



**Department of Social Work
2018-2019 Scholarly Report
September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019**

Department Chair: Dr. John Vafeas

Editor: Dr. FangHsun Wei

Graduate Assistant: Maria Shior



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1. Executive Summary

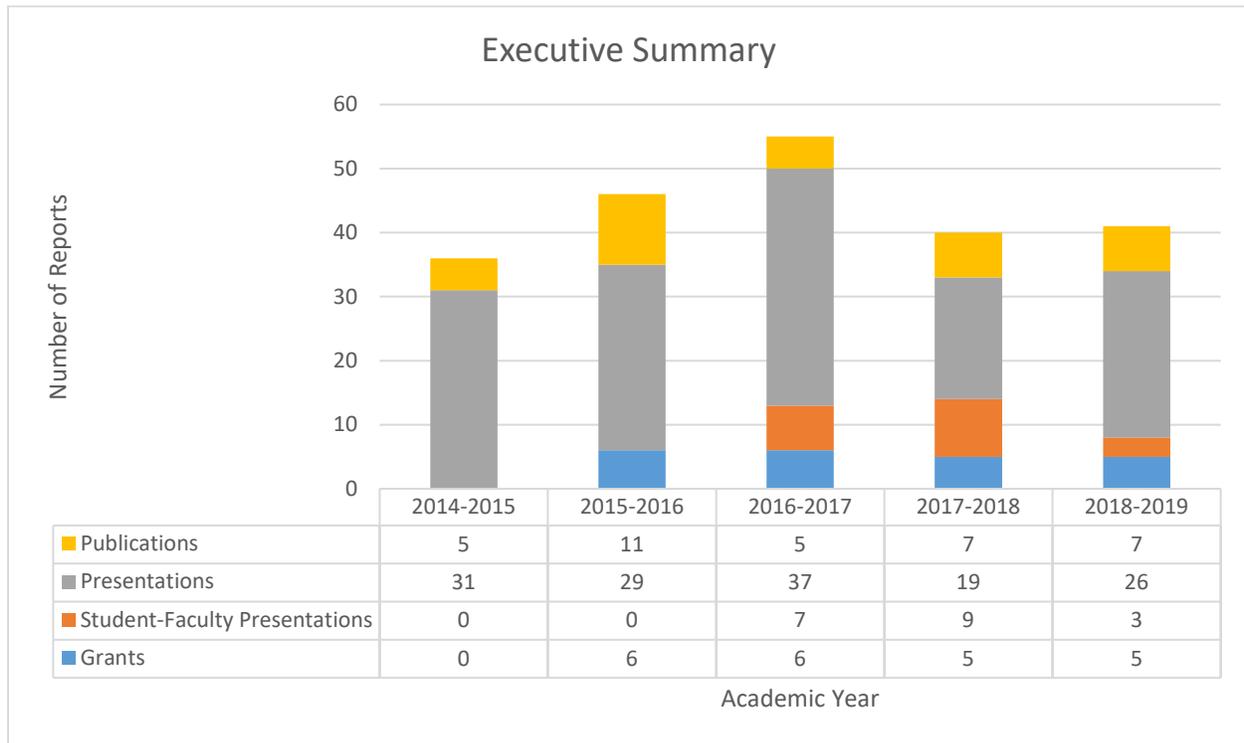


Figure 1. Scholarly Report Executive Summary

2. Publications

Conahan



2.1 Conahan, J. (2018). A Community and University Collaborative: Responding to the Opioid Crisis. *Contemporary Journal of Rural Social Work*, Vol. 10 (4).

Abstract:

One of the 12 Grand Challenges of Social Work, as identified by the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (2018), is Ensuring Healthy Development for all Youth. This article explores the importance of community-wide prevention efforts in meeting this challenge by utilizing grassroots coalition action in concert with engaged universities. Through perspectives of the Communities that Care Model and an Engaged University Model, this case study examines one community's response to reduce the prevalence of youth substance abuse behaviors. Recommendations include effective coalition building strategies.

Gasker



2.2 Gasker, J. (2018). *Generalist social work practice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Abstract:

Generalist Social Work Practice provides students with the foundational skills and knowledge needed to serve individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

Kim



2.3 Kim, Y. M., & Hong, S. (2019). Intersectionality of cultural identity among immigrants in South Korea from a multidimensional acculturation perspective. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 1–15. doi: 10.1080/15313204.2019.1590276.

Abstract:

Acculturation is a multidimensional construct, addressing changes in cultural identity and behavioral patterns. The aim of this study was to investigate the multidimensionality of acculturation which was associated with cultural identity in Chinese-born ethnic Koreans, known as Joseonjok in Korean. This study included 229 Joseonjok health care aides who were born and raised in China and immigrated to South Korea after the age of 18. Analysis using clustering procedures identified three discrete patterns of acculturation—separated, assimilated, and integrated—which were appreciably different in terms of identity status. The study findings provide a useful framework for examining the multidimensional aspects of acculturation in culturally diverse populations.

