Welcome to our Faculty Newsletter! We have been talking among ourselves and noting how busy we all are, individually and collectively. Yet we don’t always know about the work that our own colleagues are doing. We have also been thinking that lots of folks outside of the Faculty of Social Work are not aware of the activities within our Faculty. So this newsletter is intended as a forum to communicate internally and externally about some of this work. Each issue will highlight the work of individual faculty and staff, as well as work in which various teams are engaged. This will include highlights in terms of curriculum changes, new and emerging projects, and research.

I want to extend special thanks to Ina Kurtz, Administrative Assistant in the Dean’s Office, who has very generously agreed to be the lead in coordinating the development of our newsletter. And thanks to all colleagues who offered guidance, ideas, and who have stepped forward with articles and photos. Please don’t hesitate to contact Ina with suggestions and ideas for improving the newsletter.

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 social justice, the social work program encourages students to identify the needs of the disadvantaged, marginalized and oppressed; to develop the commitment, knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills required to confront structural inequalities; to address personal issues; and to empower individuals, families, and communities to realize their full potential.”

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
I had the pleasure and privilege of being invited, as a visiting scholar, to travel to IPB (a small private university with approximately 2000 students) with the intent to establish collegial ties with IPB social work faculty members. Special thanks must go to Prof. Dr. NYOMBAYIRE Faustin, Rector of Institute Polytechnique de Byumba (IPB), who graciously invited me to IPB, generously ensured that all of my accommodation needs were managed, and magnanimously facilitated the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IPB and University of Regina.

My time (April 22-May 3) at IPB was filled with many activities, wonderful conversations, the establishment of multiple collegial relationships, visits to a local hospital, and the SOS International Children’s Village, as well as a day’s sight-seeing excursion in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda (a 45 minute drive from Byumba).

During my short time at IPB, there were several experiences that were key learning opportunities for me: first, teaching in MUKAYISENGA, Généreuse’s social work class, second, conducting several seminars (developing on-line classes and publishing academic papers) with all IPB faculty, and third, reviewing the social work and anthropology curriculum with the social work department members and Father (Dr.) Lucien (department head). In addition, Justine MBABAZI, Vice Rector, graciously invited me to accompany her to the Memorial Ceremony for the Genocide of 1994; this was an emotionally moving experience for me. I felt humbled to be able to participate as an honoured guest at this ceremony. It is my hope that in the Spring (2016), I will be able to return to IPB with a social work colleague, Dr. Halabuza, and a small group of our social work students.
Research

Building Capacity in Research on Addiction and Problem Gambling - submitted by Dr. Gabriela Novotna

As one of the newest members of the Faculty of Social Work, I am committed to developing my research program in addiction and problem gambling. I also want to give my work international exposure, and learn how partnering universities engage students in scholarship that brings positive impact to their communities. My recent visit to Hong Kong provided me with the opportunities to get closer to achieving these goals.

I presented the findings of my research about the delivery of problem gambling treatment in Ontario at the 4th Asian Pacific Problem and Addiction Conference: Neurological and Psychological Aspects of Gambling Disorder and Addiction (May 8-10, 2015). Specifically, I used the concepts of institutional theory to discuss how organizations engage in different types of organizational behavior when responding to external demands for adopting change.

Very important to my visit was to continue collaborating with Hong Kong-based scholars in problem gambling research. Specifically, I am interested in the work of Dr. Simon CHAN Mak Tau from the Department of Social Work at Hong Kong Baptist University. His research in Hong Kong and Macau on problem gambling treatment-seeking behaviors will inform my research in Saskatchewan. Unlike in Canada, the field of knowledge translation and implementation science is fairly new in Hong Kong. Therefore, I see the potential for my research in assisting Hong Kong collaborators to define what knowledge translation means within their context.

In addition, to the research-related activities, I visited the Lingnan University Service-Learning Centre in Hong Kong, that is dedicated to providing courses that combine academic learning with meaningful service to the community. The Centre offers courses in direct practice with a focus on advocacy related to a variety of social problems and social issues. Some of the topics that are relevant to students in our undergraduate SW program are in the area of working with the elderly population (e.g. producing their life story narrative, education about healthy lifestyles/crime prevention), working with youth and supporting newcomers and migration workers. Since the University of Regina and Lingnan University are partnering universities, our undergraduate students can benefit from these interesting learning opportunities.
Dr. Daniel Kikulwe, Assistant Professor, has published an article in “SocialDialogue” a free magazine of the International Association of Schools of Social Work, August 2015, 11th edition.

