

SOCIAL.WORKS.

**Annual Report
2018-2019**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

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COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Nashville

MSSW

Knoxville

MSSW BSSW PhD

Online

BSSW MSSW DSW



BRAND NEW!

Forensic Social Work Program

Online BSSW Program



Source: U.S. News and World Report 2020

From the Dean's Desk

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Interim Dean of the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville over the past two years. I have been extremely fortunate to be surrounded by a group of dedicated and hard-working professionals who care deeply about our College and have worked alongside me in leading our College forward during this time of transition. I am proud to announce that our UT College of Social Work rose three spots among public universities and is now ranked 22nd according to the U.S. News and World Report's 2020 graduate school rankings. This rise in national rankings is important because it demonstrates that the quality of our academic programs and the exceptional research being conducted by our faculty has impressed our peers at other colleges and schools of social work across the U.S.



We restructured our College's Board of Visitors (BOV) to more fully utilize the knowledge and expertise of BOV members in helping us achieve our College's goals as well as explore ways to promote our College to important constituencies and decision-makers across the state of Tennessee. In addition to seeking input from faculty, administrators and staff during my tenure as interim dean, I have benefitted from hearing the voices of our students. In fall 2018, I established a Dean's Student Advisory Council (DSAC) to solicit the input and perspectives of students across all CSW academic programs and campuses.

A number of exciting activities associated with our College's five-year Social Justice Innovation Initiative (SJII) also took place during the 2018-19 academic year. One of the funded projects for 2018, the Coalition of Black Social Workers was created with the goal of increasing diversity within the College and developing networking and mentoring opportunities for students of color in Middle Tennessee. Through funding from the SJII, our College sponsored several events featuring New York Times reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones. In February 2019, the Nashville campus of the College and the Coalition of Black Social Workers sponsored a free lecture by noted author and advocate Austin Channing Brown. This event highlighted our College's commitment to bring engaging, informative lectures and conversations to the Nashville campus.

As my tenure as interim dean comes to a close, I want to thank the faculty and staff of our College for all their support and hard work. I also want to thank our students for challenging and inspiring me with their passion and commitment to keeping us faithful to our social work values and ethics. I want to thank our donors, alumni, and friends for their continued support of our College during this time of transition.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Lori Messinger who will become our new Dean on July 1, 2019. Dr. Messinger brings more than 15 years of progressive leadership in both research and public universities to our UT College of Social Work. I know that our College will be in good hands!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Dupper". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David R. Dupper, PhD
Interim Dean

Dr. Lori Messinger Named New Dean of the College of Social Work

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has selected Lori Messinger, professor in the University of North Carolina Wilmington's School of Social Work, to be the next dean of the College of Social Work. She will start July 1, 2019. Messinger succeeds Interim Dean Dave Dupper, professor of social work, who has served in an interim role since August 2017, when former dean Karen Sowers retired.

"Dr. Messinger is a committed and proven leader and I look forward to working with her as she continues to build on the college's upward momentum," said Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor David Manderscheid. "I want to thank Dr. Dupper for his commitment and service to the university for the last two years."



As dean, Messinger will oversee a college whose graduate program was recently ranked 22nd among all public universities and whose online Master of Science in Social Work program was ranked 7th in the nation.

"It is my honor and privilege to be selected to lead the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee," Messinger said. "The college is a nationally recognized leader in social work education and research, and I am excited about becoming a part of that tradition. I look forward to working closely with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners to address the challenges facing our communities in ways that reflect the best of our profession."

Messinger brings more than 15 years of progressive leadership in both research and public universities to UT. At the University of North Carolina Wilmington, she served as director of the School of Social Work from 2011 to 2015, associate vice chancellor for community engagement from 2015 to 2017, and most recently as senior fellow for diversity initiatives. From 2004 to 2010, she served as Bachelor of Social Work program

director at the University of Kansas, and she has also held faculty positions at the University of Alabama and North Carolina State University.

Messinger has a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in political science from Rutgers University, and an MSSW and a PhD in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her primary research areas include cultural competence in social work education and practice, comprehensive community planning processes, and organizational change processes, particularly in higher education institutions. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Council for Social Work Education.



Commenting on the state of social work today, Dr. Messinger stated, "Social workers take people where they are. Everybody matters. That is why we are seeing a movement to interprofessional practice. Social Work takes from everybody and every profession. We are recognizing an intersectionality among professions." Looking forward to her role at the college, she hopes that she can be a "cheerleader-in-chief." Quoting Parker Palmer she states that as educators we must have the "Courage to teach," because the students are why we are here. Students are the center of the educational experience.

The new dean of the college enjoys reading, music and singing, as well as comedy.

As Messinger looks forward to her new role, she expressed appreciation for the work that Dr. David Dupper has done over the course of the past two years. She believes that the college is in a solid place and anticipates building upon that strong foundation.



Dean Theresa Lee, pictured facing camera at right, from the College of Arts and Sciences was chair of the search committee that interviewed dean candidates. Interviewees met with faculty and staff during their visits to UT.

Knoxville Faculty at 2019 Graduation



Terri Combs-Orme, Sherry Cummings, Kim Denton, Camille Hall, Rebecca Jackson, Christy Hickman, Lisa Reyes Mason, Shandra Forrest-Bank, David Patterson, Phyllis Thompson, David Dupper, John Orme, William Nugent, Ragan Schriver, Frieda Herron, Randy Boyd, Martina Ward, Robert Mindrup, and Sybil Schroeder.