Lee



2.4 Lee, A., Kim, H., Faulkner, M., Gerstenblatt, P., & Travis, D. J. (2018). Work Engagement Among Child-Care Providers: An Application of the Job Demands–Resources Model. *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 48(1), 77–91. doi: 10.1007/s10566-018-9473-y

Abstract:

As the demand for child care continues in the United States, the well-being of the child care workforce is an important consideration as well. Child care providers have job-related stresses, which affect their physical and mental health, ultimately can lead to a variety of concerns including, high turnover and overall quality of services. The purpose of the study is to examine the level of work engagement among child care workers. Specific attentions were paid to examine factors associated with work engagement using job demands–resources model. A cross-sectional design was used to analyze a total of 393 child care workers to examine the factors associated with their work engagement. Results of hierarchical linear regression analysis suggested that job resources, psychological rewards, and job control are significantly associated with child care workers' work engagement. The study findings also confirm the buffering effect of job resources (perceived positive feelings about their job) on the relationship between job demands and work engagement. When there was low level of psychological rewards, there was a high negative relationship between job demands and work engagement; while when there was high level of psychological rewards, the job demands had no relationship with work engagement. Overall, the findings show a link between having a high level of positive feelings and child care providers' engagement at work. Developing strategies to reinforce employees' positive feelings toward work may help to develop and maintain an engaged workforce. Studies testing such strategies are needed.

Sharma



2.5 Sharma, Y & Pillai V. (2018) Women's Diagnosis of HIV/AIDS status and its relationship to Intimate Partner Violence. *International Public Health*, 10(2), 171-180.

Abstract:

The study examines the frequency and severity of physical, sexual and emotional IPV experienced by women before and after diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. During the fall of 2011, women living with HIV/AIDS and receiving services from AIDS Outreach Center located in the southwestern part of the United States were recruited to participate in a study through the purposive sampling method. They were asked to complete surveys about their HIV/AIDS diagnosis, and the level of IPV experienced. Sixty-four women completed the survey. The majority of the research participant reported experiencing all forms of IPV subsequent to their diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. Women's risk of all forms of IPV increases following diagnosis of her HIV/AIDS status.

Stoeffler



2.6 Stoeffler, S.W. (2019). Social Work and Poverty: A Critical Examination of Intersecting Theories. *Social Development Issues*, 41(2), 21-32.

Abstract:

Addressing poverty is not only a part of social work; in many ways the profession is defined by its interface with poverty. The Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers unequivocally directs social workers to engage in social justice work specifically related to poverty. The Council on Social Work Education has clearly stated that poverty needs to be a part of the educational framework in accredited programs. Despite this, there is evidence from the literature that neither the profession nor its educational programs have fulfilled their expressed commitments to addressing poverty. The intersection of critical theory, anti-oppressive social work theory, learned helplessness theory, and hope theory offers insights and perspective on needed dimensions in poverty alleviation to enable practice within the mission, ethics, and values of the social work profession.

Wei



2.7 Wei, F. H. (2018). The medical dispute mediation mechanism in the public sector: A study based on cases from the Kaohsiung City Department of Health. *Social Development Issues*, 40 (1), 42-54.

Abstract:

With medical disputes cases on the rise in the Taiwanese society, as well as in the myriad of channels through which the public can seek redress, there exists a need for a thorough review of the mediation mechanism in the public sector. By using the Kaohsiung City Department of Health as its subject, this study examined all the cases handled by the Mediation Committee in the period from 1989 to 2003 and interviewed committee members in order to gain a better understanding of the functions and operations of the committee. A total of 162 cases were reviewed and classified according to such characteristics as the nature of the case, reason for seeking mediation, type of doctors involved, outcome of mediation, and factors affecting the success of mediation.

3. Presentations

Bender



3.1 Bender, W.F. (2019, September). *Psychopharmacology for Case Managers*. National Association of Case Management, National Webinar.

Abstract:

This course will provide a basic contextual background ground for case managers in principles to assess, diagnose, and address psychiatric treatment implications as part of a collaborative psychiatric treatment team. Students will be presented with an overview of current therapeutic use of psychotropic drugs as well as pharmacology terminology and reference material. The clinical use of psychotropic drugs such as sedative hypnotics, anxiolytics, antipsychotics, anticonvulsant, stimulant, and antidepressants will be explored. Social, developmental, and ethical issues of psychopharmacology will be explored.