Abstract:
Undocumented children (i.e. without immigration status) who have migrated to Canada have experienced multiple hardships including trauma, poverty, war, sexual exploitation, etc. For those in state care in Canada, these challenges present themselves in rather different ways when they age out of foster care. They are faced with the lack of access to higher education, health care and employment opportunities, as well as an inability to travel abroad. This article explores who is protecting such undocumented children and calls for continued social work attention to the policy gaps that increases the vulnerability of these children when they leave state care.

To view the complete publication go to:
Innovative Teaching

Social Work Students Experience unique Learning Opportunity in Aging Class
- submitted by Dr. Nuelle Novik

In spring 2015, I taught SW416 (Aging) at Parkland College with 17 students from Yorkton area and Regina. As a graded component of this course, students were required to attend and participate in one of two community workshops. These workshops were knowledge translation events that resulted from a research project that I had been conducting in Sunrise Health Region (Yorkton and area) during 2014/2015. This pilot research project, entitled Exploring emotional and mental healthcare supports for seniors in rural Saskatchewan, sought to identify the mental healthcare needs of community-dwelling seniors living in rural Saskatchewan, and examined the factors that contribute to, or hinder, their emotional well-being. During this study, 27 rural older adults between the ages of 65 – 91 years were interviewed on two separate occasions; and four community focus groups were facilitated with those who work and volunteer with older adults. A total of 36 individuals participated in the focus groups held in Ituna, Melville, Preeceville and Norquay.

It is important to provide results that can benefit communities and individuals who participated in the research. Therefore, community workshops were held in Preeceville with 70 attending and in Ituna with 40 attending. As a requirement of SW416, students were involved in all aspects of delivery of these workshops. They organized and facilitated registration; assisted in set-up and clean-up for coffee and lunch at workshops; plus focused their attention on the older adults who attended the workshops as participants. Students were required to facilitate world cafe small table discussion groups. They had been trained in the world cafe method during class, and they played a vital role in both validating the original data with participants, and gathering additional data as a result of these small table discussions. Students described the opportunity to participate in the community workshops as essential to their own learning. For many this was their first opportunity to really practice what they had been learning in the classroom.

Funding for the pilot research study was provided by CMHA (SK Division), and from SHRF via an existing SPHERU research project (Dr. Bonnie Jeffery). Additional funding for the two community workshops was provided by the Office of the President and the Social Work Dean’s Office at the University of Regina.
Social Work Students are always incredibly eager to complete their practicum moving a step closer to their chosen profession. Social Work Practicum I & II comprise a third of required social work credits; totaling over 750 hours! Social Work students who have completed their practicums say, “...I found my practicum very rewarding for the opportunity to grow...” “I'm very excited for my future in Social work” “...my placement exceeded my expectations...” “The last 4 months have taught me so much and have given me a bright start to my future...” “Although I am exhausted from learning so much at my placement, I am very excited to start my new career...”

In the fall 2015, provincially, 101 students will be completing Practicum I and 59 students will be completing Practicum II. Many practicum placements are in Regina and Saskatoon. However, placements are across our great province; Buffalo Narrows, Humboldt, North Battleford, Yorkton, Swift Current, Fort Qu’Appelle, Weyburn and Estevan. Practicum II students can complete their practicum placements out of province or out of country. In the upcoming semester, placements are in British Columbia as well as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, Glenrose Hospital (Edmonton), Child & Family All Nations Coordinated Response Network (Winnipeg). In addition, there are two out of country placements; Liverpool, England at Adelaide House (a women’s shelter) and Dublin, Ireland (addictions agency).

We are ever appreciative of our long standing relationship with the many agencies that offer practicums to our students, semester after semester. We also are pursuing new and unusual opportunities for social work involvement and influence. You may be aware of the amazing success of the social worker at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon! Last winter, students had placements at a Casino, with a City Council Member and worked in partnership with other disciplines. We are excited about our recent practicum placement recruits: The Saskatchewan Foster Parent Association, Habitat for Humanity, YWCA Homeless Advocacy Project and the Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies.

