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 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.”
Welcome to the first FSW newsletter for 2020! I am very excited to work with all the students, staff, faculty and social work community as I begin my term as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you in the virtual student town halls but hope that once the operations of the university return to normal, I will have the opportunity to meet many of you in person.

As way of introduction, prior to moving to Regina, I was the Associate Dean - Undergraduate Program at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba. I completed my PhD at the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba where I focused on the how organizations respond to issues of racism.

My current research program is focused on addressing and evaluating how we reconcile the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, both on campus and in the community through the powerful process of intergroup dialogue. I also am involved in several research projects focused on child welfare based on my extensive practice experience in this area. Prior to my academic career, I worked for over 25 years in both the education and social work fields. My practice work experience included developing postsecondary educational programs for Indigenous communities, diversity training for child welfare professionals, quality assurance for child welfare agencies, counseling women who were victims of domestic violence, and child protection.

One of the most exciting things that has occurred at the beginning of this year was our accreditation body (Canadian Association of Social Work Education) granted the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina re-accreditation for an eight year period with no conditions for both the Bachelor and Master of Social Work programs! This achievement is a testament to the hard work of staff and faculty in the past few years in providing quality social work education to students.

Since beginning at the Faculty, it has been a challenging time with the onset of the CoVID-19 pandemic in early March. I must say that I have been impressed with both the students and instructors on the transition to remote teaching and learning in the final weeks of the winter term. I am proud to be able to report to other faculties at the University of Regina how few issues arose in our faculty during this unprecedented event. I am confident that we will all work through remote teaching in the upcoming Spring/Summer term. It now appears that we will continue with remote teaching in the Fall 2020 term. Over the summer months, the Faculty will be working to refine our courses for continued remote teaching and also develop innovative field placements for students entering the practicum part of their program.

In August, the Faculty of Social Work will develop our 2020-2025 strategic plan based on the University of Regina Strategic Plan entitled All My Relations, Kahk-kiyaw ni wahko makanak set to be released shortly. Stay tuned as once complete the Faculty of Social Work strategic plan will be posted on our website.
Dr. Cathy Rocke joined the Faculty in January 2020 as the new Dean of Social Work. She came from the University of Manitoba where she was the Associate Dean—Undergraduate Program in the Faculty of Social Work. Cathy believes winters in Saskatchewan will be a breeze after moving here from Winterpeg!

Donalda Kozlowski joined the Faculty as the Assistant to the Dean’s Office in September 2019. After spending 8 years in the Faculty of Nursing, Donalda has appreciated the opportunities and warm welcome the Faculty of Social Work has given her.

Renée Hiebert joined the Faculty as an Administrative Assistant in our Saskatoon Campus in November 2019. She is extremely happy to be part of such an amazing and supportive team. Coming from her previous position in a funeral home, she welcomes the liveliness this position brings!

Amy Kasner joined the Faculty as the Practicum Placement Coordinator at the Saskatoon Campus in November 2019 and is so happy to be part of this team. She moved from Montreal and is excited to live in a new city for the first time!

Dr. Kara Fletcher took over as the Director of the Social Policy Research Centre in January 2020. Dr. Bonnie Jeffery’s term as Director ended at the end of 2019. Kara is looking forward to leading the SPRC and supporting our Research Associates.

Courtney Stange joined the Faculty as the Research Administrator for the Social Policy Research Centre in October 2019 and is glad to be part of such a welcoming team. She moved from Calgary to Regina and is excited to be within walking distance to a grocery store!
Celebrating Dr. Judy White

In December 2019, Dr. Judy White retired from the Faculty of Social Work. Judy worked with the Faculty of Social Work for 20 years. For nearly seven years, Judy served as Dean of the Social Work Faculty.

Her retirement was celebrated with a Caribbean themed party in November 2019! Pictures from the part below are courtesy of Ina Kurtz.

To recognize Judy’s endless commitment to students, and carry forward her legacy of advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Faculty of Social Work Dr. Judy White Equity & Inclusion Award has been created.

Anyone wishing to express their gratitude to Judy is welcome to support this meaningful award, and honour something that is very close to Judy’s heart – empowering students to succeed.

If you are interested in contributing to this special tribute to Judy in this way, please reach out to Erin MacAulay-Davalos at Erin.MacAulay-Davalos@uregina.ca any time.
Long Service Recognition

In March 2020, Amanda Noubarian, Dr. Donalda Halabuza and Dr. Monty Montgomery were recognized for their long service. Congratulations on your achievement and thank you for your continued hard work with the Faculty of Social Work.