Chaundy



3.2 Chaundy, L. M. (2019, April). *Religious Cognitive Belief, Emotional Attachment, and Behavioral Commitment and its Relationship with the Self-Regulation of Adolescents*. International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Granada, Spain.

Abstract:

Research indicates that religion has played a vital role in the founding of the American nation as well as the American education system. However, over the years religion has been taken out of the educational realm and is no longer considered an important variable in impacting educational outcomes. Jeynes (2010) suggests that establishing a relationship with student outcomes is fundamental if one is to present a strong case for religious courses in schools. The purpose of this study is to examine the different aspects of the religiosity of youth and to determine whether they are associated with academic and behavioral outcomes. It is the hope that this study will distinguish among some of the different aspects of religiosity, shed further light on the potential impact of scripture reading and prayer in schools, and in some small way, demonstrate the importance of the role of religion in education. This study examined the National Study of Youth & Religion dataset which used both quantitative and qualitative methods along with cross sectional and longitudinal research designs. A randomized telephone survey of American youth was completed between 2002 and 2008 and participants included 3,290 adolescents ages 13-17, as well as their parents. To provide specific answers to the research questions, descriptive and inferential statistics were calculated on the original telephone survey (Wave 1 in 2003) using Statistical Produce and Service Solutions (SPSS) and included correlation, regression, and one-way anova tests. Overall, this study is important for education and has many implications for schools.

Conahan

3.3 Conahan, J. (2018) *Community and University Collaboration: Responding to the Opioid Crisis*. Southwestern Social Work Association, Orlando, Florida.

Abstract:

Roots of practices to support the health and welfare of the public can be traced back to England's enactment of the Elizabethan Poor Law in 1601. Similar activities were brought to the United States by early colonists. Evolving over time and adopting a strengths perspective, public health now no longer focuses solely on disease prevention but also encompasses health promotion initiatives for enhanced well-being of entire populations. Today, federal funding remains supportive of health promotion strategies through state programs (Institute of Medicine, 1988). Intervening on behalf of youth to promote their healthy development by decreasing substance abuse behaviors is one such strategy. The National Institute of Health (NIH) chose to use the public health approach, along with the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's (CSAP) Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), and the Communities that Care (CTC) coalition building model to drive initiatives for grassroots, population-level change in communities across the nation. However, strategies only create pathways for health promotion success. True effectiveness and goal attainment cannot be won without empowered community-based coalitions, empowered boards, and empowered leaders (Powell and Peterson, 2014). This critical evaluation examines the strengths and needs of a rural community coalition board and the social work department of a local university to determine theoretical best fit approaches to change, empowerment, effectiveness, and community well-being.

DeBiase

3.4 DeBiase, L. (2019, May) *Design and implementation of a practitioners focus to a child welfare course*. National IV-E Roundtable for Child Welfare Training and Education, Atlantic City, NJ.

Abstract:

This workshop is the design and implementation of a practitioners focus to a child welfare course that meets the requirements for Title V-E. It will focus on specific topics highlighted in this course, the teaching methods, assignments, and the textbook. The instructor will also share the students' evaluation of the class and the instructor's assessment of the students learning and growth from the course.

Gasker

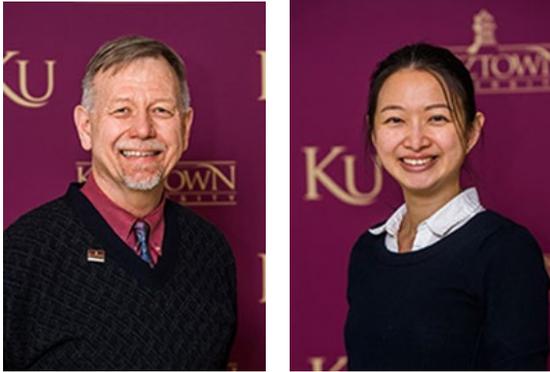


3.5 Gasker, J. (2018, October) *Case Managers as Story Builders: Helping Others Develop Functional Life Stories*. National Association of Case Management, Indianapolis, IN.

Abstract:

Based in Narrative Theory, this workshop will help case managers to facilitate the creation of life stories that are functional and positive for themselves and the people they serve. Participants will be able to: 1. Recognize the socially-constructed nature of life stories and the case manager's role. 2. Identify the types of life story builders. 3. Demonstrate the ability to help others build positive, functional life stories.

Hanna & Wei



3.6 Hanna, E. & Wei, F. H. *An Exploratory Study of a Cognitive Emotional Methodology for Decision Making in Teaching and Curriculum Development*. EASSW Conference, Madrid, Spain.

