Students Designed and Led Creation of Handmade Button Blanket

In ceremony with Elder Marr Dorvault, Nii Gaa’mkx, the button blanket in our hallway was welcomed to our school on May 6, 2019.

The idea for a button blanket came from conversations among Indigenous students in 2017 about ways the school could create a more welcoming environment for Indigenous students. These conversations continued and then in the fall of 2018 the four Indigenous 3rd year students seen in the photograph took the lead in designing this hand-made button blanket. Elder Marr generously provided guidance, teachings, and sewing tips throughout.

A design of a medicine wheel, an ancient symbol which provides understanding of many things and which contains many teachings, is in the centre. One reason for this is because of the concepts of wholeness and balance the medicine wheel represents and how wellness and success as a student is supported by attention to both.

The headbands sewn on the top were gifted by Elder Marr to the students, who led the making of the blanket, in lieu of blanketing them to acknowledge the work they had done. As shared by Elder Marr, blanketing can be a form of protection of the mind, body, and spirit. The students wore the headbands during the welcoming ceremony and although they could have taken them, one student suggested to attach them to the blanket as protection for the minds of future students who come here to learn. The history, significance, craftsmanship, and use of button blankets, as well as the understanding that there is not one way to represent the medicine wheel, were all acknowledged during its creation.

Continued on page 2, Student Updates: Button Blanket

Left to right: Martina Shovar, Ktunaxa Nation; Jada Melissa Benko, Fisher River Cree Nation; Elder Marr, Nii Gaa’mkx, Gitxsan; Hailey Matheson, Peguis Nation; and Hali McLennan, Metis Nation

3 DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE
4 COMINGS & GOINGS
6 RESEARCH ROUND-UP
18 SCHOOL EVENTS
21 CENTRE UPDATES
Many in the school took part in making the blanket. All students in SOWK 325, Indigenous Peoples and Critical Social Work Analysis, were invited to sew a button on the medicine wheel during their final class in November 2018. During 2018 and 2019 there were several sewing gatherings and all faculty, staff, and students were invited. This reflects a journey of coming together in the process of Reconciliation and the Indigenization and Decolonization of the School of Social Work.

A special thanks to Elder Marr, Hali, Hailey, Jada, and Martina for their dedication and hard work, the connections they facilitated, the sense of community they created, the ceremonies they brought back, and the gifting of a beautiful piece of art.

- Marie Nightbird, MSW, RCSW, Instructor

**MSW Students Attended International Summer University in Social Work 2019, Kochi, India**

Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim and MSW students Sofia Joensuu and Cindy Nguyen attended the annual International Summer University in Social Work (ISUSW) 2019 during the month of July. This year’s ISUSW was hosted by the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences in Kochi, India. The event was organized through an international consortium of social work institutions to promote discussion, critical analysis and knowledge sharing through a global consortium structure.

This year, professors and student delegates from seven post-secondary institutions were in attendance, including those from UBC, the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, the University of California Los Angeles (USA), the Chinese University of Hong Kong (HK), the University of Western Sydney (Australia), the University for Applied Sciences and Arts (Switzerland) and the University of Jerusalem (Israel).

The topic of focus was Social Care and the Wellbeing of Vulnerable Populations, with a specific focus on women, children, seniors and differently abled populations. Student delegates attended a full schedule of lectures, workshops, site visits and cultural activities. Students were divided into mixed working groups for the length of the program which provided ample opportunity for discussion of social work practice, polices, opportunities and challenges through comparative analysis, which enhanced learning. The impacts and challenges of globalization were evident throughout each discussion topic.

Professors from the consortium academies presented on a wide range of topics from Participatory Action Research with Street Connected Youth, to Cultural Social Work. From UBC, Mohamed presented a thought-provoking lecture on the Decolonization of Mental Health Practice, which generated much interest and discussion among attendees.
Director’s Message
from Donna Baines

It is very exciting to join the UBC School of Social Work during its 90th anniversary year. It is a significant hallmark for any school and one that we plan to celebrate with a public lecture later this year (watch our website for details) and a video introducing the School to the students and the public, developed by our new faculty member, Kelly Allison (watch our website soon).

We would like to thank Professor Miu Chung Yan for his excellent leadership and stewardship of the School for the past three years. His work with the School has left it on a very good footing and ready to take on new challenges and opportunities. We wish him very well on his upcoming leave and look forward to his return as a Professor in one year’s time.

Perhaps one of the most significant aspects of the School at the moment is that we currently have 9 new faculty who have been at the School for 2 years or less: Kelly Allison, Antoine Coulombe, Marie Nightbird; Mohamed Ibrahim; Hannah Kia; Barbara Lee; Ashley Quinn; Christiana Bratiotis and myself. We fully intend to continue in the fine tradition of our longer term scholars and teachers: building on their strengths; extending our reach and research locally and globally; inviting the community further into the life of the school; and fostering a positive environment for all members of our extensive community of learners. To quote Professor Miu Chung Yan, as a School we are committed to placing social justice and ethic of care at the forefront of our teaching and research. I would add to that we are also committed to stepping into the complex challenges facing social work and the communities we serve.

As a leading School of Social Work in a progressive city and province, we have great opportunities to speak out about the crucial debates and social justice struggles of our times: climate change; the worldwide crisis of refugees and immigrants; the rise of hate groups and xenophobia; deepening inequity between rich and poor (both globally and within Canada); the growth of precarious work and economic insecurity; the ongoing need for decisive and far-reaching reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; and the pressing need to understand and resolve the underlying and ongoing causes of violence (including against Indigenous and racialized peoples, women, and LGBTQI2S+ people).

Sometimes, as social workers and global citizens, we wonder if we are sufficiently brave and skilled to speak out and or whether we should leave advocacy and activism to others. The words of the late Audre Lorde provide inspiration and guidance for these kinds of moments, “When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.” Our School not only has the capacity to speak to these issues at the level of policy, and social and cultural change, but also to address and ameliorate the pain and suffering generated by them. In the coming months and years, our team of globally respected senior members of faculty and our very promising newer faculty will continue to bring energy and positivity to these issues, not only to study and learn about them, but to ignite and foster positive social change.