Knoxville Staff at 2018 Retreat



LaChetis Osborne-Brown, Tiffany Toney, Malissa Teal, Gina Middleton, Jennifer Scagnelli, Ali Giecek, Natalie Crippen, Allison Newman, Tiffany Harmon, Ashley Howdeshell, Sarah Browning, and Ann Ryan.

Nashville Faculty at 2019 Graduation



Front row: (l to r) Kate Chaffin, Mary Mary Lehman Held, Andrea Joseph, Kim Mallory. Back row: (l to r) student speaker Adrianna Carter, April Mallory, Katie Veit, Sukey Steckel, Stephen McGarity, Ashley Childers, Stacia Martin-West, Carmen Foster, and Sherry Cummings.

Student Speakers at 2019 Graduations



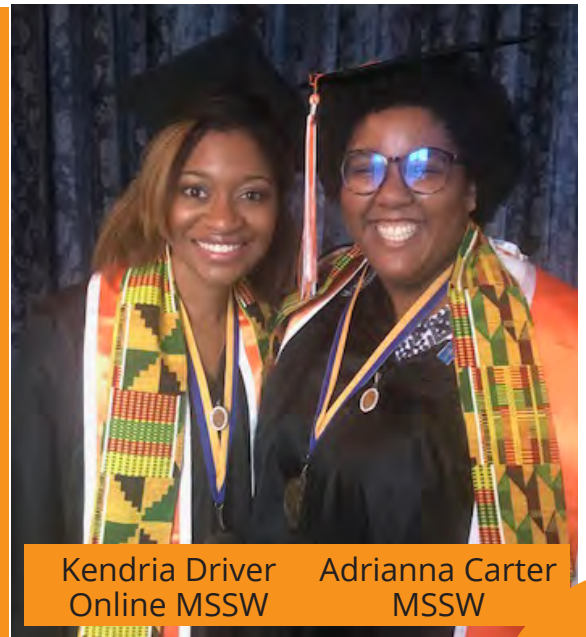
Mackenzie Hunter
BSSW



Morgan Booker
MSSW

Knoxville

Nashville



Kendria Driver
Online MSSW

Adrianna Carter
MSSW

Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work is not just an institution of education. As a profession, social work has traditionally led the way in changing conditions that challenge human potential and dignity. Our college joins in this long tradition, guided by the principles of our Code of Ethics. The profession of social work has a century-long history of doing all we can to address the impact of social problems on the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Additionally, the profession and our college hear and are responding to the call to eliminate racism, hate, and oppression. This call rises out of our common humanity and demands that we pursue respect for all, especially for those in our own community at the University of Tennessee.

Vision and Mission

We envision a socially just world that prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable.

Grounded in social justice, we equip professional social workers with the skills needed to serve diverse and vulnerable populations. We build knowledge by conducting groundbreaking research that focuses on solving social problems. We engage with our communities through meaningful service.



12 Challenges for Social Work

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Social Work has joined with national leaders in the social work profession to support an initiative to champion social progress by working together to tackle our nation's toughest social problems. The Grand Challenges for Social Work address individual and family well-being, building a stronger social fabric, and promoting a just society. Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason, director of the PhD program at the college serves as one of the national co-chairs of Grand Challenge #7: Create social responses to a changing environment. Dr. Mason has

recently published a book entitled, "People and Climate Change, Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Social Justice," and her story along with colleagues from two other disciplines was featured by the university for their multidisciplinary research funded by the nation's top research agencies. <https://tiny.utk.edu/12challenges>

Harness Technology for Good **Promote Smart Decarceration**
Create Social Responses to a Changing Environment
Reduce Extreme Economic Inequality **Financial Capability for All**
Eradicate Social Isolation **End Homelessness**
Stop Family Violence **Advance Long Productive Lives**
Healthy Development for Youth
Equal Opportunity & Justice **Close Health Gap**

Social Justice Innovation Initiative (SJII)

“The Social Justice Innovation Initiative, established through a generous donation by a friend of the college, Susan Cooper, is an example of what can be accomplished when students, community members, faculty and staff come together to address issues,” stated Tony N. Murchison, Special Projects Manager at the College of Social Work. “2018 was the inaugural year for the SJII grant program, and four amazing projects focused on challenging racism came to fruition as a result. We have set the bar even higher in 2019, and our grant winners are taking the challenge head-on.” For 2019, the SJII project theme is “Challenge Sexism, Racism and Intersectionality.”



2019 National Conference
on Race and Ethnicity

- **SJII Challenging Sexism: Nancy Humphreys Campaign School**

Faculty members Kate McClernon-Chaffin, Stacia Martin-West, Kim Crane-Mallory and DSW student Julie Franks will bring the Humphreys Campaign School to Tennessee to train students and others. The objective is to teach women social workers how to campaign or work on a campaign, and how to effect change in the Tennessee Legislature.

- **Images of Intersectionality**

BSSW students Misty McPhetridge and Makala Johnson with Faculty Advisor Amanda Gandy will coordinate events in Knoxville and Nashville. Danica Roem, the first openly transgender person elected to the Virginia General Assembly will speak about intersectionality. The events will be hosted against the backdrop of public art show - with photography of diverse community members with the goal of reducing stereotypes, discrimination, and bias.