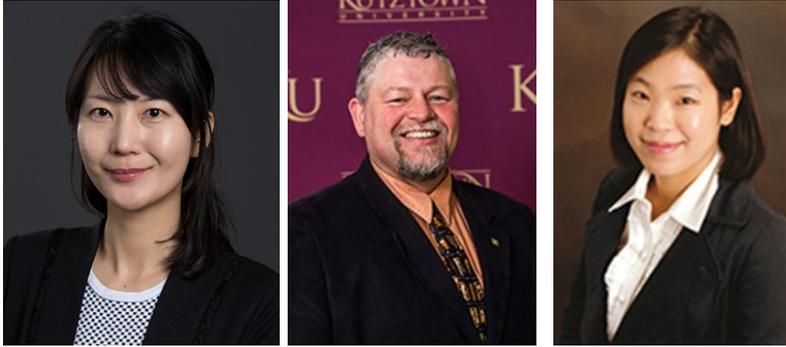
Abstract:

This study implements and formally evaluates an innovative methodology designed to teach students how to think critically for decision making in social work education and practice. Decision making in field settings involves a conscious awareness and parsing of emotions and beliefs. The methodology used is a newly constructed paradigm intended to facilitate decision making and critical thinking.

3.7 Hanna, E.; Wei, F. H. *Assessing critical thinking in teaching and curriculum development*. Council of Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

Abstract:

This study implements and formally evaluates a new/innovative methodology designed to teach students how to think critically for decision making in social work education and practice. The California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) was used to collect quantitative data. The paired t test was used to analyze the data.

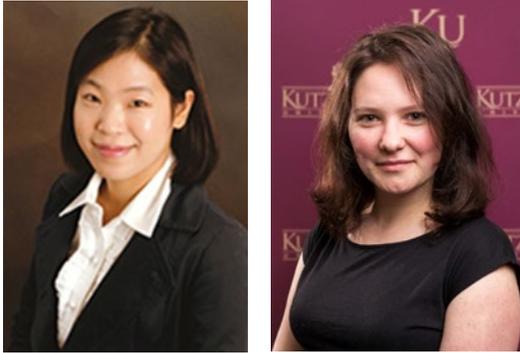
Kim, Seip, & Lee

3.8 Kim, Seip, & Lee. (2018, November) *Enhancing Academic Quality during the First Semester through Social Work Learning Community*. Council of Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

Abstract:

First-year learning communities are a trend in higher education, with groups of first-year baccalaureate students taking two or more first-semester courses together and spending time in various activities with faculty and fellow students. This cohort model emphasizes the value of sense of community and fosters a supportive social and academic environment. While the positive impact of first-year learning communities has been well documented, less is known about the impact of learning communities on academic outcomes and the implications for BSW education. This mixed methods study extends understanding of how college experiences and educational achievement differ by participation in a social work learning community. Results indicated that participation in a social work learning community was significantly related to higher GPAs. The preliminary findings of this study add to the overall knowledge of a learning community model applicable to baccalaureate social work freshmen.

Lee & Svistova



3.9 Lee, A and Svistova, J. (2018, September) *Community Needs Assessment of Kutztown, Fleetwood, and Brandywine, PA: Report of Findings*. Friend Inc. Board meeting, Kutztown, PA.

Abstract:

The presentation was delivered to school district superintendents, Kutztown mayor, and Kutztown Strong members focusing on the findings of the Community needs assessment.

Lyter



3.10 Lyter, S.C. (2019, April) *Adverse Childhood Experiences of Social Workers: Implications for Education and Supervision*. 2019 NASW-NJ Annual Conference, Atlantic City, NJ.

Abstract:

Those who choose helping professions are likely to face considerable emotional, ethical, and moral challenges during their careers. Many carry their own history of personal challenges and adversities. Evidence is increasing that those who choose social work as a career report significantly higher levels of trauma in their personal lives. Using action research, this author assessed extent of trauma and resilience among a student population with the aim of developing methods to maximize learner protective factors and minimize risk factors.

The current study (with university IRB approval) addresses degree of adversity (using the Adverse Childhood Experiences scale), resilience, and life satisfaction. This four-hour presentation will summarize study findings and implications for learners across the social work curriculum, in the field practicum, and in the supervisor/supervisee relationship. Participants will gain a better understanding of the problem and acquire evidence-based strategies to achieve better outcomes with learners and supervisees. As noted earlier, adversity can also be a protective factor, and many learners do quite well in harnessing their own experiences successfully, maintaining a positive worldview, and thus exercising their skills of empathic communication and relationship.