We invite our students, the field, our alumni and the community to join with us in this endeavor.

- Donna Baines, Professor and Director
Program Reports

Updates from Field Education

The field education team was sad to say goodbye to Faculty Chair Liz Jones upon her retirement in 2018. Following this, Marie Nightbird, a newly hired Instructor, was appointed as Chair for one year, from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2019. Marie was happy to be part of a busy, productive year with the field education team which consists of Jacky Coates and Tina Buttar, Field Education Coordinators, and Jenny Li, Administrative Assistant.


A special thanks to our community partners who took part in the Agency Fair in March to discuss potential placements with BSW students. This year seemed to draw more students than previously and saw a diverse range of agencies, wonderful displays, and in-depth conversations about social work practice. It was great to have the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences, and smiles with field education coordinators from across Canada during the CASWE conference held at UBC in June.

The field education team is very happy to welcome Kelly Allison as Faculty Chair as of July 1, 2019. The teams’ commitment to continue to work with our valued community partners to provide students with excellent learning opportunities is as strong as ever.

- Field Education Team

Comings and Goings

Four new faculty joined the School of Social Work in 2019.
Welcome Kelly Allison, Donna Baines, Antoine Coulombe, and Hannah Kia!

Kelly Allison

Kelly Allison, MSW, RCSW, joined the Faculty as a full-time instructor on January 1, 2019. Kelly has been employed by UBC since 2011 as a sessional instructor in the School of Social Work.

Kelly’s career in social work started in the mid 90’s in Ontario. She has a BA in psychology from the University of Guelph and an MSW from Wilfrid Laurier University with a clinical concentration with Individuals, families and groups. Kelly started her career in a community children's mental health clinic but then shortly after moved to BC.

In her first few years, she worked for the Ministry for Children and Family Development as an intake worker, family service worker and then in a family preservation program. Kelly then moved into health social work with the majority of her career being at BC Children’s hospital. She has worked in the ICU/Emergency department, the Child Protection Service Unit and
a short secondment in the Grief works program doing program development. After returning from maternity leave, Kelly provided social work services in the Cleft Palate Clinic and the Cochlear Implant clinic at BCCH.

Highlights of her time as a sessional at UBC include teaching “Communication Skills in Social Work Practice”, and “Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families” to BSW and MSW students. Kelly is thrilled to be at UBC full time now.

**Hannah Kia**

Hannah Kia joined the School on July 1, 2019, after completing her doctoral degree in Social and Behavioural Health Sciences at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Her dissertation, which was supported with a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Doctoral Research Award, examined subjugation and resistance in older gay men’s health care experiences. Currently, her program of research broadly addresses aging in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, and other sexual and gender minority (LGBTQ2S+) communities, and additionally centres questions related to social work practice with these populations. She is, in particular, currently interested in examining expectations and experiences of aging in trans and gender diverse communities, and intends to draw on a variety of critical and intersectional traditions of scholarship to inform this work.

Prior to starting her academic career, Hannah practiced as a social worker in health care settings, where she specialized in hospice palliative care and acute care more generally. During her time as a social worker on a tertiary palliative care unit, in addition to engaging in clinical practice, she co-taught professional development courses on psychosocial dimensions of end of life care to service providers across a range of disciplines.

Hannah is very much look forward to exciting opportunities for collaboration with other faculty, staff, and students at the School, and is eager to begin teaching this fall!

**Faculty and Sessional Departures, Retirements**

**Elizabeth Jones** retired in 2018 (Senior Instructor Emeritus). She started teaching at UBC in 1988 and became a full-time instructor in 2009, receiving a Killam Teaching Award in 2014. Her areas of practice included the scholarship of teaching and learning, leadership and management, organizational and community development, advocacy for the profession of social work, and educational leadership.

**Margaret Wright** retired in 2018 (Associate Professor Emeritus), having started teaching at UBC in 1998. Her areas of scholarship and practice included criminal justice, judicial decision-making, sentencing, child sexual abuse, group work, ethical practice, critical incident debriefing, and correctional practice.

**Eleanor Lipov** retired in spring 2019 after 33 years as a sessional instructor. Eleanor taught a variety of integral courses at the School, including teaching the Integrative Seminars for student practicums and being a practicum Field Liaison.

**Pilar Riano-Alcala** has moved to another department at UBC, to the Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice Institute. She currently co-leads their Memory and Justice Research Stream.
Research Round-Up

Donna Baines

Donna Baines has spent the last year on research leave from her position at University of Sydney. This meant that she had more time than usual to devote to research and writing – which she loves doing. It was a fairly productive year of trying to change the world, one journal article or book chapter at a time.

She is pleased to see the recent release of a co-edited book (with Bennett, Goodwin and Rawsthorne, MacMillan, 2019), titled “Working Across Difference: Social Work, Social Policy and Social Justice”. The book highlights the voices of those less heard in social work academia and includes chapters on urgent social debates such as Islamophobia, Indigenous perspectives, white fragility, and gender equities.

Books and Book Chapters


Journal Articles


Recent Presentations - Invited

Recent Presentations - Peer Reviewed
Baines, D. and Dulhunty, A. (June, 2019) Relationship-Based Care, Austerity and Aged Care. Global Care Work Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Christiana Bratiotis

Christiana Bratiotis, PhD, MSW just finished her second year at UBC and is basking in recent news of the achievement of tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. In addition to her service in the School of Social Work, Christiana is an affiliated faculty with the UBC Centre for Collaborative Research on Hoarding in the Department of Psychology where she has the good fortune to work in close partnership with UBC Professor Dr. Sheila Woody (psychology) and Associate Professor Dr. Nathan Lauster (sociology) and a lab group of graduate and undergraduate psychology students.

In addition to her scholarly pursuits, Christiana is busy leading the revisioning and renewal of the UBC MSW Program as one aspect of her role as MSW Program Chair.

