in Saskatchewan. The 3-year project received funding of $504,241 through the federal New Horizons for Seniors Program. SPHERU’s project lead is Dr. Bonnie Jeffery (Social Work), who, along with Dr. Tom McIntosh (Politics and Int’l Studies) and Dr. Nuelle Novik (Social Work), form the Evaluation Oversight Committee, working together with evaluator Dr. Chad Nilson of Living Skies Centre for Social Inquiry. The SPHERU team is partnered with Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, Canadian Red Cross Saskatchewan Division, along with the U of R’s Lifelong Learning Centre and the Fédération des Aînés Fransaskois, as each agency delivers interventions aimed at addressing one or more of the project’s objectives in reducing social isolation of older adults.

Collective impact initiatives bring with them an entirely new set of principles of practice and are emerging as an exciting, innovative methodology in collaborative research. Dr. Jeffery and the team are excited to be involved in this leading-edge approach to evaluation, and outputs will include an evaluation framework, logic model, seniors impact survey and evaluation report. The results of the evaluation will be presented at a one-day Policy-Community Summit with policy-makers, health region representatives and older adults from across the province in 2019 to further the discussion on next steps going forward for seniors’ wellbeing in Saskatchewan with a specific focus on reducing social isolation.

Submitted by Dr. Bonnie Jeffery
The 2017 Social Work week was held from March 19 - 25 to recognize the work and services provided by social workers. The theme of this year’s Social Work week was the ‘power to empower’ others. While the theme has different meanings, there is the underlying idea of working with others to achieve the core social work belief of social justice. The University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work joined other social workers to celebrate social work week. The Faculty of social work celebrations were held at both the Regina and Saskatoon campuses. The celebrations at both campuses provided students from the undergraduate and graduate programs an opportunity to showcase their research work.

In Regina, the students’ research showcase was held at the United Way, located at 1440 Scarth Street. Rebecca Rackow (BA hon., BSW candidate), Megan St. Hilaire (MSW Candidate) and Lynn Thera (MSW) presented their research work.

For her research presentation entitled Making a Case for the Systemic Discrimination of the Mental Health System in Saskatchewan, Rebecca Rackow talked about the “systemic discrimination” and how it was manifesting itself within the mental health system in terms of lack of follow through and inaction by governments to implement programs to help improve people’s mental health. In collaboration with the Canadian Mental Health Association, Saskatchewan Division, Inc, Rebecca noted how their research had been used to bring a legal case to the Human Rights Commission as a way to advocate for improved mental health services.

Megan St. Hilaire’s presentation was titled Wellness Blankets: Effects of Textile based Art on those with (dis)abilities. Megan’s qualitative research work focused on the effects of participation in a textile based art group for those who self-identify as (dis)abled. The overall objective of Megan’s research work was to demonstrate the benefits of applying textile based art as an alternative social work intervention when serving clients, particularly those with disabilities.

Lynn Thera’s presentation focused on women and complex trauma. Lynn noted that women, especially those who experience domestic violence, are challenged by issues and concerns of isolation, loneliness and lack of supports and/or information on trauma. Through her work, Lynn had developed a guidebook, which agencies can use when facilitating groups to support women experiencing complex trauma.

In Saskatoon, Research Day was held at Station 20 West and was co-sponsored with the Saskatoon Health Region and the SASW. Over 40 people attended, and there were five presentations over the course of the afternoon. Attendees also raised $140, which was donated to the Mother’s Centre at Station 20 West.
Chelsey Bradshaw (MSW Candidate) presented on her ongoing MSW research and discussed the experiences of gentrification in the community of Riversdale. Chelsey used an instrumental case study methodology to gather the stories from seven participants. From the data, four categories emerged: the importance of community resources, the distinct separation within the community, the fact that a neighbourhood of pawn shops and boarded up windows does not equal a healthy community, and questions around what accessible really means.

Andrew Field, MSW, BSW, BA, presented his MSW thesis entitled, “We Love Them with All Our Heart: The Lived Experience of Fostering a Child with ADHD Where the Placement Breaks Down”. He discussed the themes that emerged in his interpretative phenomenological analysis with five foster families. His study found that an average of eight years after the foster care breakdowns occurred, the participants were all having regular, positive, supportive contact with every child.