- **Student Action Committee on Racism and Sexism attend NCORE Conference**

MSSW students Abby Cooper, Brittany Wilkerson and Jordan Thomas and others attended the 2019 National Conference on Race and Ethnicity conference. The overall goal is to utilize the information and skills learned at the conference to develop a toolkit focusing on race, power, and privilege to present at UTCSW student orientation sessions.

- **Highlander Center/UTCSW Collaboration**

MSSW students Krystal Gourley, Sarah Lewandowski and Mary Hansen, with Faculty Advisor Christy Hickman will work with staff at the Highlander Research and Education Center to host a series of weekend training sessions. The goal is to train students and community organizations to further approach their work from a transformative justice and intersectional perspective with skills for social change.

- **Challenge Sexism: A Holistic Approach to Eating Disorder**

MSSW students Mary Hansen, Karrie Murphy and Allison Bradley with Faculty Advisor Becky Jackson have invited Syd Yang to host a workshop on UTCSW's

Knoxville and Nashville campuses. As an adult survivor of bulimia, Syd Yang is a mixed-race, queer/non-binary writer, healer and intuitive counselor who has been creating one of these support spaces through their work at Blue Jaguar Healing Arts. The workshop is entitled: Food, Bodies + Liberation: An intersectional approach to healing toxic relationships with food for all bodies.

Susan Cooper, Project
Sponsor with 2018 Speaker
Nikole Hannah-Jones

For more information: <http://tiny.utk.edu/sjii>

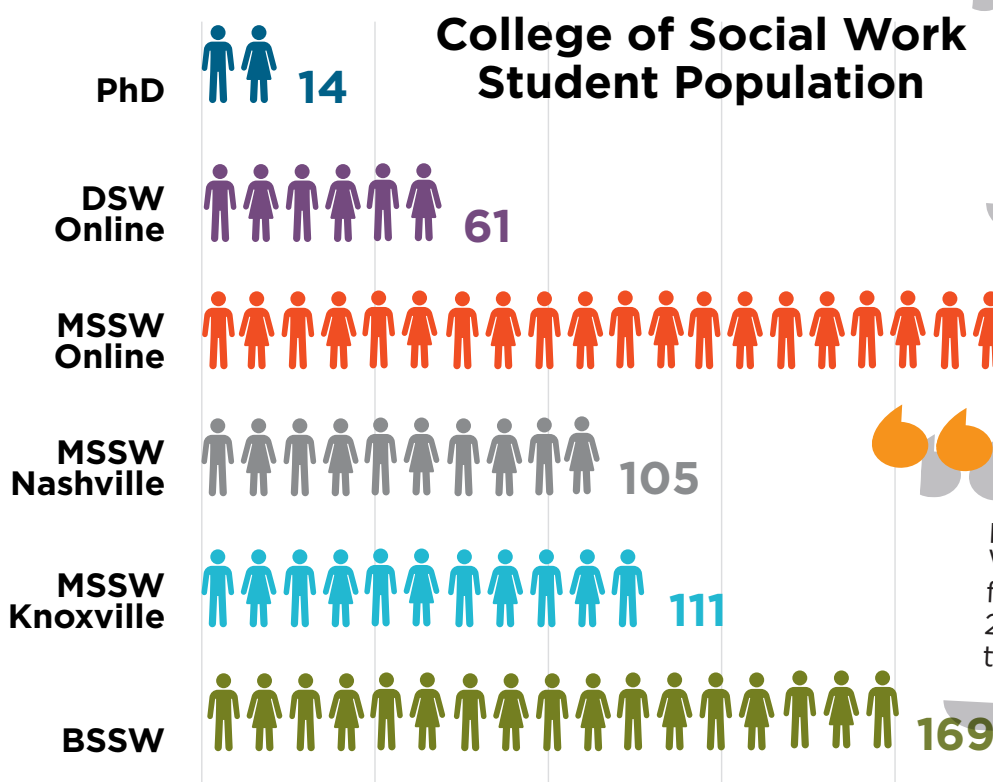
CSW Ranks Among the Best for 2018-2019

The UT College of Social Work's Graduate School rose three positions since last year. The College is now ranked 22nd among all public universities by U.S. News and World Report. Interim Dean David R. Dupper stated, "Being recognized by U.S. News and World Report shines a spotlight on the excellence of our faculty, staff, and students. All of our academic programs incorporate cutting-edge research, a focus on critical thinking, and real-world applications to provide our students with an excellent educational experience. Our college is grounded in our commitment to social justice, serving diverse and vulnerable populations, building knowledge by conducting groundbreaking research that focuses on solving social problems, and engaging with our communities through meaningful service."

"These rankings confirm the University of Tennessee's commitment to excellence in graduate education as the state's premier public university and its flagship higher education institution," said Provost David Manderscheid.



Source: U.S. News and World Report 2020



The DSW program continues to grow. Our current cohort for the Class of 2023 accepted 20 students from an pool of 67 competitive applicants.

Despite nationally declining application numbers for graduate programs, the College of Social Work received 579 applications for the MSSW programs in 2019-20, significantly more than previous years.

What's New!

Forensic Social Work

David Dupper, Interim Dean of the College, presented the Light the Way Award to the the Knox County Public Defender's Community Law Office (CLO). This award is given to an organization in the community whose efforts light the way for others in social service. This year's award was received by the Director of Social Services and 2017 PhD alum, Sarah Buchanan.