Recent Publications of Interest


Recent Juried Conference Presentations


**Recent Invited Addresses**


**Grant Charles**

Grant was awarded a $1,980,640 SSHRC Partnership Grant (Stage Two) as a co-investigator (Transforming the Field Education Landscape: Intersections of Research and Practice in Canadian Social Work Field Education) with Julie Doulet (PI) et al. He is also a recipient of a SSHRC Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation Connections Grant entitled Developing a Model of Community Engagement for Indigenous Data, Information and Records ($50,000) (PI Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond) and a UBC Grant for Catalyzing Research Clusters on Research-Based Theatre ($100,000) (PI G. Belliveau).

Grant made his acting debut this year as a member of two research-based theatre projects. The first, Unload, is about loss and military veterans. It was initially performed at the Theatre & Health Forum at New York University and then at a Royal Society of Canada symposium, the UBC Inaugural Knowledge Exchange: Candid Conversations and the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The second play, Witnessing the “Dark Secret” of Student-to-Student Abuse in Canada’s Indian Residential School System (with Ashley Quinn, Martina Shovar, Hailey Matheson, Jada Benko, Hali McLennan and Daniel Ji) premiered at the Forum on Research Based Theatre at UBC and was also performed at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. This later play is part of a SSHRC Insight Grant on which he is the PI.

Grant co-edited (with K. Gharabaghia) a book, Child and Youth Care Across Sectors: Canadian Perspectives (Volume One). He co-authored a chapter in the book entitled The Classic Setting: Residential Care and Treatment. He edited a special edition of CYC-Online entitled Youth Who Have Changed Our Lives in which he also authored an article: Mattering in the Moment.

He authored an article, General Profile and Health Disparities of High School Age Young Carers in Comparison to their Non-caregiving Peers in Relational Child and Youth Care Practice and co-authored Professionals’ Perspectives on Viewing Child Sexual Abuse Images to Improve Response to Victims in Canadian Review of Sociology with Slane, Martin, Rimer, Eke, Sinclair and Quayle and Secure Care can Help Youth Reduce Imminent Risk of Serious Harm and Prevent Unnecessary Death in the Canadian Medical Association Journal with Warshawski, Vo, Moore and Jassemi.
Grant has recently become affiliated with the UBC Centre for Group Counselling and Trauma. He was also appointed as the co-editor of the Journal of Child and Youth Services. He served as a member of the Expert Panel, Safe Care Project - BC Ministry of Health, BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addictions, Victoria, British Columbia. He is a member of the Social Services Labour Market Research (SSLMR) Advisory Committee for a project run jointly by the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC), in partnership with The Federation of Community Social Services of BC (FCSSBC) and the Community Social Services Employers’ Association of BC (CSSEABC).

Daniel Ji, one of the doctoral students co-supervised by Grant (and Sheila Marshall) was awarded the SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Doctoral Scholarship.

Hannah Kia

Hannah is currently a co-investigator on several projects. The first, which is funded by a CIHR Catalyst Grant and is led by Dr. Carmen Logie, Associate Professor at the University of Toronto’s Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, is a community-based study that involves piloting and evaluating a training program to enhance competency for providing trans-affirming care among service providers engaged in HIV prevention and treatment work. Having already drafted the training content in collaboration with community members, the research team hopes to begin piloting this program in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal by early fall.

The other major project to which Hannah is contributing as a co-investigator is a study funded by a SSHRC-CHMC Collaborative Housing Research Network Initiative Grant and led by Dr. Jacquie Gahagan, Professor at Dalhousie University’s School of Health and Human Performance, which is designed to examine and address knowledge gaps in meeting the housing needs of older LGBT Canadians. The research team, which comprises professional and academic stakeholders from across Canada, is meeting throughout the summer to begin planning the initial stages of the study. Finally, during the 2019/2020 academic year, Hannah intends to use part of her new faculty start-up funds to complete a small study that will investigate gaps in health care and social services for trans and other gender minority populations in the Lower Mainland.

Aside from her involvement in various active projects, Hannah has also had busy spring and summer months with respect to academic conferences. In May, she presented a manuscript tied to her doctoral research at the Canadian Association for HIV Research Conference (CAHR) in Saskatoon. This paper draws on qualitative data to theorize older HIV-positive gay men’s long-term survival through the HIV/AIDS epidemic as an expression of resistance. In addition to promoting her work at CAHR, in June she presented another manuscript – this one focused on reconceptualising some of her doctoral findings using an intersectional lens – at the Sexuality Studies Association Conference, which was part of Congress 2019.

Recent Publications


Edward Kruk

Edward Kruk continues to serve as President of the International Council on Shared Parenting (ICSP), and is chairing the Scientific Committee for the Fifth International Conference on Shared Parenting, to be held at UBC May 29-June 1, 2020. The theme of the conference will be the Intersection of Shared Parenting and Family Violence, focusing on the development of safeguards, policies and procedures to be followed in the legal determination of co-parenting arrangements in situations of family violence, and will include scholars and practitioners in the fields of family violence and post-separation parenting from around the globe.

As President of ICSP, Edward hosted the Fourth International Conference on Shared Parenting, co-sponsored by the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg in November, at the Palais de l’Europe. In addition, he organized a conference on parental alienation for the Institute of Social Security, Health and Welfare at the University of Athens in March, and is co-organizing a conference on shared parenting to be held at the School of Law at Malaga University in December.

Edward co-wrote a seminal article in the APA journal Psychological Bulletin, “Parental Alienating Behaviors: An Unacknowledged Form of Family Violence,” and followed that up with an article in the Family Science Review, “Parental Alienation as a Form of Emotional Child Abuse: The Current State of Knowledge and Directions for Future Research.” Together, these two articles call for the recognition of parental alienation as a new category of both emotional child abuse and domestic violence. His research has informed the work of the APA Working Group to Review Scientific Literature for High Conflict Family Relationships with Child Involvement, whose findings will be instrumental in determining the APA’s official position on parental alienation. He also published “Arguments Against Presumptive Shared Parenting as the Foundation of Family Law: A Critical Review,” for the Journal of Divorce and Remarriage.