The University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work adheres to The Canadian Association of Social Work Education (CASWE) accreditation standards. One of the standards is that students receive consultation from an individual with BSW, BISW or MSW credentials. Many remarkable human service agencies do not have staff with this social work education. We want to continue to match students in these incredible placements and are working on strategies to meet this standard.

On September 2, 2015, Fall practicums begin... simultaneously the practicum team will be working on Winter 2016 placements. The Practicum Team (see above) invite your comments and questions!

Submitted by: Penny Luciw, Placement Coordinator, Saskatoon Campus

As an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina, I was invited in 2010 to collaborate with colleagues (mostly Aboriginal) at 4 Western Canadian universities on a SSHRC funded research project. This 4 year project aimed to explore the extent to which Indigenous and non-Aboriginal faculty are integrating Indigenous Knowledges into their teaching. As the teachers of pre-service teachers and social workers, faculty are often the initial exemplars who model professional practice; however, if we/they are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with particular content areas, what messages might that send to our students.

In February 2015, the Indigenous Presence final report was released. This report clearly demonstrates how a scholarly research project can become infused with Indigenous voice and ways of knowing/being. Throughout all phases of this qualitative inquiry Indigenous ways of knowing were adhered to, and the final report is a solid example of how principles of Indigenous methodologies, voices and knowledges may be represented in scholarship. This report has been welcomed by faculty colleagues, senior administrators and graduate students across the social sciences, not just for the rich content and poignant recommendations on offer, but also as a tangible example of an applied Indigenous methodological approach in action.

Overall, the Indigenous Presence report offers numerous important considerations regarding the past, present and future of Indigenous presence within academic departments and across the campuses of Canadian universities. The 98 page report may be downloaded or shared with others at:

http://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/faculty-staff/FacultySites/MontgomeryMontySite/Indigenous%20Presence.pdf

Photo above: researchers
back row: Carmen Gilles (PhD student), Dr. M. J. Barrett and Dr. Margaret Kovach
front row: Dr. Jeannine Carriere and Dr. H. Monty Montgomery

An electronic copy of the Executive Summary of the report may be obtained by emailing: H.Monty.Montgomery@uregina.ca or any other member of the research team (Dr. Margaret Kovach, Dr. Jeannine Carriere, Dr. M.J. Barrett)
Social Work Staff Highlight

Submitted by: Rachel Clare, Academic Program Advisor, Saskatoon Campus

I am delighted at the opportunity to become an Academic Program Advisor for the BSW and MSW Programs in the Faculty of Social Work. I have particularly enjoyed the MSW advising piece, and I believe that the addition of an MSW advisor is a timely asset to the program. Students have expressed gratefulness for this resource and are utilizing the services regularly. I enjoy being an ambassador for both the University of Regina and the field of social work, and advising allows me the opportunity to share some of the resilience enhancing tools I developed through my own MSW Research Practicum. In addition to assisting student in successfully navigating through the programs and showcasing the diverse options available in the field, I enjoy challenging the stereotype of the bitter, jaded social worker by modeling to students that seasoned social workers can still maintain hope, empathy, and an enthusiasm for the field. As a program alumni I am glad to offer an ‘insider’s perspective’ to help BSW and MSW students make their schooling a positive, career boosting experience.

Aurora College

Aurora College Graduation
May 2, 2015

Seven students graduated with a Certificate in Social Work.

photo on left: Amanda Noubarian (Program Advisor, Regina) and Judy White (Dean of SW)

photo on right: Sandy Little (Senior Instructor, Aurora College), Amanda Noubarian (Program Advisor, Regina) and Judy White (Dean of SW)

Yukon College

Yukon College Graduation
May 15, 2015

Eight students graduated with a four year Bachelor of Social Work degree.

photo on left: Judy White (Dean of SW) and Janice Wiens (Instructor/Coordinator, BSW program, Yukon College)
Between October 1-3, 2014, the University of Regina Faculty of Social Work hosted the 7th biennial Prairie Child Welfare Consortium Symposium at TCU Place in Saskatoon. The PCWC Symposium 2014 generated numerous opportunities for child welfare stakeholders from across Saskatchewan, the Prairies and Nationally to engage with each other to forge partnerships in support of improving child welfare practice and research. The Organizing Committee aimed to enhance capacities to build effective networks and collaborate across disciplines and jurisdictional boundaries.