Sarah Buchanan is the "primary architect" of a pilot Forensic Social Work program in three Tennessee Public Defender County Offices. The program is based on one already operating at the Knox County Community Law Office, where full-time social workers are embedded with public defenders and help them devise alternative sentencing plans that are acceptable to courts. Such plans can include recommendations for housing or substance abuse treatment programs. That intersection of social work and criminal justice is called forensic social work.

In addition to working with our students in field placement opportunities, Buchanan is also working with our faculty and administration in the development of a Forensic Social Work certificate program.



BSSW Online

Flexibility. Increased access. Quality education. These words describe our new Online BSSW Program.

The Online BSSW Program is specifically designed for transfer students who have earned 60 credit hours and an Associate of Art (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree from a regionally accredited community college. Transfer students who complete the Tennessee Transfer Pathway in Social Work are highly encouraged to apply.

All curriculum and program requirements for the Online BSSW Program are identical to those required for the on-campus BSSW Program. All required social work courses will be delivered exclusively online using real-time or synchronous video conference software. Courses will also feature asynchronous teaching methods to facilitate learning through the use of online

learning resources outside predetermined time constraints.

Robert Mindrup, Director of the UT BSSW program states, "Our online BSSW Program offers cutting-edge electives including courses on trauma, forensic social work, crisis intervention and suicidology, and social work with military and veteran populations. Like the on-campus BSSW Program, students will work with their field coordinator to secure their required field/practicum placements that occur in a real-world practice setting under the supervision of a professional social worker."



The college's professional advising model has continued to allow me to give students a personalized advising experience that incorporates career and academic planning, experiential learning, and self-exploration. This process is key to fostering our student's success throughout their academic careers and after graduation.

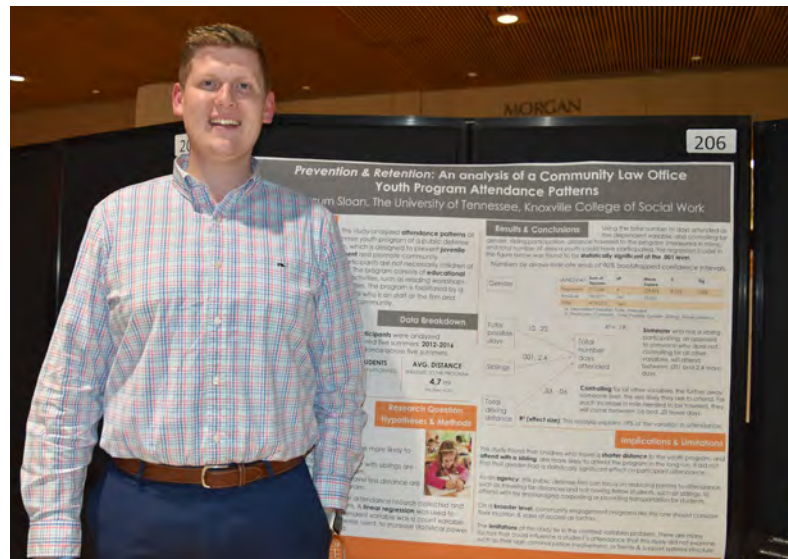
—Amanda Gandy, Advisor

BSSW

Being able to incorporate real-world experience and professional skills into academic advising gives our BSSW students a greater connection with the field of social work and helps prepare them for their academic and professional journeys.

Fifty BSSW students graduated this past academic year, including 14 graduates of the Honors Program, which began in Fall 2017. Senior-year honors students develop and administer an original research project, submitting a poster presentation at the university-wide Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURECA). Five of our BSSW honors students won college and university level awards for their outstanding research: Marc Sloan (1st), Cal Lane (2nd), and Meredith Hawk (3rd). Rebecca Nicholson and Hope Woodard won Awards of Merit.

Marc Sloan, pictured right, was additionally awarded the Gold Phi Kappa Phi Award for the entire university competition.



Sarah Crowley has been named one of the University of Tennessee's Fulbright Scholars for the upcoming year. Sarah is the first Fulbright Scholar ever to have come from the College of Social Work. The Fulbright provides Sarah a year-long post-graduate opportunity for teaching in South Korea. She is one of the college's honor students and has been identified as one of the top collegiate scholars for 2019. She received a Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Academic Achievement. Dave Dupper, Interim Dean at the college, stated, "We are extremely proud of Sarah and her achievements and look forward to her leadership in the field of Social Work."

Volunteers at Home

The Bachelor's of Social Work Organization developed several service projects. They collected grocery bags and wove person-sized mats for homeless individuals. See Shelby DeLille pictured at the right. They also sponsored a Glow-Up for Homeless advocacy event.



The students, faculty, and staff of the College of Social Work have adopted West View Elementary School in Knoxville as an ongoing service partnership. Activities there include mentoring, tutoring, reading buddies, and various after-school programs. Susan Martin, Community School Coordinator of West View stated, " Thank you to UT's College of Social Work for another year of a wonderful partnership! The 2018-2019 school year was productive, positive, and a continuation of the great work being done by the College within West View's community and school. Kia Batiste (pictured left) came to West View as our social work intern for the year. She quickly formed strong relationships with students, teachers, and staff teaching strategies for life that will certainly be carried on for years to come. Ms. Batiste also helped coordinate and lead activities for grandparents raising their grandchildren, and for their

grandchildren/students. Additionally, she helped lead Girl Scouts activities at our school, put together Welcome Packages for families coming to our school from difficult situations as well as for new families to the country and school, and even 'won' our school a grant to purchase a 3D printer that will be used to teach important life skills, such as working cooperatively with our peers. These are just a few examples of the many contributions made my Ms. Batiste and the College of Social Work. The staff and students of West View are so very grateful for the relationship we have with the College of Social Work and look forward to the many more things to come!"