In addition, Edward has continued to publish his monthly blog on “Co-parenting After Divorce” for Psychology Today, and had two articles on shared parenting published in The Conversation over the past year.

Edward made numerous national and international presentations on the topics of equal parenting responsibility and parental alienation over the course of the past year, including two presentations at Colorado State University (including at the International Association for Relationship Research Annual Conference), a keynote presentation to the National Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Tehran, a keynote presentation to the Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Finland, Helsinki, a presentation to the Justice Committee, Parliament of Canada, five presentations at the Fourth International Conference on Shared Parenting in Strasbourg, a Legislative Educational Seminar to the State of Texas, a keynote presentation to the Institute of Social Security, Health and Welfare at the University of Athens, and a keynote presentation at a conference on the rights of the child in Budapest.

Barbara Lee

Dr. Barbara Lee is the principal investigator on a 2-year Teaching and Learning Evaluation Fund (TLEF) research project called “Developing a Program of Teaching and Assessment Using Simulation in Child Welfare Training”. Over the past year, the research team, including UBC PhD social work students Daniel Ji and Michelle O’Kane, offered a total of four simulation workshops. Two workshops were for 3rd year BSW students, one was for 4th year BSW students, and one was for MSW students. In the simulation workshops, students had the opportunity to work directly with standardized clients portraying a child maltreatment scenario and practice their social work skills.
The workshops have been well received by the students and preliminary results suggest this approach can deepen student learning and help prepare them for direct practice in the field. The case scenarios used in the simulation workshops were adapted to create two virtual (online) simulation modules depicting a social worker and client child maltreatment investigation interview. Preliminary results found that student believe the virtual simulation is a better educational approach than “role-playing” with peers; however, it is not deemed a better educational approach than live simulation with standardized clients. Further research will continue to examine the utility and effectiveness of simulation in child welfare training in both in class and online formats.

Two presentations related to this research was conducted this year:


The School of Social Work collaborated with the Department of Theatre and Film, as well as the UBC Opera, to design and create a simulated one-bedroom apartment (see image below). The kitchen, living room, and bedroom sets are all scaled down in size and moveable with wheel casters. Substantial time was spent on constructing a free-standing “front door” that could withstand firm knocking by the social worker, yet, light enough to be repositioned in the room for students to observe the simulation with the standardized actors. The simulated one-bedroom apartment adds an element of realism to the simulation by mimicking the natural environment when working with a family in their home. The front door was an important starting point for students to practice introducing themselves, their roles as social workers, and purpose for meeting clients in their homes. The simulated one-bedroom apartment continues to be enhanced with additional props and furniture as resources becomes available.
Dr. Barbara Lee is a co-investigator on a 3-year (2018-2021) Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded research project called “Evaluating Decision-Making and Relationship Competence when Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect”. Over the past year, the research team (including Dr. Lea Tufford, principal investigator, Laurentian University; and Prof. Marion Bogo, co-investigator, University of Toronto) pilot tested the Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation (OSCE) at the Michener Institute of Education at UHN (University Health Network) in Toronto to measure the procedural and meta-competencies related to the mandatory reporting of child maltreatment. Two UBC BSW students, Rose Zhao and Vivian Thieu, are research assistants on the project. They are assisting in the development of the educational toolkit to train social work students and practitioners in decision-making and relationship maintenance in the mandatory reporting of child maltreatment.

Two peer-reviewed journal articles related to this research were published this year:


Dr. Barbara Lee was awarded the SSHRC Exchange Grant to attend the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) conference in Orlando, Florida. Barbara was part of a panel presentation with Dr. Kenta Asakura, Dr. Lea Tufford, and Prof. Marion Bogo titled “Advancing simulation-based research in teaching, assessment and practice: A social work agenda”.

Sheila Marshall

Sheila continues to work as an associate editor with the Journal of Adolescence. The revenue from the journal helps the Foundation for Professionals in Services to Adolescents (FPSA) pay for front line workers to attend conferences and workshops relevant to providing mental health services to youth in the United Kingdom. The research published in the Journal covers a wide range of topics relevant to youth practitioners, social workers, educators, and researchers.

Over the past year, Sheila has completed an initial evaluation of the Canadian Mental Health Association’s Confident Parents: Thriving Kids program. This program is delivered through a telehealth model – the first of its kind in Canada. The results suggest that parents respond well to the supports provided by the coaches – some of whom are graduates of the School.

Since graduate school, Sheila has worked on the idea that a sense of mattering to others is important for social and mental well-being. This idea, although intuitively fun, is very hard to assess because it is much more complex than it appears. This past year, she completed a study testing whether feeling like they matter to others predicts adolescents’ well-being or the reverse: well-being predicts mattering. She found teens’ feelings of mattering to their parents did not relate strongly to their well-being. However, mattering to friends did link to adolescents’ well-being. The next step is to figure out why mattering to parents is not as powerful in predicting psychosocial well-being as expected. The study is now published in the International Journal of Behavioral Development.

Sheila was busy at the annual meeting of the Society for Adolescent Health & Medicine in Washington, DC this year. Sheila, Grant Charles (Social Work), and Elizabeth Saewyc (Nursing) presented research showing differences in well-
being between adolescents who engage in intermittent versus consistent non-suicidal self-injury (the latter not doing as well as the former). Sheila was also a co-author on presentations about studies of sexual minority high-school student well-being. Tatiana Sotindjo (Adolescent Medicine) presented a joint project showing that homonegative comments hurt all students psychosocial well-being, not just sexual minority students. Elizabeth Saewyc presented a project showing the positive long-term effects of Gay Straight Alliances on perceived school safety among LGB youth. It is exciting to report that this study was the Winner of the 2019 DuRant Award for Statistical Rigor by the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine.

Marie Nightbird

A new chapter in my social work career started July 2018 when I joined the school as an Instructor. The past year provided me with many opportunities to share the experiences I have had as a social worker over several decades.