Shelly Glum, BSW, and Kristen Dunn presented on community-based research on women and the criminalization of HIV and the WATCH study. The WATCH study is an ongoing qualitative, art-based approach that is grounded in community-based research and a social determinants of women’s health framework. The study aims to examine how the treatment of alleged non-disclosure of HIV under the criminal justice system is understood and experienced by women living with HIV, including the impact it has on their identities as women living with HIV and their interactions with legal, health and social service professionals.

Jennifer Clarke, MSW, shared her MSW research entitled “Indigenous Professionals’ Experience of Interprofessional Collaboration in Health Settings”. Jennifer discussed the phenomenological study she conducted with five Indigenous professionals working in multidisciplinary practice. Her results highlighted Indigenous ways of knowing, multiple meanings of the term professional, dynamics of power and status, relationships required for collaboration, policy and program factors impacting collaboration, and suggestions offered by participants to create a way forward.

Jennifer King, BSW, RSW, closed the afternoon presenting on her research in the health research on knowledge of pain assessment and treatment among social workers in the Canadian Hemophilia Society. Over the past 2 years the Saskatchewan Bleeding Disorders Program (SBDP) has been developing a tool to assess and communicate about pain. One of the Four P’s of Pain Management is psychosocial and the question became “what do social workers know about assessing and treating pain?” Jennifer and her team are collecting data from the Canadian Social Workers of Hemophilia Care to examine this question and to develop resources and teaching strategies to meet the need of our patient group.

Witnessing and hearing the students’ presentations was a confirmation of how they are using research not only to build knowledge but also transforming it into different areas of practice and policy. The presentations were an affirmation of some of the work that social workers are doing to attain social justice and a reminder of the importance of research as a way to assist vulnerable groups to achieve better social outcomes.

We would like to thank United Way, Family Service Regina, the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, Saskatoon Health Region and the University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work for their support that helped to make the research day events at Regina and Saskatoon a success.

Submitted by Daniel Kikulwe
On April 7th, 2017, the Saskatoon Campus field team piloted a practicum launch ceremony for students entering SW 348 in fall 2017. Students attended a series of practicum preparation workshops before the ceremony. These workshops included topics such as: resume and cover letter writing, interviewing skills, ethics, theory, professional practice, and also included a student panel and a presentation from the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers. After these workshops students were invited to bring their loved ones to the inaugural practicum launch and pinning ceremony. Over 40 students attended with an additional 100 guests. Attendees were greeted by Dean Dr. Judy White, and representatives from the SASW. Students read a commitment to ethical practice, and received pins which were presented by Saskatoon faculty members. The artist in residence field practicum had an incredible art display, and it was a wonderful evening of celebrating the students’ transition into social work practice. The field team hopes to pilot this event in Regina in fall 2017.

Submitted by Kara Fletcher
In-the-Margins, a Michelle Sereda Artist-in-Residence Project by Viola Nasuuna, Mikaela Musqua, Alyssia Disiewich and Aaron Cruz

The mini practicum is an opportunity for social work students to experience a day in the life of a social worker, usually in an agency. A unique mini practicum opportunity was presented in the winter 2017: the Michelle Sereda Artist-In-Residence Project Practicum, a first for the Faculty of Social Work. Immediately our interest was garnered and previous practicum choices forgotten.

In July 2016, Katherine Bird, a mental health therapist in private practice as well as an artist with a home studio in Prince Albert teamed up with Randy Johner, a social work professor at the University of Regina and the Faculty Lead for this initiative. The project had one goal: to build connection and compassion between marginalized individuals, social work students, staff and public. The University of Regina responded to their request for student participation and learning by creating this practicum and extending it to four successful applicants: Aaron Cruz and Alyssia Disiewich (Saskatoon campus), Mikaela Musqua, and Viola Nasuuna (Regina campus).

Students were to actively search for participants within their community, listen to their stories and, with informed consent, have their pictures taken. The pictures and stories of participants were then developed into art pieces to be displayed in the art exhibits around the province. Given the distance between all of us, we mainly communicated through Facebook, email, text messages, phone calls, a face-to-face meeting in Saskatoon, a video conference call in between Regina and Saskatoon, as well as meetings with Randy at both campuses.

This unique project for the Faculty of Social Work along with its practicum student assistance offered everyone involved a taste of how Social Work can have diverse applications, particularly in tandem with creative arts.