Seip, Kim, & Lee



3.11 Seip, Kim, & Lee. (2018, November) *Undergraduate social work students' interest and understanding of policy practice*. Council of Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

Abstract:

A crucial component of ensuring student enlightenment to the importance of policy practice is having social work educators recognize their significant role in bringing about this awareness in their students (Ritter, 2008). However, undergraduate social work students may not be aware of the importance of the policy practice component of our profession. This study involved facilitating a focus group of ten social work undergraduate students currently enrolled in a University located in Eastern part of the U.S. From the interviews, three themes emerged: “It’s our ethical duty.”, “Policy scares me.”, and “Policy is needed”. Findings on the perception on policy practice among social work students provide important implications for education, practice, and policy.

Sharma



3.12 Sharma, Yasoda. (2018, September) *Socio-Cultural Co-relates of Domestic Violence Amongst Women Belonging to Different Parts of India*. NASW-PA Statewide Conference.

Abstract:

This paper examine the cause in the variation of violence experienced by women in North and Northeast India from the socio-cultural perspective.

Stoeffler



- 3.13 Stoeffler, S.W. (2019, May) *Defining and Evaluating Impact within Community Collaborations for Empowerment*. 30th Annual Network for Social Work Management Conference, Chicago, IL.

Abstract:

Organizations are an essential component of community empowerment. To make an impact, people within organizations and communities, join together to solve the social problems affecting them. While these actions are noble, definitional issues abound for both empowerment and impact. Empowerment evaluation provides the opportunity to address definitional concerns in a manner that promotes cultural humility and advances social justice within communities through an abiding respect for community knowledge and commitment to build the people's evaluation capacity.

- 3.14 Stoeffler, S.W. (2019, April) *Understanding Empowerment in Collaborations for Social Inclusion and Social Justice*. 2019 Institute for Social Inclusion Social Inclusion and Social Justice Conference, Shippensburg, PA.

Abstract:

During this presentation the concepts of power and empowerment at the personal, relational, and collective levels will be reviewed. Building upon these foundational concepts, community empowerment at the organizational, coalition and social movement stages are analyzed. Additionally models of community empowerment are highlighted as frameworks regarding the realization of empowerment. A particular focus of the presentation will be on how both the process and product of community empowerment is essential for marginalized communities to obtain social justice and address social exclusion.

- 3.15 Stoeffler, S.W., & Joseph, R. (2019, November) *A Critical Dialogue: Exploring the Relationship between Seminal Works and Poverty Alleviation in the United States*. Southwestern Social Science Association 99th Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Abstract:

Seminal works model the relationship between ideas and social change. They change our understanding about a topic and demonstrate new ways of addressing old problems. There is perhaps no larger social problem than poverty. This interactive session will focus on how seminal works from the social sciences have contributed to poverty alleviation or intensification. As a starting point of the discussion three books: *The Other America: Poverty in the United States* (1962), *Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare* (1971), and *Losing Ground: American Social Policy 1950-1980* (1984) will be considered for their impact on larger societal transformations in the United States and abroad. Participants will be encouraged to share and discuss additional influential anti-poverty works.

The larger conference theme is the role of academia in social transformations. Beyond merely a book discussion, this session will include a dialogue about how seminal works or classics are currently used in academia and how they inform contemporary anti-poverty practices. The use of seminal works is not without debate. Many see them as holding the possibility to oversimplify complex matters. They can be viewed as receiving too much credit for their influence when social movements often precede rather than follow their publication. Frequently they are polemic and lack objectivity. But they are deemed classics due to their lasting value. Participants will actively share how they have used classic texts and their methods for addressing the limitations or flaws of the works. It is hopeful that interdisciplinary networking and partnerships can take place to further develop this paper topic.

Stoeffler & LaBarre

3.16 Stoeffler, S.W., & LaBarre, H.A. (2018, September) *Social Work Student Articulation of Personal Experiences with Discrimination*. NASW-PA Statewide Conference, Pocono Manor, PA.

Abstract:

In a study of student responses to open-ended questions regarding race, racism, discrimination, and oppression, respondents disclosed an array of insights pertaining to social justice needs. This presentation will explore patterns and themes of those responses and their implications for social work educators. The research identifies gaps in student understanding of diversity for self and others.

Svistova



3.17 Svistova & Pyles. (2018, November) *Media Savvy Social Workers: Exploring the Role of Media in Disaster Situations*. Council of Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

Abstract:

The images and stories of disaster scenes and survivors play a critical role in how policymakers, citizens and social work professionals engage in disaster response. Participants will explore their own deep frames of disasters and disaster-affected communities and engage in critical examination of the role of media in disaster situations.

3.18 Gross, K. and Svistova, J. (2019, April) *Participatory action research to Enhance social/racial justice: cases of Haiti and Malawi*. Global Conference, Millersville University.