As Chair of Field Education and as a faculty liaison for MSW students I joined with committed community partners and the Field Education team to provide quality practica to our students. As an instructor for the 3rd year courses ‘Indigenous Peoples and Critical Social Work Analysis’ and ‘Communication Skills in Social Work Practice’ I was fortunate to contribute to the educational journey of upcoming social workers.

I was honoured to be the Indigenous Student Advisor, the Chair of the Indigenous Program Advisory Circle, and to join the CASWE Thunderbird Circle. The memories and ideas generated during my first year have created the beginnings of another rewarding year.

All smiles at the Spring 2019 Convocation after another school year. School of Social Work faculty members from left to right: Mohamed Ibrahim, Marie Nightbird, Christiana Bratiotis, Antoine Coulombe, Barbara Lee.

Deborah O’Connor

Deborah O’Connor was on a research sabbatical from January 2018 - December 2019. In addition to her ongoing work related to stigma, citizenship and dementia, much of her intensive work during this period of time focused on developing policy and practice around assessing incapacity in BC and internationally. One of the very interesting opportunities was spending 10 days in Singapore as an invited key expert, meeting with policy makers, the legal community and health and social care professionals to assist them in the development of their assessment practices under a new Mental Capacity Act and the Vulnerable Adults Act. It was an incredible learning experience - reflecting on how ideals of autonomy, self-determination and relational connections look cross-culturally. She is currently in process of co-authoring a contracted book (with Joan Braun) focused on understanding and assessing (in)capacity.
in community dwelling adults - scheduled for publication in 2020.

Deborah also continues on as co-director of the Center for Research on Personhood and Dementia (CRPD) - the internationally recognized interdisciplinary research center located in the School of Social Work. It has been a productive year for the research center! The CRPD has continued to provide interdisciplinary student opportunities and host a regular colloquium series that is free and open to health care professionals, people with dementia, family carers and researchers. If you'd like to receive a notice about upcoming events, email deborah.oconnor@ubc.ca to be put on the contact list or check out our CRPD Facebook page!

Perhaps one of the most satisfying and moving achievement for the CRPD resulted from a collaboration between the CRPD (Alison Phinney, PI) and the University of Washington Memory Clinic (Marigrace Becker, PI) to co-host the first ever “Dementia without Borders” celebration. The purpose of the celebration was to begin to challenge the societal stigma and discrimination that people with dementia and their family carers experience by reaffirming a sense of belonging, purpose and achievement. Over 100+ people (mostly people with dementia and family carers) from Seattle plus another 100+ people from Vancouver were bused to meet at the White Rock International Provincial Park - a beautiful park which is open on both the American and Canadian side without passport. The day included a (donated) BBQ lunch, poetry reading by people with dementia, singing, tai chi and dancing. For those who attended, it was an emotionally moving experience - there were many tears that day - which the CRPD hopes will become an annual event.

Deborah and other CRPD researchers were also very excited to receive a coveted CIHR research grant ($700,000) to carry out a 4 year participatory action research study focused on addressing stigma and discrimination of people with dementia. The project is led by Deborah and Alison Phinney as academic co-principals, and Jim Mann, Principal knowledge user - with a team that includes researchers from SFU and Lakehead University as well as community collaborators such as the BC Alzheimer’s Society. As a first step in the project, we are currently recruiting people with dementia who want to participate in an Action group that will meet monthly to help formulate the direction of the research. If you or someone you know is interested in advocacy and/or knowing more about the project, have them contact Deb O’Connor at deborah.oconnor@ubc.ca.

Ashley Quinn

During the past year Ashley Quinn taught SOWK 442, the pre-requisite Policy and Practice in Child Welfare course required to enroll in SOWK 415, the BSW child welfare specialization and practicum placement. Ashley also facilitated the accompanying integrative seminar course (SOWK 416). Ashley has been collecting data for two research projects; one examining the experiences of Indigenous culturally-engaged caregivers with MCFD and the other focused on exploring the inclusion Indigenous historical content within child welfare social work education and curriculum across Canada.
Ashley co-chaired the Youth Research Working Group at Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS) and is a member of the VACFSS Culturally Inclusive Foster Care Research Advisory Committee. Ashley currently volunteers with Urban Butterflies, a program for Indigenous females 12 to 21 years of age who are involved in child welfare system in the Greater Vancouver Area.

As part of the UBC Grants for Catalyzing Research Clusters, Ashley participated in the development and performances of a research-based theatre project about student-to-student abuse in the Indian Residential Schools across Canada.

**Invited Presentations**


**Journal Article**


**Tim Stainton**

Tim has continued his work as Director of the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship and his work is reported under the Centre’s entry (see page 21). Much of his recent work has been focused on Medical Assistance in Dying and the risks to vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities. He was appointed to the Federal Expert Panel on MAiD convened by the Council of Canadian Academies whose report to Parliament was submitted in December 2018.

He has also led projects on Human Flourishing and Disability in the context of Maid, Social Capital and Microboards, and currently is involved as co-lead on projects on Youth with Disabilities Transition to Employment (TYDE) and Inclusive Childcare on behalf of MCFD. Internationally he is co-lead on a project for the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities on threats to the lives of people with IDD. He continues to consult widely on service models and policy with Canadian and International jurisdictions.

**Refereed Articles:**


As part of the Social Sciences and Humanities Congress, the School co-hosted with the Canadian Association of Social Work Education the annual conference from June 3 to 7. The local planning committee, of which I was the chairperson, decided to frame the theme of this year’s conference as “Doing Social Justice through Transformative Action”. This theme, which reflected our School’s vision of social justice, was well received by the social work education community. The numbers of abstract submission and registration have broken the CASWE records.

In terms of research, my focus was still on Chinese immigrants. I published the preliminary findings of the inner group dynamics among Chinese immigrant community project. The article, “Subethnic interpersonal dynamic in diasporic community: a study on Chinese immigrants in Vancouver”, was published in Asian Ethnicity as an open access article. It can be access via this link https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14631369.2019.1613885. The article was well received by the news media and reported in South China Morning Post, OMNI News and CBC Radio One.