And Abroad

Camille Hall, Associate Professor at #UTCSW, teaches courses on Understanding Diversity in a Global Society. During Spring break, she and five students from the college including three MSSW online students and two BSSW students traveled to Costa Rica in order to experience the differences that are introduced by cultural diversity.

Camille Hall and the leaders of Centro Infanti y Juvenil and other programs within Parque La Libertad in San Jose Province, Patarra, Costa Rica as well as MSSW students Brinanna Grindberg, Yasheka Robinson, Sharonda Stiggers and BSSW students Kristina Christian and Amada Adkins.



MSSW

One College, One Curriculum, One Faculty

*Face-to-face or Online -
the choice is yours!*

The College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville gives students the opportunity to earn their MSSW degree either through taking classes in a traditional classroom environment or as an e-learning (online) student from the comfort of their own home. If you want to take your classes in a traditional classroom, the College offers the MSSW degree on the main UT campus in Knoxville as well as at our Nashville campus. If the flexibility of online classes is what you need, you can literally take classes from anywhere in the world where you get an Internet connection - no trips to campus are required.

The Online MSSW program has the same flexible courses of study (part time, full time, and advanced standing), the same concentrations (Evidenced-Based Interpersonal Practice and Organizational Leadership), the same ability to pursue a certificate program, and the same field practice (internship) requirements. The only difference between the Online program and the traditional on-campus program is where you take classes.



MSSW Knoxville

The Master of Social Work Organization (MSWO) adopted the Vestal Boys and Girls Club as their service project for the 2018-2019 school year. In December, MSWO hosted an event at the club that included cookie decorating, dinner, fun, and games for 75 club members. In addition they supported the club's "Vestalloween party."

Pictured here are MSWO volunteers:



New Hires for Knoxville Faculty

Sybil Schroeder is UT CSW Knoxville's new Assistant Professor of Practice and Coordinator of Field Education for the Online MSSW Program. She earned her PhD at Tulane University, her MSW at Southern University, and her MDiv at Union Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to entering this role, Dr. Schroeder appeared in many media and conference presentations, participated in numerous HIV/STD prevention initiatives, and received many academic and service awards. Sybil has experience in community mobilization, program management, social work rResearch, and policy analysis. Sybil specializes in community organizing, assessment and evaluation, funding resources identification, grant writing and has served on numerous boards, community planning and resources groups.

**Sybil Schroeder,
Knoxville Faculty**



**Martina Ward,
Knoxville Faculty**

Martina Ward is UT CSW Knoxville's new Assistant Professor of Practice and Coordinator of MSSW Knoxville's Field Services. Martina is a graduate of our MSSW program. She has served since 2010 as the Program Development Coordinator for Telamon Corporation. Martina has worked effectively as a field instructor at Telamon with multiple MSSW and BSSW students. In 2016 she was named MSSW Field Instructor of the Year. In addition, she has served on the Knoxville Campus Field Advisory Committee.

**MSSW 2018-2019
Knoxville Annual Picnic**



MSSW Nashville and Online

Dr. McGarity is my adviser, and has been kind and supportive with anything I have ever come to him about. His strength based approach to teaching and advising is a breath of fresh air!
—MSSW Student

UT CSW's Nashville and Online programs welcomed two new faculty this past year.

Stephen McGarity teaches organizational leadership courses that focus on nonprofits and social policy. His research examines poverty and disability and how to increase financial access and literacy for impoverished people with disabilities.

McGarity said his first semester at UT has been nothing short of wonderful. "I feel like I hit the lottery getting a job here at UT, because everyone has been so great here. It feels like home and I hope I never leave."

Andrea Joseph is a Nashville-based assistant professor in the College of Social Work. She teaches research methods and a course on culturally relevant practice for master's-level students. Joseph also conducts research on restorative justice and racially disproportionate school suspensions.

Dr. Joseph is easily settling in to the Volunteer community during her first year: "The College of Social Work is really welcoming and supportive. I couldn't ask to be in a better place."

Meghan Garner joined the staff of the UTCSW in Nashville as an administrative specialist.

New Hires for Nashville

**Stephen McGarity,
Nashville Faculty**



**Andrea Joseph,
Nashville Faculty**



**Meghan Garner,
Nashville Staff**



Nashville MSSW team won the policy competition at the 2019 Social Work Day on the Hill event. Their presentation was titled, "Keep Families Together - Parental Incarceration: A Shared Sentence." The Nashville MSSW team has won this competition every year since 2014. Our student presenters were Lauren Wiloughby, JanieLynn Lankford, Jessie Eisenmann, Shelby Payne, and Chloe Woods. They are pictured here with an NASW volunteer. Jessie Eisenmann stated "The deeper I dig into social work and this program, the more I love it. Moments like this keep me fired up for my journey as a student and as a professional."

Celebrating 10 Years of Online MSSW Education

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work has celebrated the 10th anniversary of its online Master of Social Work education program. UTCSW developed one of the first accredited online MSW programs in the country and has been recognized as one of the top programs in the nation.