“The Faculty of Social Work Artist in Residence project is, for me, a perfect blend of my two careers (Social Worker and Artist), along with my passion for sharing the struggles and strengths of people who may otherwise remain unnoticed. It was my great pleasure to work with the four practicum students whose efforts and learning made the project a success.” - Katherine

“I was able to utilize social work skills and blend them within the art world. It has changed my perspective on the diverse ways social work practices can be implemented.” - Mikaela

“I have seen myself develop my individual style as a future social worker, gain more confidence in interviewing while at the same time listening to people’s stories and realizing how restrictive society can be.” - Viola

“I was able to see the strength of using art as the first step of creating dialogue, compassion, and empathy between community members. Resilience, strength, and courage are some of the most prominent characteristics I witnessed when hearing people’s stories.” - Alyssia
“I have learned a lot about culture, community, communication, marginalization, and project development. This practicum has helped me refine my interviewing skills and my model of practice.” -Aaron

As a jumpstart to showing our project, the Saskatoon practicum students organized a pre-show of the pieces during the Social Work pin pledge event at the Saskatoon campus. On May 15th 2017 one of the three planned shows will be hosted at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon. The show will be displayed at various public galleries in the province over the next three years. Please refer to our Facebook page for future events; In the Margins: a U of R faculty of Social Work Artist in Residence Project and the project website https://inthemargins1.wixsite.com/inthemargins

Submitted by Katherine Bird

Practicum - Settlement Program for Children & Families

The Faculty of Social Work delivered a refugee settlement program as a pilot in 2016, and we are pleased to be offering it again this year! As an expression of solidarity and a means of addressing identified gaps in service provision, this program seeks to provide Regina’s recently-arrived refugee community with a safe space to ease the stress of resettlement. For more program information please refer to http://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/RefugeeSettlementProgram/index.html.

This year the program runs on Saturdays from June 3 to August 18 (except during long weekends). We are still looking for volunteers to assist with various aspects of program implementation. Related experience is not required! A definite asset would be the ability to speak Arabic, but this is not required. Vulnerable Sector checks (free of charge for volunteers in Canada) are necessary.

If interested in volunteering or have any questions please e-mail: Prairie.Beginnings@uregina.ca

Who Am I?

1) You may have found me under various mascot costumes around the city.
2) My Driver’s Ed instructor caught me speeding during my very first lesson.
3) For four years I could watch free movies at any theatre in the city.
4) I once played in a band called “Purple Crayon”.

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9
Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2018

From May 26th till June 1st, 2018, the University of Regina is hosting one of the largest academic gatherings in Canada - the 87th annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Congress brings together academics, researchers, students, policy makers and practitioners from over 70 scholarly associations that have their annual conferences during the Congress. The theme of the Congress 2018 is Gathering diversities/ Diversités convergentes/ mâmawinítotân nanâtkísohk-ayisiyiniwak. At the Faculty of Social Work, we are excited to host an annual conference of the Canadian Association for Social Work Education/ Association Canadienne pour la Formation en Travail Social [CASWE-ACFTS] that will take place May 28th – May 31st, 2018. The FSW wants the conference to be the opportunity to convene participants from across Canada and abroad for conference presentations, workshops, panels, public presentations but also events that will showcase our strengths and lessons learned in community engagement. If you or your agency would like to contribute to the organization of this event or share your ideas please contact the Chair of the CASWE-ACFTS Conference 2018 Planning Committee at the Faculty of Social Work:

Gabriela Novotna, PhD
Gabriela.Novotna@uregina.ca
Phone: 306-585-4237
Dr. Margi Hollingshead has touched many lives during her career in the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina. She served in term and sessional positions from 2003 to 2017. Margi taught 67 courses to almost 2,500 students, in at least 28 Saskatchewan communities. She has made a difference! The impact she made through her excellence in teaching, and dedication to service, will be felt by many for years to come. Margi’s students, friends and colleagues in the Faculty of Social Work are going to miss her. We wish her all the best in her retirement and the next chapters of her life!

Who Am I Answers

1) Thy-Thy Quach—I have been a Wildcat during games for school, a Polar Bear for the student office for the federal government (walking and waving down Broad Street), and Reggie the U of R Cougar for career fairs. Not great for my claustrophobia and the smells inside the mascots aren’t great either.