Meanwhile, based on the preliminary analysis of our data, we extended the study to explore two related social phenomena. With the help of Kennedy Wong, a fourth year sociology student, we studied a group of re-returning migrants from Hong Kong who returned to Hong Kong after immigrated to Canada and recently re-located back to Canada. The preliminary findings of this study were shared in a community forum which received noticeable attention in the community. Meanwhile, working with Dr. Sean Lauer, a UBC sociologist, and with the help of Capri Kwong,
a third year sociology student, we studied the change in friendship circle of new generation Chinese youth. The preliminary findings were reported in the Metropolis Conference in March.

Regarding the international comparative study of the immigration and integration processes of Chinese and South Asian immigrants in Singapore, Los Angeles and Vancouver, the research team reported the preliminary findings at the International Metropolis Conference in June at Ottawa. My research assistant, Winnie Tse, a recent graduate from the psychology program, and I focused our presentation on comparing how Chinese and South Asian immigrants identified with the host and home countries in relation to their English proficiency, year of immigration, and use of social media. The research team has planned to report the findings through a book manuscript.

As part of the knowledge mobilization of the previous Neighbourhood House project, I have coauthored with Rory Sutherland, the Executive Director of Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House, an article entitled “A place-based alternative approach to food security: lessons learned from a neighborhood house”, which was digitally published in Community Development Journal. The research team has also been working on a book manuscript and will soon be submitted to UBC Press for review.

Finally, after completing my three-year term as the Director of the School, I am currently on an eight-month administrative leave starting from August 1, 2019. I will be affiliating with Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Applied Social Sciences as a Visiting Professor from September to December 2019.

---

**International Opportunities for UBC Social Work Students**

*The ISUW Summer School and Global Mental Health*

**A note from faculty member Mohamed Ibrahim**

This year summer, I had the opportunity to participate in the 10th International Summer University in Social Work Consortium held at the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences in the coastal city of Kochi, India. In attendance from UBC were Cindy and Sofia (MSW qualifying students) and Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim (see pgs 2, 25 for the students’ reflection). The state of Kerala is one of the most diverse; highly literate and economical well to do state in India. The theme of the year’s summit was “social care and the wellbeing of vulnerable populations”, topics range from mental health, immigration, refugees, seniors, and children care to environmental issues.

The summer summit saw the participation of eight universities from across the world. From North America, the University of British Columbia and University of California Los Angles, from Europe was University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, from Asia Pacific, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shandong University and Western Sydney University, from the Middle East, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the host Rajagiri College of Social Sciences. The summer school is a unique international summer program that brings together ten universities annually where faculty, students and invited guests share diverse experiences and knowledge from different corners of the globe.

The highlights of the program is the enriching blend of research presentations from faculty members, all week workshops led by host faculty members and various field visits to different programs and services in the city. As the consortium celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, consortium members discussed plans to institutionalize the summer institute by building an active website hosting previous summer information and presentations that will be accessible to consortium members. This effort will be led by the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western University Switzerland, which holds the secretariat.

*Continued on page 24, International Opportunities*
School Events

Indigenous Initiatives: Formation of an Indigenous Program Advisory Circle

An Indigenous Program Advisory Circle has been formed over the past year to provide guidance in the process of Reconciliation and Indigenization and Decolonization of the School of Social Work. Indigenous Elders, community stakeholders, alumni, and faculty, and the director of the school join together in the Circle. During the past year we have also had other Elders and knowledge keepers from different nations generously share their time and wisdom in classroom discussions, individual conversations, and ceremony.

Many thanks to Elder Scholar Dr. Richard Vedan, MSW PhD RSW, Chiteleqches, Associate Professor Emeritus, for his continued contributions to our school. Deep appreciation for Musqueam Elders Thelma and Art Stogan for facilitating a cedar brushing ceremony of the school for a cleansing and purifying of the building. We were fortunate to have Elder Gerry Oleman, Saahiilthit, join our ‘Coming Together’ visioning meeting and share many teachings with faculty and staff. The deep discussions about the process of Indigenization and Decolonization of the School which occurred throughout the day will guide our future initiatives.

An ‘Indigenous Cultural Sharing Recess’ program started this past year. These lunch time events are an opportunity for everyone to share and learn about Indigenous ways of being and Indigenous-specific topics areas.

An important event for the entire UBC community was the raising of a Musqueam Indian Band flag on February 25, 2019. In a beautiful flag raising ceremony the flag joined the campus and now serves as a constant reminder of UBC’s relationship and ongoing partnership with the Musqueam people.

** Announcement: We are planning a reunion of Indigenous alumni to re-connect, make new acquaintances, share successes, and to provide suggestions about Indigenizing and Decolonizing the school. Please contact Marie Nightbird if you are interested in attending: Marie.Nightbird@ubc.ca

- Marie Nightbird, MSW, RCSW, Instructor
International Joint Conference on Social Work Localization: A Placement-Base Solution to Emerging Social Issues

In December 14, the School co-organized an international conference, Social Work Localization: A Place-based Solution to Emerging Social Issues, with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, South China Normal University, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and Guangdong Professional Social Workers Association. The conference was held in Guangzhou, China.

A delegation from the School, members of which included Christiana Bratiotis, Liz Jones, Barbara Lee, Tim Stainton and Miu Chung Yan, attended and presented in the conference. The delegation also visited the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Applied Social Sciences and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies Department of Social Work during the trip.

Miu Chung Yan (left) gifts a plaque from the School (Raven Transforming into Child, by artist Ray Sim) to Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.

The Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship, in Partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Hosted a Summer Intensive Course, July 2-5, 2019

The Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship, in partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, hosted a summer intensive course on July 2nd-5th, 2019 at the UBC School of Social Work. Taught by Dr. Tim Stainton, the co-director of the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship, and Dr. Shirli Werner, the head of the Centre for Disability Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the course was designed to provide an in-depth knowledge of progressive models of disability, particularly the social model and identity-based models and their influence on professional practice, policy perspectives, research, and consequently, the lives of persons with disabilities. Eight students from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare and a local community learner joined six UBC Social Work students for the four-day course.