Abstract:

In this workshop, the authors will explore the uses of participatory action research (PAR) in the transnational context of rural extreme poverty among people of color. The two transnational rural contexts—Haiti and Malawi, Africa—are places of extreme rural poverty, marginalization due to climate change, economic inequities, racial and social divide, and structural powerlessness (Farmer, 2006; Masoga, 2018; Mkabela, 2005; Schuller, 2016). These populations are also affected by colonization and post-colonialism in profound ways. The application of PAR principles can dramatically increase co-researchers' sharing of community knowledge and sense of empowerment, providing a means to make change, and build solidarity in creating meaningful research and action around racial equity issues (Chevalier and Buckles, 2013; Svistova, Pyles and Andre, 2014; Pyles and Svistova, 2015).

3.19 Bhat, Maynard, and Svistova. (2018, November) *Designing Community Practice Simulations for Effective Interprofessional Collaborations*. Council of Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.

Abstract:

Providing students with opportunities to apply skills needed for community practice and interprofessional collaboration can be challenging. This workshop will explore opportunities for simulations in macro settings, provide participants activities and resources for designing macro simulations to educate and assess students' competencies for engaging with diverse professionals and communities.

Svistova & Lee

3.20 Svistova, J. and Lee, A. (2019) *Conducting effective community needs assessments*. Rotary International District Training Assembly, Allentown, PA.

Abstract:

This invited presentation focused on conducting effective community needs assessments including data collection strategies, training of community leaders, and key findings of needs in three local communities in Berks County.

Vafeas



3.21 Vafeas, John G, Wilkinson, D. Johnston, C. Marks, J. (2018, October) *National Case management professional Code of Ethics Application and Review Session*. 24th Annual national Association of Case Management Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN.

Abstract:

This workshop is was an application of the newly established code of ethics. It acted as a face validity for the articles of the newly developed code of ethics for the National Association of Case Management. It also utilized the Delphi technique in acquiring feedback for the next edition of the code.

3.22 Vafeas, J, King, C. & Redcay A. (2018, October) *The future of Social Work Education*. 2018 NASW PA Socail Work Conferecne/ PAUSWE Presentation, Pocono Manor, PA.

Abstract:

This panel presentation examined current issues and trends in social work education. Emphasis was given on the purpose, structure and direction of doctoral education in social work

3.23 Vafeas, J. (2019, March) *Study of the Network of Services to Victims of Domestic Violence in Pennsylvania*. PACADV State Meeting Presentation, Harrisburg, PA.

Abstract:

(PACADV) agencies served approximately 2500 victims/survivors of domestic violence in a day on 2014, and they did not have the resources to meet the needs of the 252 people. Extrapolating from this, we estimate that in the state of PA 21,168 people/incidents in a year experience lack of needed services. The researchers are interested in assessing issues related to the needs and gaps in services for victims of domestic violence in Pennsylvania. Accordingly, they collaborated with PACADV to undertake a study to describe the services provided by this network/coalition of sixty agency-partners, assess their adequacy in addressing the needs of their clientele, and identify the unique needs and challenges in this area. The study focuses on urban as well as rural areas and will proceed in three phases. In phase one, the researchers will examine the challenges faced by service providers in PA, and assess survivors' needs, from the agency-organization's leadership perspective. Phase two of this study will examine the same questions from the users of services (clients) perspective. Phase three will assess the adequacy of the local network of major community service providers serving the clientele of the domestic violence agencies across Pennsylvania.

Weller



3.24 Weller, M.R. (2019, March) *Human Sex Trafficking: How to Spot It and What to Do?* Fleetwood Rotary Club, Fleetwood, PA.

Abstract:

Human Trafficking encompasses different areas of exploitation of individuals including sex work, housekeeping, child care, factory and farm work, hotel, and food preparation. Human trafficking exploits individuals of different backgrounds including children, women, and men. This presentation will explore human sex trafficking in particular. Unfortunately, human sex trafficking is not as easy to identify and intervene because often those involved may appear to be voluntary participants engaging in commercial sex work.

3.25 Weller, M.R. (2018, September) *Human Sex Trafficking in PA*. NASW-PA Statewide Conference, Pocono Manor, PA.

Abstract:

This session is an overview of how to identify potential sex trafficking activities by providing characteristics of potential trafficked persons. Additionally it will address interventions based on best practices regarding survivors of human sex trafficking. A thorough examination of current practices along with suggested activities will be examined.

3.26 Weller, M.R. (2018, October) *LGBTQ and Intellectual Disability*. NACM, Indianapolis, IN.

Abstract:

Case managers engage daily with individuals that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ), but they may find themselves at a loss for understanding specific needs and demonstrating respect and acceptance. This workshop will support participants by addressing concurrent identities related to being a sexual minority (LGBTQ) and having an intellectual disability.