Over 250 registrants attended more than 60 scholarly sessions, networking events (e.g. Book launch, Indigenous Scholars day) and keynote talks. Eighty presenters from the governmental, academic, non-profit and First Nations sectors engaged audiences in discussions ranging across a broad range of child welfare-related topics.

74% of Symposium registrants were from Saskatchewan with others coming from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Northwest Territories and the USA.

Numerous undergraduate and graduate students assisted with Symposium activities. A core group of University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada and University of Saskatchewan students volunteered to assist in a variety of capacities, including moderating and timekeeping sessions, introducing speakers, facilitating on-site registrations, greeting guests, and numerous other administrative and communications-related duties (e.g., Face book updates, Twitter comments). All student volunteers were able to attend the full event at no cost, thanks to Symposium 2014 fundraising and registration fees collected.

Funding for the PCWC Symposium 2014 was generously provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), the University of Regina President’s Conference Fund, the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the Alberta Centre for Research on Children and Families.

University of Regina Social Work is a founding member of the Prairie Child Welfare Consortium.
Community Engagement

The Faculty of Social Work, the Regina Chapter of Amnesty International, the Regina Chilean Canadian Association and the UR Students’ Union sponsored a press conference and a public meeting on January 23, 2015, in which Lukas Avendano spoke about the missing students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico.

On March 11, 2015 the Faculty of Social Work, the Regina Chapter of Amnesty International, the Regina Chilean Canadian Association hosted two public talks on the global struggle against torture by Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada.

Magia Chilena a dance group from the University of La Frontera-Chile under the auspices of the International Office and of the Faculty of Social Work had two performances at the University of Regina on Monday, June 3, 2015.

On July 14, 2015, Patricia Goodwill Littlechild, the President of Maskwacis Cultural College, Dr. Lynn Wells, Vice-President Academic First Nations University of Canada, and Miguel Sanchez, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Work met to discuss an agreement between the First Nations University and the Maskwacis Cultural College to deliver the Bachelor of Indian Social Work (BISW) program at Maskwacis.

Mauricio Pavez- Director of the Department of Extension and Continuing Education of the University of La Frontera, Temuco-Chile, visited the Faculty of Social Work on June 4, 2015.

Photo above:  Mauricio Pavez, (see below), Miguel Sanchez (Associate Dean of SW), Judy White (Dean of SW)

Photo above:  Lynn Wells, Patricia Good and Miguel Sanchez

Photo above: Magia Chilena dance group

Photo above: Miguel Sanchez (Associate Dean of SW) and Miguel Leiva (Magia Chilena dance director)
Dr. Petra Kuppers is a disability culture activist, a community performance artist, and Professor of English, Women’s Studies, Art and Design and Theatre at the University of Michigan. Her books include Disability and Contemporary Performance: Bodies on Edge (Routledge, 2003), The Scar of Visibility: Medical Performance and Contemporary Art (Minnesota, 2007), Community Performance: An Introduction (Routledge, 2007) and Disability Culture and Community Performance: Find a Strange and Twisted Shape (Palgrave, 2011). She leads The Olimpias, a performance research collective (www.olimpias.org). Her forthcoming book, Studying Disability Arts and Culture: An Introduction (Palgrave), looks at arts-based classroom pedagogies.

Dr. Petra Kuppers presented an interactive workshop on Sept. 18, 2014 at the University of Regina that focused on mixed abilities and diverse forms of cultural expression using the water as a medium to social work, education, and arts & sciences students, as well as interested faculty, staff, and community members. At the last minute she was unable to travel, due to unforeseen passport issues. She co-presented via video conference, from the University of Michigan, with her long-time friend, Neil Marcus, a poet and disability activist who currently lives in California. The day’s activities also included diverse forms of music, poetry, song, and dance at the First Nations University and a water event and luncheon at Wascana Rehab Centre. The Faculty of Social Work was the major sponsor of this event; Dr. Randy Johner and her committee of faculty and community artists organized the event.

Submitted by: Dr. Randy Johner

Dr. Kuppers will be a guest speaker at the Performing Turtle Island Conference being held at the First Nations University of Canada on September 18 and 19, 2015. She will also be a guest speaker at the Social Work 860 graduate class, ‘Empowerment, Disability & Social Work’, on September 19th. The Faculty of Social Work is a sponsor of this conference.