During the week-long intensive course, professionals, service providers and individuals with disabilities themselves
Students and faculty from the 2019 summer intensive course.

were invited to share their experiences on disability rights, full citizenship and inclusion. Students were given the opportunity to have an open and critical discussions on different service and support models specific to Israeli and Canadian contexts, different ethical aspects, perceptions of professional roles and practice challenges when working with individuals with disabilities, and different ways on how the social perspective on disability can be promoted within professional practice.

In addition to the lectures and presentations, Sarah Jickling, a Canadian singer-songwriter and mental health advocate, and her Good Bad Luck Band were also invited to perform live music at the evening social event for the students, guests from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and community members at the Mahoney and Sons Public House on campus. Sarah performed some of her songs that document her journey living with bipolar disorder.

- Celeste Borja, BSW student

More Student Updates

PhD Student Daniel Ji Receives Bombardier Fellowship

I am grateful to be one of this year’s recipients of a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral). The Bombardier Fellowship is a federal program of scholarships awarded through national competition by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Its objective is to promote continued excellence in Canadian research by providing awardees with a high-quality research training experience. With the support of this fellowship, I will be able to fully concentrate on my doctoral studies and focus on my research program.

My program of study is titled “Creating a conceptual framework for understanding resistance in adult-adolescent interactions”. I seek to understand what strategies adolescents use to resist their parents and how these strategies manifest over the course of adult-adolescent interactions. I will conduct a secondary analysis of existing parent-child conversational data and use this analysis to create a series of instructional videos for education and training purposes. I would like to thank my supervisors Dr’s Sheila Marshall and Grant Charles, and the Leadership at the UBC School of Social Work for supporting my application to this prestigious award. I am proud to be a doctoral student at the UBC School of Social Work and am committed to representing the school in my research efforts with distinction.

Doctoral student Daniel Ji.
Centre Updates

Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship at UBC
(Formerly the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship)

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2019, having successfully operated as the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship at the Schools of Social Work in Vancouver and Okanagan, my Co-Director, Dr. Rachelle Hole, CIIC Coordinator Cindy Chapman and I are thrilled to announce that the UBCO Senate has approved our application to be established as a research institute. We are transitioning this summer to our new name, the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship (CIIC) and will be hosting an official launch event at UBC Okanagan on November 21, 2019. Please save the date and join us there if you are able.

The CIIC is Canada’s only university-based research institute with a dedicated focus on social policy and practice issues concerned with the full inclusion and citizenship of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We are committed to research, learning, and knowledge exchange to positively impact the lives of people with I/DD and their families locally, nationally, and globally and we are at the forefront of building Canada’s capacity in the field of I/DD research. Our research, learning, and knowledge activities have engaged people from every province and territory in Canada, and we have facilitated knowledge exchange with individuals, families, academics, and experts from 44 universities in 18 countries.

To date, the majority of our research has focused on two streams: 1) Policy, Practice and Ethics and 2) Employment and Transition. In dialogue with our provincial advisory board, three additional streams of research will enhance the reach and impact of the Institute. These streams are: 1) Inclusive Education, 2) Health and Well-being of Individuals with I/DD and their Families across the Life-Course, and 3) Working with Indigenous Communities and Families and I/DD. In order to build upon the established success of the CIC, moving to an Institute will contribute necessary infrastructure and support to secure the establishment of these important additional domains. Also, in moving to the Institute, our leadership will extend from Dr. Hole and myself to include a research lead and co-lead for each research stream with representation from both campuses including Dr. Jennifer Baumbusch, (Nursing), Dr. Lise Olsen (Nursing), Dr. Leyton Schnellert (Education) and Dr. Karen Ragoonaden (Education) at this time.

We have always operated as a partnership between the two UBC Schools of Social Work, community living organizations, government, and supporters and will continue to operate across both campuses. We appreciate the support received from the Schools of Social Work and the Faculty of Arts in Vancouver and Okanagan.
the Faculty of Health and Social Development and the VPRO at UBC Okanagan.

Collaboration has been vital to the work of the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship. In fact, in the UBC Strategic Plan, the CIC is offered as an example of how the university is strengthening connections across the two campuses and across the province to cultivate collaborative efforts (see p. 27 of the UBC Strategic Plan). See the previous page for our collaborators and partners at a glance.

Originally established with a $100,000 start-up grant from Community Living BC (provincial government Crown Corporation), we have been successful in increasing funding on an annual basis and have seen steady growth in Tri-Council funding, research contracts, and community contributions over the past decade. To date (July 2019), the Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship has secured $4,074,511 in funding, leveraging the original $100,000 start-up contribution 40 times.

Current Initiatives

New Publication:

“The TYDE Project”
This project is an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral network of partners committed to improving the employment outcomes for transitioning youth ages 14 – 18 with intellectual disabilities or autism in British Columbia through early an intervention targeting youth and their parents/caregivers. Research consistently supports that intervening early when young adolescent girls and boys with developmental disabilities are transitioning from school to adult life translates to positive employment outcomes. Further, research demonstrates that 1) experiences with inclusive education, 2) positive parental expectations for employment and/or post-secondary education, 3) greater levels of self-determination among transitioning youth with developmental disabilities, and, 4) early work experience are predictive of higher employment outcomes. These four domains underpin the TYDE Project. Through this partnership, we will create an interactive online curriculum to increase employment outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities by increasing youth pre-employment skills, increasing youth self-determination, and improving parental/caregiver knowledge and expectations for fostering their youth’s future employment experiences. More at www.mytyde.ca.
**Microboards, Social Capital, Self Determination & Quality of Life**
Research has shown that persons with disabilities have difficulty establishing relationships and becoming involved in their communities, which can generate barriers to generating and maintaining social capital. Microboards are small groups of people who have agreed to collaborate with an individual with a disability to form a person-centered ‘board’. Microboards have generated anecdotal attention for the positive impacts they can generate on the enhancement of social capital in persons with disabilities, but there is limited formal research to date on the impacts of Microboards on individuals and communities. This project is determining if and how Microboards increase and individual's social capital.