4. Student-Faculty Presentations

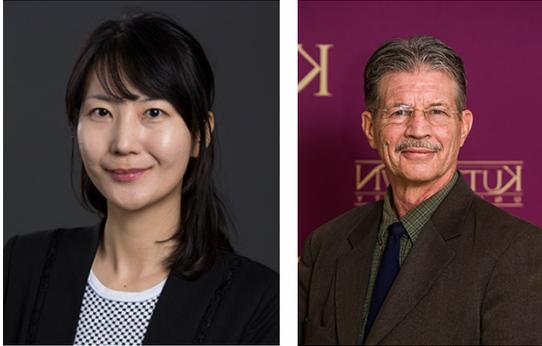
Harris



4.1 Harris, C. (2018, September) *Ethical Considerations: When Self-Determination and Agency Expectations Conflict*. Cumberland Perry Housing Authority, Carlisle PA.

Abstract:

Presented a talk on ethical decision-making process for agency-based practice with a focus on empowering personal agency when working with people experiencing homelessness.

Kim & Kovarie

4.2 Kim, Y. M., Kovarie, G., & Marsh, B. (2019, April) *Impact of Supervision and Management on Caseworker Retention*. Conference of Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services, Best Western Premier, 800 E. Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA.

Abstract:

This presentation will provide mixed methods research findings from a survey of public child welfare caseworkers in Pennsylvania. The research findings suggest that supervisor support ($r = .29, p < .01$) and satisfaction with management ($r = .52, p < .01$) are positively related to worker retention. Low satisfaction in salary, benefit, and workload (i.e., caseload, paperwork, computer work) had a significant and negative impact on worker retention. The presenters will provide workforce trends in private and public child welfare agencies including: previous staff assessments (2010-2014 time studies & exit surveys); the effects of turnover on client outcomes and agency resources and public perceptions of staff who serve families in child protective services. Implications and directions for public policy, resources, and improvement of federal outcomes will be discussed.

Vafeas



4.3 King, K., Vafeas, J., Sauchak, S. (2018, October) *Social Workers Navigating Medicaid patients: Care Outside the Emergency Department*. 2018 NASW PA Social Work Conference, Pocono Manor, PA.

Abstract:

Millions of Medicaid covered Americans use the emergency room for their primary care needs, especially in rural areas. This model of care is not optimal. A social work model can be employed using the person in environment perspective and the use of Community health workers approach to help clients: a) access more efficient and stable forms of primary care, and b) examine creating networks toward this goal.

5. Grants

Svistova



5.1 Svistova, J. (2019) *Understanding the impact of Mutual Solidarity microfinance groups on community wellbeing in rural Haiti*. Funded by KU Bears Summer research grant.

Abstract:

In Haiti, the government's failure to adequately meet the needs of its citizens has fueled grassroots community organizing and the growth of the solidarity economy. This mixed methods research project investigates group processes and social impact of community-driven, solidarity-based micro-finance groups in rural communities in Petit Goave, Haiti. Proposed outcomes of the project include evaluating the processes utilized by eight mutual solidarity groups in order to improve their programmatic effectiveness and identifying evidence-based best-practices in poverty alleviation efforts in the Haitian context. More generally, this research will contribute to the knowledge base on operations and social impacts of microfinance organizations on the well-being of participants and their communities.

5.2 Svistova, J. (2019) *Understanding the impact of Mutual Solidarity microfinance groups on community wellbeing in rural Haiti*. Funded by KU Research Grant.

Abstract:

A mixed methods research project is proposed to investigate the social impact of solidarity-based microfinance organizations in rural communities in Petit Goave, Haiti. Funding will support the training of local researchers, data collection and analysis. Proposed outcomes of the project include evaluating the processes utilized by 8 mutual solidarity groups in order to improve their programmatic effectiveness and identifying evidence-based best-practices in poverty alleviation efforts in the Haitian context. More generally, this research will contribute to the knowledge base on social impacts of microfinance organizations on the well-being of participants and their communities.

Svistova & LaBarre

5.3 Svistova, J. and LaBarre, H. (2018-2019) *KU Research Grant Hungry for More: Understanding the Impact of Food Insecurity on College Students*, \$ 5,775. Funded by Kutztown University.

Abstract:

Food insecurity among college students has been well-documented nationwide. It is estimated that 35-50% of college students are food insecure during academic semesters (Maroto, 2013; Martinez et al., 2016; Wisconsin Hope Lab, 2016). Moreover, food insecurity has been found to be closely linked to lower academic performance. Starting with Kutztown University, this study seeks to understand the association between food insecurity and academic success. This research is essential for devising effective strategies for student engagement and retention in the system of public higher education in Pennsylvania.