2) Merle Tuplin—When I had just turned 16, I had my first driver’s ed lesson. The instructor picked me up at my high school in Moose Jaw and asked me to drive. I said sure! After I had been driving around the city for a while, the instructor stepped on the brake that he had on his side of the car. He said “you were speeding!” Then he said - farm kid right? Haha!

3) Amanda Noubarian—I worked at Famous Players in Cornwall Centre for four years. I could bring a guest to see a free movie in any theatre, and I could have a free drink and popcorn as well! I could also go into auditoriums on my break to eat popcorn and watch movies! Second best job ever! :)

4) Kara Fletcher—I was a cellist/trombonist in a folk rock band in undergrad.
The University of Regina held its Long Service Awards on Wed. April 5, 2017. From the Faculty of Social Work, Dr. Garson Hunter celebrated 20 years of service and Ina Kurtz 25 years.

Dr. Joan Sanderson, Associate Professor in the School of Indigenous Social Work (SISW) at the First Nations University of Canada, will be retiring on June 30, 2017, after over 27 years of service to that institution. My colleagues and I at the Faculty of Social Work (FSW), University of Regina, want to express thanks to Joan for her many contributions to the development of social work education in the province of Saskatchewan. Joan sat on our undergraduate and graduate studies committees and has been a key player in helping to bridge and build relationships between our two units (SISW and FSW). In her capacity as SISW representative on our committees, she continued to lead discussions about the uniqueness of the SISW program, and certainly educated many colleagues (including many of us) about Indigenization long before others had taken up the mantra. She was also one of the individuals who played a leadership role in ensuring the sustainability of the School of Indigenous Social Work program, and particularly the Master of Indigenous Social Work program. We’ll miss Joan and wish her all the best for a fun, exciting next chapter in her life journey.
Faculty Term Positions

Lise Milne is completing her Ph.D. at McGill University. Informed by trauma, developmental and attachment theories, her doctoral research examines the maltreatment experiences and trauma-related symptoms of youth involved with child protection services, to develop profiles and illustrate their trajectories as they move through the system. Since 2008 Lise has engaged in various research projects on topics such as trauma among children and youth in out-of-home care, sexual abuse, knowledge mobilization, and program evaluation, many of which were supported by SSHRC grants (Evidence-based Management in Child Welfare; Building Research Capacity for First Nations and Mainstream Child Welfare). Since 2011, she has taught seven courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in areas of youth justice interventions (McGill University), quantitative research methods (Concordia University), and integrating theory and practice (McGill University; University of Regina). Prior to her graduate studies, Lise worked for over 13 years in both Manitoba and Quebec as a child protection worker, supervisor and trainer. Lise was hired as a faculty member and Field Education Coordinator at our Regina Campus January 1, 2017.

Amanda Gebhard completed her PhD in Education at the University of Toronto in 2015. Her dissertation explored how taken for granted discourses about teaching Indigenous students cited by teachers (re) produce colonial subjectivities that lead to schooling exclusions. Her research and teaching interests include feminist poststructuralism, anti-oppressive practice, anti-racism, and critical multiculturalism, especially in relation to working with children and youth. She has taught courses in Education at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, and she has worked as a teacher at the elementary level since 2003. Amanda’s brilliant students have been the inspiration for her academic work and her interest in social justice. She will begin her work at the Regina Campus on July 1, 2017.
How can we serve you?

The Faculty of Social Work is striving to find opportunities to serve our community and partners better. If you have ideas or suggestions to help us, please forward them to the Dean's Office by emailing Ina.Kurtz@uregina.ca

For more information on the Faculty of Social Work, please visit us at:

www.uregina.ca/socialwork/

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Staff Changes

Thy-Thy Quach started at the University of Regina through Luther College as a student and has since worked as a recruiter, manager of recruitment and admissions, registration clerk, and academic advisor on campus. Thy-Thy recently accepted the position as the MSW Program Advisor in the Faculty of Social Work and is currently working towards her masters degree.

Dennis Moldon joined us in June 2016 as a Technology Facilitator to the Faculty of Social Work and Faculty of Nursing at the Saskatoon Campus. In December of 2016, he moved into a permanent role with the Faculty of Social Work.

Wendy Roddy, Administrative Assistant (Student Services), has accepted a promotion with the Faculty of Nursing, University of Regina. We were extremely fortunate to have had Wendy join our team and appreciated her many contributions to the Faculty of Social Work. We want to wish Wendy all the very best in her new position.