**Inclusive Child Care**
BC is moving towards a universal child care system. In light of this policy shift, in July 2019 we entered into a short-term research contract with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development to conduct a brief scoping review of the literature and a comprehensive jurisdictional scan around how other jurisdictions facilitate inclusive child care. By inclusive child care, we mean children of all abilities, including children with extra support needs have equitable access to quality child care and are supported in learning through play along with other children in a regular program.

**Romance, Relationship & Rights**
We are presently wrapping up a 3 year Vancouver Foundation grant that started as an action research project called *Sex, Lies & Citizenship*, aimed to challenge stereotypes regarding individuals with I/DD and their rights to sexual citizenship with a focus on promoting healthy and inclusive understandings of sexuality and gender identity for individuals with I/D and ended as *Romance, Relationship & Rights* – a theatrical performance co-created (and re-named) by and with self advocates to express their rights to find love and have meaningful relationships. The performance was viewed by approximately 950 people over 4 performances and received overwhelmingly positive reviews.

**Promoting Human Flourishing in the Context of Medical Assistance in Dying**
The Promoting Human Flourishing working paper series consists of three linked yet distinct papers:

- Historical Overview of the Development of the Ethic of Human Flourishing (Working Paper 1)
- A Survey of Current Ethical Theories that may assist an Ethic of Human Flourishing (Working Paper 2)
- Towards an Ethic of Human Flourishing in the Context of Disability (Working Paper 3)

The papers deal with the idea of what constitutes human flourishing, what is required to achieve it and, how beliefs about who has and who does not have the capacity to flourish have informed our ideas of the value of various forms of human life and what is required to lead a flourishing life. As you will see from the papers, this is an idea that has been central to western thought since classical times. So why are we concerned with it now and what is the relevance to disability? These papers seek to begin an exploration of this notion that disability precludes flourishing and begin to chart an ethical theory of human flourishing that is inclusive of disability. See [https://cic.arts.ubc.ca](https://cic.arts.ubc.ca) and [www.humanflourishing.ca](http://www.humanflourishing.ca).
**Ready, Willing & Able National Evaluation**
Our final reports on the evaluation of the national Ready, Willing & Able are now available on our website. Funded by the Government of Canada as a three-year (2015 – 2018) pilot project, Ready, Willing and Able (RWA) is a national initiative of the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) and Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA) and their member organizations. The RWA initiative was designed to build employer capacity and demand to hire people with an intellectual disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder; link employers with employment agencies and supports; and assist in the development of information and public awareness tools to promote inclusive hiring practices. One of the most significant National employment projects for these populations ever undertaken in Canada, the project yielded a wealth of information and learnings on how to improve the employment rates for two traditionally underemployed segments of the population.

**International Knowledge Exchange**
In August, my colleagues Dr. Rachelle Hole, Dr. Lise Olsen and SOWK Vancouver PhD Candidate Rae Morris (currently an RA working with the Institute) and I are presenting various papers and poster sessions at the World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Glasgow. This enables us to share our work, explore future collaborations and increase our visibility internationally. As the Canadian Host for Citizen Network, we will also be able to meet with our international partners.

**I Am Voting**
Following the success of the I Am Voting initiative leading up to the last provincial election, we will be working with our community partners to roll out our next campaign this summer to inform and encourage people with disabilities to vote in the October 2019 Federal Election. The goals of this community engagement initiative are to:

- Ensure that all British Columbians with disabilities can participate fully in election activities and vote.
- Promote priority attention for disability issues in the election.
- Support British Columbians with disabilities in making informed voting decisions.

See the [I Am Voting Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/IAmVotingBC/) for more information.

**Continued from page 17: International Opportunities for UBC Social Work Students**
Further, the summer tentatively agreed to invite a yet to be identified university from South America to expand the consortium's global representation. This outreach effort will further be discussed in 2020 during next year's summer school to be held in UCLA.

On another exciting note, I am very pleased to share that, UBC Social Work will be offering a **new cross-listed global mental health course in the summer of 2020** in Nairobi, Kenya. With funding support from the Faculty of Arts internal grants, students will be eligible for up to 70% of all the expenses including airfare and accommodation paid for.

The course will be an intensive 4 week theory and practice taught by Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim and invited leaders and experts in the field social work, mental health and refugee health in Kenya. Following the completion of the theory course, 4th year BSW and MSW students will be eligible for international practicum at selected agencies in Nairobi. For more information, please log into the link [https://orice.ubc.ca/sowk-440j-571/](https://orice.ubc.ca/sowk-440j-571/) and contact Dr. Ibrahim at [Mohamed.ibrahim@ubc.ca](mailto:Mohamed.ibrahim@ubc.ca) or Office of Regional and International Engagement (ORICE) office.
Key learnings included the commonalities of social work practice across the countries. During one particular site visit to Rajagiri Hospital, student delegates were pleased to see the similar and significant role that hospital social workers hold on medical interdisciplinary teams. The tour of the Hospital also revealed a traditional medicine unit which is available for integration into more standard care approaches within the facility. Features such as the traditional medicine unit, provided productive discussions amongst delegates about opportunities for incorporating culturally specific, healing approaches in medical treatment.

Differences in social work practice were also an important part of the learning exchange. In particular, the differences in care of seniors in the countries represented at the ISUSW were significant, and in some cases appeared to stem from differences in values and cultural beliefs (i.e. aging in place and familial duty to care for elders within the family unit). The importance and caution of comparing country approaches was also highlighted as students noted the impact of unique cultural context, socio-economic status, income disparity and many other factors that impacted framing and policy approaches to social problems within individual countries.

To conclude this year’s ISUSW event, student delegates engaged in presentations about specific areas of practice which summarized much of the learning that took place. Overall it was an exciting event and a wonderful opportunity to discuss social work with international colleagues and to participate in an invaluable cultural exchange opportunity.

- Cindy Nguyen and Sofia Joensuu, MSW students