Stoeffler



5.4 Stoeffler, S.W. (2019, January) *Higher Education Suicide Prevention Coalition Mini-Grant*. Funding went to the 2019 Clinical Updates Colloquium.

Abstract:

The purpose of the Mini-Grant program with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Suicide Prevention Coalition is to provide financial assistance to campuses across the Commonwealth who are interested in either initiating a suicide prevention program or activity on campus or are in need of supplementary funds to support a program or activity on their campus. All programs or activities should have a general focus on suicide prevention. The Department of Social Work was awarded the mini-grant to assist with the costs associated with the Clinical Updates Colloquium which has the focus of providing continuing education on suicide prevention.

Wei



5.5 Wei, F. H. (2019) *COCA Substance Prevention needs Assessment*. Funded by Council on Chemical Abuse.

Abstract:

The purpose of the grant is to help COCA conduct and analyze the substance prevention community needs assessment data. The data were collected from Berks County youth and parents through online survey and focus group. The goal is to identify the community resources and prevent the substance use among youth.

6. Notable Activities

Stoeffler



6.1 Stoeffler, S.W. (2018, December) *Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Macro Social Work Practice*. Council on Social Work Education, 2015 EPAS Curricular Guide Resource Series.

Abstract:

Macro social work, as addressed in this guide, outlines three primary focus areas: organizational administration and management, community organizing, and policy practice. A unifying framework identifies commonalities while honoring the unique differences of each focus area.

This guide was developed through a partnership between CSWE and the Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice, with generous support from the Fund for Social Policy Education and Practice.

7. Student Awards List

7.1 Dean LAS Awards

Robyn Weaver – MSW (2018-2019)
Caleb Baukman – BSW (2018-2019)
Lisa Lowrie – DSW (2018-2019)
Barbe Fogarty – DSW (2018-2019)
James Wilkie – MSW (2018-2019)
Travis Stoudt- BSW (2018-2019)

7.2 CWEB and CWEL Internships

Nathaly Santos (2018-2019) CWEB
Jazmine Jones (2018-2019) CWEB
Tanya Ebling (2018-2019) CWEL
Mitchell-Shea (2018-2019) CWEL
Laura Craig (2018-2019) CWEL
Ingrid Smith (2019, Summer) CWEB
Nicole Ruela (2019, Summer) CWEL

7.3 Diversity Prize 2019

Robyn Weaver - MSW
Caleb Baukman - MSW
Jazmine Washington - MSW

7.4 APSCUF Awards 2019

Julia Laudadio

7.5 Research Assistant

Elizabeth Hahn (with Dr. John Vafeas and Dr. Yasoda Sharma)
Ana Tuzio (with Dr. FangHsun Wei)
Carolyn Rene (with Dr. Juliana Svistova)
Julia Laudadio (with Dr. Juliana Svistova)

8. Notable Events

8.1 Social Work Community Forum

The Kutztown University Community Forum, organized by the Department of Social Work, is a gathering of social work professionals, university community members, and community leaders. The purpose is to raise consciousness about-and craft solutions to-community needs, particularly as they pertain to families. Forum 2019 raises awareness of issues surrounding *Veterans' Challenges* and impact on families in the social environment in an effort to promote best practices and a systemic, ethical response to regional and global needs. Experts identify best practices and social work professionals serve as catalysts to build and strengthen alliances across the practice continuum.



Friday, March 30, 2019

Chair: Dr. Sharon Lyter

8.2 Social Work in the Global Environment Conference

The Conference on Social Work in the Global Environment aims to contribute to the local-global perspective in social work, utilizing the strategy: thinking globally and acting locally. The 2018 conference focused on the crossroads of contemporary slavery and injustice: cultivating public discourse and action.



Friday, November 17, 2018

Chair: Dr. Barth Yeboah

8.3 Graduation and Alumni Event

The Annual Graduation and Alumni Event that is organized through the Department of Social Work brings together graduating students and alumni alike to celebrate their achievements in the academic and professional settings.



Friday, May 4, 2019

Chair: Dr. Edward Hanna

8.4 Clinical Updates Colloquium

The Department of Social Work in collaboration with Service Access and Management, Inc., Center for Integrated Behavioral Health, and Pennsylvania Higher Education Suicide Prevention Coalition sponsored the Clinical Updates Colloquium 2019. This year's Colloquium focused on suicide prevention and depression with attachment-based family therapy and clinical updates on DBT: Theoretical Foundations and Therapeutic Components.



Friday, January 11, 2019

Chair: Dr. John Vafeas

8.5 Field Education Workshop

The purpose of the Field Education Workshop facilitated by the Department of Social Work is to educate field instructors and the students, on their role and function while at their host agencies.



Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Chair: Professor William Bender

Co-chair: Dr. Heather LaBarre