Sherry M. Cummings, PhD, Associate Dean of the college, along with Kate Chaffin, Director of the MSSW Online and Nashville face-to-face programs, and MSSW alum Allison Milam have recently had an article published in the Journal of Social Work Education. The article, "Comparison of an Online and a Traditional MSSW Program: A 5-Year Study" compared 5 years of educational outcome data for online and face-to-face MSSW students (N=883) who graduated from University of Tennessee Knoxville College of Social Work. Dr. Cummings is excited that the lessons learned from a decade of experience will inform the practice of other programs.

One of the key findings is that, based on internal research, the College of Social Work has found similar performance in terms of knowledge and skills gains from both its online and traditional programs.

<https://tiny.utk.edu/onlineresearch>



Kate Chaffin
and Sherry Cummings

“We are very excited to achieve this milestone. From day one, it was important for our online students to have the same high quality of education and personal interactions with faculty and staff as our traditional students.”

— Kate Chaffin



Guaranteed Income Research

Stacia Martin-West is a primary investigator for the Stockton Economic SEED Evaluation.

SEED is the country's first-ever city-led guaranteed income pilot. It is a collaboration between the Office of Mayor Michael Tubbs, the Reinvent South Stockton Coalition, the Economic Security Project, and the residents of Stockton. In 2019, the demonstration began providing 100 Stocktonians with a guaranteed income of \$500 per month for 18 months.

Because the income is “guaranteed,” recipients are free to use funds however they see fit with no work requirements, or restrictions on how the money can be spent. Alongside the implementation of the guaranteed income, Dr. Martin-West with others will collect information on how recipients use the funds. They will conduct a rigorous evaluation of the impacts of the additional income on a variety of outcomes including but not limited to financial security, civic engagement, and health and wellness.

Dr. Martin-West's research focuses on universal basic income, unconditional cash transfers, women's poverty and wealth inequality, and the affordable housing crisis. She recently completed the first evaluation of unconditional cash transfers in the context of environmental and economic disaster. She evaluated the results of the efforts of Dolly Parton's **My People Fund** after the Gatlinburg, TN fires.

<https://tiny.utk.edu/mypeople>

The 2019 Senator Douglas Henry Award was presented to Marie Williams, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at the The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Awards Luncheon in Nashville. Williams serves on the CSW Board of Visitors.



<https://tiny.utk.edu/williams>

UTCSW senior social work student Matty Moss is featured in a Vol Story on the Join the Journey website. Matty received the honor of Scholar Athlete at the 2019 Chancellor's Awards banquet.

Matty's pitching ability on the Lady Vols softball team is appreciated across our campus.



Photo Credit: TN Athletics

<https://tiny.utk.edu/mattymoss>

Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason has had a book entitled People and Climate Change: Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Social Justice published by Oxford University Press. The book focuses on the human and social dimensions of climate change. It includes in depth community-based cases that emphasize social justice and inclusion.



<https://tiny.utk.edu/mason-book>



KE'Marvin Pitts and Misty McPhetridge are UTCSW student ambassadors

Marquita Dortch received a Director's Citation for Extraordinary Service to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee at the 2019 senior celebration and a Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Professional Promise. Marquita's work extended to founding leadership in the Knoxville Coalition for Black Social Workers.



Kaycee Bills, PhD alum was inducted into the Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society on March 29th. Delta Alpha Pi is a nationally recognized honor society for graduate students who have disabilities and are researching disability related issues. Her research studies bullying victimization among students with disabilities.



Knoxville's Equality Coalition for Housing Opportunities (ECHO) awarded KnoxHMIS their Advocacy Award. Program Manager Lisa Higginbotham, MSSW, accepted the award given to honor an organization that has worked effectively to enhance the welfare of the community.

<https://tiny.utk.edu/lisa-higginbotham>



Smokey Statues

Smokey the Bluetick Hound has represented the University of Tennessee since 1953.

This year, in honor of our mascot, ten statues were erected around campus, one for each of the ten hounds that have served our institution.

Across Cumberland Avenue from the College of Social Work in Henson Hall is Smokey VII.



Dr. Thereasa Abrams Receives Chancellor's Award

Dr. Thereasa Abrams, assistant professor of social work at the Nashville Campus does research that focuses on burn trauma patients and their recovery. In April she received the Success in Multidisciplinary Research Award at the Chancellor's Honors Banquet for her work in the development of an app called the Bridge. The app is designed to aid burn recovery with instructional videos for range of motion exercise and dressing changes, mental health support, medication monitoring, positive cognitive behavioral messages, exercises in self-efficacy, recipes for a high-protein high-calorie diet, and links to websites for additional burn support.

The Success in Multidisciplinary Research Award is given to faculty members working with other academic colleges who have succeeded in gaining major external resources and recognition for multidisciplinary research. Abrams, along with an entire multidisciplinary team, are using innovative applications of new digital technology to develop opportunities for social and human services that bring a wider array of assistance to more individuals and communities.

Dr. Michael Blackwell Inducted into the National Academies of Practice



Dr. Michael Blackwell, DVM, MPH, Director of Program for Pet Health Equity at the College, believes that underserved communities should have access to affordable veterinary care. His innovative, multidisciplinary work in this emerging field, which blends Social Work and Veterinary Medicine, has garnered national attention. Dr. Blackwell was recently inducted into the National Academies of Practice (NAP) as a Practitioner of NAP on March 9, 2019.