Amanda Noubarian was recognized for 10 consecutive years with the University of Regina! Amanda first began in the Faculty of Social Work in 2008 and became a permanent Advisor in 2011. She has worked in the ESL and English departments, as well as the Faculty of Arts at the University of Regina and is currently completing a Masters of Public Administration with the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

Dr. Donalda Halabuza was recognized for 10 consecutive years with the Faculty of Social Work! Dr. Halabuza has over 20 years of direct Social Work practice and continues this involvement along with her teaching and research activities. She first began as a Sessional in 1990 and in 1998 was the practicum coordinator for the Faculty. Donalda was hired in a tenure track position in 2009. Her involvement with the students both at the graduate and undergraduate level greatly benefits the Faculty.

Dr. Monty Montgomery was recognized for 10 years with the Faculty of Social Work! Dr. Montgomery is an active faculty member and researcher. He has been a regional representative of the First Nations Research Advisory Committee for the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect for over 12 years and his research actively explores the over representation of Indigenous children in care across Canada.
**BSW, Pre-SW and MSW News**

**MSW Updates**

- The MSW program received 84 applications this year, and have accepted 30 students into the competitive program (15 based in Regina, and 15 based in Saskatoon).
- Orientation for the MSW program will be in August 2020.

Please see [www.uregina.ca/socialwork/MSW](http://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/MSW) for any program details and updates.

**BSW and Pre-SW Updates**

- Due to recent circumstances, Spring/Summer courses for the BSW programs will be delivered remotely. Course delivery modalities for the Fall 2020 term are likely to be delivered remotely as well.
- **206** students have been admitted to the BSW program throughout the province for the 2020 intake, which began May 1st!
- An online practicum information session for BSW students pursuing a Winter 2021 practicum placement will be held on May 19 and 22. The [Winter 2021 practicum application deadline](http://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/BSW) is May 15, 2020.
- **New Pre-Social Work (Pre-SW) Student Group Advising** events will be held online throughout May and June for Pre-SW students who are starting in the fall term. These events are in conjunction with the University’s [UR Beginning & Course Registration Days](http://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/BSW).

Please see [www.uregina.ca/socialwork/BSW](http://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/BSW) for any program details and updates.

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**Academic advising continues to be available! Our team of advisors is available for phone or Zoom appointments which can be scheduled using our [online booking system](http://www.uregina.ca/socialwork/BSW).**
Social Policy Research Centre News

The Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) supports social justice and equity-focused research that addresses issues faced by vulnerable, marginalized and oppressed groups. Our community-engaged research utilizes both Indigenous and Western research approaches with specific attention to social action that will inform changes in policy, practice and education for a sustainable future.

READ ABOUT SOME OF OUR RECENT PROJECT UPDATES

- Dr. Bonnie Jeffery leads project team to address dementia in rural communities (p. 7)
- Dr. Monty Montgomery received a book nomination in two categories for a Saskatchewan Book Award (p. 7)
- Dr. Kara Fletcher and Dr. Ailsa Watkinson presented a Lunch on Learn on Social Work’s Role in Medical Assistance in Dying: Findings from A Cross Canada Scan (p. 8)
- Dr. Randy Johner and Dr. Gabriela Novotna CIHR Project Update (p. 8)
- Animal Memories—A project supported with the Correctional Service Canada Advisory Committees (p. 8)
- Recent publications and grants (p. 9)

SPRC Research Associates are engaged in research projects on a broad range of themes. We encourage you to visit our website to explore more research projects.


Social Work Research has funded these research employees a total of $181,500 from May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020!
Research Project Updates

Dr. Bonnie Jeffery leads project team to address dementia in rural communities

Dr. Bonnie Jeffery is leading a team that has received a 5-year $3 million contribution from Employment and Social Development Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program to improve the lives of older adults living with dementia in small cities and rural communities in Saskatchewan. The project will focus on improving the public’s awareness of the stigma and social isolation experienced by people with dementia and work to improve their social inclusion. It will look at increasing and improving the availability and appropriateness of family and community supports for them and their care partners.

The Interventions to Enhance Social Inclusion of Older Adults with Dementia in Saskatchewan project’s Advisory Committee gathered for the first time on February 26th at the University of Regina. The one day meeting brought together committee members from across Saskatchewan to provide advice on project planning and to share insights, knowledge, and experiences that will contribute to the success of the initiative. See more in the Spring/Summer 2020 issue of Discourse Magazine!