Dr. Blackwell, right, serves as vice-chair of NAP Veterinary Medicine Academy with Stephanie Ostrowski, chair, center

John Orme and Terri Combs-Orme Named Emeritus Professors

This year, John and Terri attended what they estimate to be their fortieth commencement as faculty members. They were beckoned to the podium by Interim Dean David Dupper. He said, "I am very pleased to announce that both John and Terri have earned the rank of Professor Emeritus and Professor Emerita upon their retirement. This is a significant achievement, and on behalf of the College and the University, we express our sincere gratitude for your 26 years of service. You will be missed!"

Both of these professors have received high academic honors throughout their careers.

Their research has been published broadly and under their mentorship students have gone on to very successful careers in social work practice and research. Both love teaching and mentoring students and it is the students and their colleagues that they will miss as they move to a new phase of their lives. "The College of Social Work is full of incredible people. We enjoy meeting people who do good things on a day-to-day basis and we will miss that."

Across the university Terri and John are known for their skills in mentoring students and young faculty. "We have learned," agreed Terri and John, "that in order to mentor someone you need to realize that it is not about you, it is about them. Spend time talking about their careers, their research interests, sharing what it is like to enter a new job or a new classroom. Mentoring is helping others do what they want to do. You aren't building your own reputation, you are helping them build theirs."



Staff Member Ashley Howdeshell Serves Knoxville Junior League

Ashley Howdeshell, Business Manager at the college, (right in photo) is the co-vice chair for the Junior Service League program, "Kicks for Kids" shoe project to deliver shoes to needy children in Blount County. She said, "What a wonderful night packing shoes for some sweet kiddos in Blount County! I love being a part of such a wonderful group of ladies!"

The project was sponsored by Junior Service League of Maryville, an organization that is committed to supporting the children of Blount County through projects that provide aid to children within the community. They also promote voluntarism and foster interest among members in all areas of community service.



Rebecca Jackson, Director of Field Education with keynote speaker, Freida Herron

Freida Herron, assistant professor of the College, presented at the 2019 Knoxville field instructors' breakfast. Her presentation was entitled "Passing the Torch, Shaping the Next Generation of Social Workers." "Field instructors," stated Dr. Herron, "are vital members of our educational system for undergraduate and graduate students. It is important that field instructors understand their role in the developmental cycle for becoming a social worker."

Dr. Ragan Schriver, Knoxville MSSW Director, presented a 3-hour-training on Trauma Responsive Care to the Chattanooga Field Instructors.

Rebecca Jackson, Director of Field Education, is quick to point out that the college is fortunate to have so many fine field instructors and field liaisons who guarantee the quality of training that our students receive in the field.

Field Education

The College is deeply fortunate to partner with outstanding organizations across the state and the country to provide field placements for our students. Organizations provide field placements on a voluntary basis with no compensation from the College. Three organizations were recognized this year, receiving awards for excellence in field education for UT social work students. These organizations consistently demonstrate excellence in service to their communities but have also demonstrated a sustained commitment to the education and training of the next generation of social workers. These organizations demonstrate excellence through the provision of outstanding supervisors, support, and learning opportunities for our students.



Nashville Agency Award

This year Knoxville County Schools, represented by Heather Willis, received the Excellence in Field Education Award from the College of Social Work in grateful recognition of dedicated partnership in the education and training of UT Social Work Students. Northside Neighborhood House won the honor of Agency of the Year. They were nominated for the comprehensive services that they offer to the Chattanooga community, as well as for providing high quality field instruction for students. Tara Phillips, Field Instructor, accepted the award on behalf of the agency.

Achievements in the Field



Corey Snyder epitomizes the volunteer spirit by using her professional knowledge and expertise to guide her four student interns with integrity, respect, and leadership. . . Corey is fully invested in helping her interns achieve their goals and uses every opportunity to create a learning experience. She invites and teaches us to participate in all aspects of the integrated social work at the clinic. She continually seeks out ways to improve processes and invites collaboration from interns.

—Rebecca Nicholson

2019 MSSW Field Instructor of the Year award was given to Bailee Carter who works for LeConte Medical Center. She was nominated for the award by two students. Pictured are Sybil Schroeder, Coordinator of Field Education, Online MSSW Program and Assistant Professor of Practice, Whitney Freeman, Bailee Carter, and Kayla Tolliver.



A 2019 MSSW Rising Star award was given to Elizabeth Francis who works for Helen Ross McNabb. She was nominated for the award by Leslie Bowen and Korrie Xavier.

The 2019 MSSW Field Instructor of the Year award was given to Stacy Hillenbrand who works for Helen Ross McNabb. She was nominated for the award by Kristen Godsey.



Johnathan Allen is an outstanding candidate for the Field Instructor of the Year award. Even when I first began my internship with him as a timid junior in her first semester of field, he made an effort to know me as a person and not just as an intern. Johnathan exemplifies a supervisor who has found the perfect balance between challenging a student and encouraging them to do their best work.

—Mary Caitlin Spining

PhD Program

In an extremely successful academic year, the college awarded PhD degrees in Social Work to three candidates who were approved by their dissertation committees. They and Kaycee Bills, Jennifer Erwin, and Sukyung Yoon. All three have received offers to join the faculties of Social Work departments and colleges.

Sukyung Yoon (pictured below left) was named an Assistant Professor at University of Wyoming. Kaycee Bill (pictured below right) was named an Assistant Professor at Fayetteville State University. Jennifer Erwin was named an Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville.



Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason, Director of the PhD program says of Dr. Bills, “Kaycee Bills graduated our program with a passion for improving lives for people with disabilities, addressing mental health, and teaching the next generation of social workers. We are proud to send her off as a new Assistant Professor at Fayetteville State University.”