Dr. Monty Montgomery received a book nomination in two categories for a Saskatchewan Book Award

The work, “Imagining Child Welfare in the Spirit of Reconciliation” edited by Dorothy Badry, H. Monty Montgomery, Daniel Kikulwe, Marlynn Bennett, and Don Fuchs, published by the University of Regina Press was nominated in two categories for a Saskatchewan Book Award.

Categories include: the Jennifer Welsh Scholarly Writing Award and the SaskBooks Publishing in Education Award.

Note: The winners will be announced in an online broadcast on Thursday May 28, 2020 at 7pm!
Research Project Updates

**Project Update: Social Work’s Role in Medical Assistance and Dying**

In February 2020, Dr. Kara Fletcher and Dr. Ailsa Watkinson presented their research on *Social Work’s Role in Medical Assistance in Dying*. They presented their findings from 57 phone interviews with social workers from across Canada (8 provinces and 1 territory). Social workers were recruited by contacting provincial social work associations and social work practice leads through regional health authorities. The role and level of involvement of social workers in MAiD differed by province and in many cases, by institution. Themes of involvement/lack of involvement, advocacy, personal interest, family support, and professional role confusion were discussed. This project is highlighted in the [Spring/Summer 2020 issue of Discourse magazine](#).

**CIHR Project Update—Access to Recovery with Assistive Technology**

Dr. Randy Johner and Dr. Gabriela Novotna, along with their research team are working on a CIHR funded project titled, *Access to Recovery with Assistive Technology*. They are creating an application tool that aims to guide MACSI clients who are Métis onto their lifelong journey of health and wellness and help them sustain their addiction recovery through a process of reclaiming their spirit, then their emotions and identity. Project Elders, Isabelle, Richard, and Norman share their teachings and guide the teamwork in developing the application tool.

**Animal Memories—A project supported with the Correctional Service Canada Advisory Committees**

Dr. Darlene Chalmers’ team-based research on Animal-assisted Intervention (AAI) programs is highlighted in the magazine publication titled, *Animal Memories*. The publication features AAI programs in Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Manitoba. The benefits of the AAI programs are detailed by the inmates personal stories throughout the publication.
Recent Publications and Grants

Recent Research Publications:

→ Dr. Kara Fletcher recently published an article titled, “Love in the time of coronavirus: 5 tips for communicating with your partner while stuck at home” in The Conversation (April 2020)

→ Dr. Amanda Gebhard recently published an article titled, “Power Relations, Knowledge Productions, and Teaching against Oppression in an Elementary Classroom on the Canadian Prairies: A Self-Study” in the journal Studying Teacher Education (March 2020)

→ Dr. Charles Gyan and co-authors published, “Proverbs and Patriarchy: Analysis of Linguistic Prejudice and Representation of Women in Traditional Akan Communities of Ghana” in Social Sciences (February 2020)

→ Dr. Garson Hunter and Dr. Miguel Sanchez recently released the 2019 Child and Family Poverty Report (January 2020)

→ Dr. Darlene Chalmers’ research is featured in the video, “A PAWSitive Support Project for Veterans with PTSD and Who Problematically Use Substances” (November 2019)


Recent Grant Recipients and Applications:

Dr. Lise Milne recently received a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant for a project titled, “Foundation-building for a trauma-informed approach to improving the well-being of adolescents and workers in group care contexts”. Lise was also successful in gaining SHRF Urgent Response Funding for COVID-19 with the University of Regina’s Child Trauma Research Institute for a project titled, “Creating a Digital Connections Hub to Support Children in Care in Saskatchewan During COVID-19 and Beyond”.

Dr. Charles Gyan, Dr. Fritz Pino, Dr. Amanda Gebhard and Dr. Kara Fletcher recently applied for SSHRC Insight Development Grants and are currently waiting on those results. Dr. Fritz Pino also applied in March 2020 for a SHRF Establishment grant.
Upcoming Virtual Events

Library Zoom Training Sessions:

Qualtrics for Online Surveys  
Tuesday May 19, 2020  
Register here

Introduction to NVivo  
Wednesday May 20, 2020  
Register here

Conferences:

Upcoming conferences outlined on the CASW website have all been cancelled or postponed.

Information on rescheduled conferences and events will be e-mailed as it is posted.

UR Courses Zoom Guides for using Zoom within your course:

The resource document was created by Gavin Bawden in collaboration with the Flexible Learning (CCE) Instructional Design Team.

Go to the resource page.

If you have any updates that you would like to share with the Faculty of Social Work Community in the next Social Work Newsletter, please e-mail our Research Administrator, Courtney Stange at courtney.stange@uregina.ca