Sukyung Yoon is a student who came to UT from South Korea. Her work there focused on the elderly population. She is now moving on to the University of Wyoming as a tenure-track assistant professor. She states, “My overarching professional goal is to empower

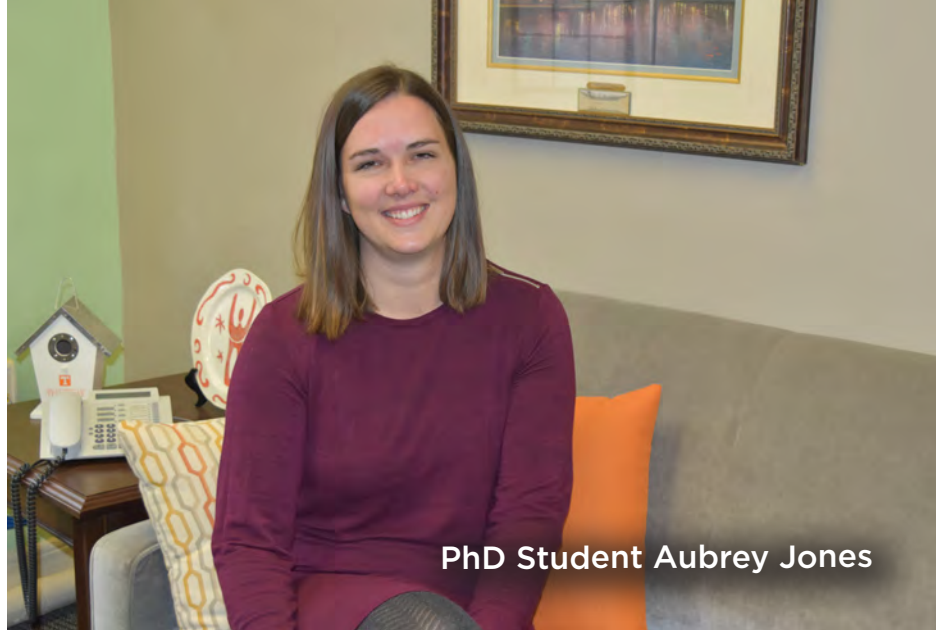
vulnerable older populations who may not be able to speak for themselves, so that they may overcome adversity and enjoy happier and healthier lives. I will pursue that as a researcher and an educator.”

Dr. John Orme served as dissertation chair for Jennifer Erwin (pictured right). He stated, “Adults with mental illnesses are overrepresented in jails and prisons. Mental health courts are the criminal justice systems’ response to addressing the revolving door in and out of jails and prisons that adults with mental illness experience. With her MSW, JD, and now, Ph.D. Dr. Erwin is uniquely poised through her research and teaching to make important contributions to social work practice and policy in this important area.”



PhD Research

Aubrey Jones has done research on body image and how parents can promote positive body image among adolescent children. Learn more about this: <https://tiny.utk.edu/ajones>



PhD Student Aubrey Jones

“People in assisted living facilities aren’t as able to get out and see the world due to safety concerns. It’s very important to me to give a voice to the vulnerable, the ignored, or the forgotten,”
—Joseph Strong
PhD Student

Joseph Strong’s primary area of interest relates to the care of older adults, particularly those with neurodegenerative diseases and dementias. Strong hopes to demonstrate the beneficial use of virtual reality, or VR, for older adults with early to moderate dementia through his research.

Strong hopes that if he can show that VR boosts cognitive ability and reduces depression in those with dementia, the technology can make its way into more care facilities.

“People in assisted living facilities aren’t as able to get out and see the world due to safety concerns. It’s very important to me to give a voice to the vulnerable, the ignored, or the forgotten,” said Strong.

<https://tiny.utk.edu/joestrong>



Jayne Walters is a PhD candidate in the UT CSW program. She has been a leader both in the PhD program and in the college as a whole. She comments here on our program and faculty.

“When starting a PhD program, students often hear horror stories about working on faculty research projects. However, I love to tell new scholars that I hit the ‘mentor lottery’ with Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason. Serving as her graduate research assistant truly has been the one of the most beneficial decisions that I have made during my PhD journey. Dr. Mason has provided me with opportunities to grow and learn in a safe, encouraging environment. I have gained knowledge about new areas of social work as well as unique methods that ultimately resulted in a first-author publication in an international journal and a second first-author manuscript under review. Beyond research, she is an intelligent, strong, hardworking, and kind human being. It is inspiring to watch her be passionate about students, her work, and improving society while also being a mother and wife among other roles. Dr. Mason is a role model for aspiring female academicians, and she is the faculty member who I strive to be.”



DSW Program

Beginning in January 2012, the DSW program has offered a unique educational experience to advanced practitioners of social work throughout the United States. This year the college celebrated the graduation of its 100th DSW and has conferred the Doctor of Social Work in Advanced Clinical Practice and Leadership to a total of 103 clinicians. Over the course of the last year, DSW students, graduates, and professors have published or had accepted for publication five manuscripts, with a number of other articles presently under review. Additionally, two 2017 graduates have accepted tenure-track faculty positions, with a number of others serving in adjunct teaching positions and/or receiving clinical and leadership promotions.

The DSW program remains focused on a diverse mix of mid-career clinical social workers and boasts an 82 percent admission-to-graduation rate. More than 93 percent of DSW class of 2017 graduates rated the program very good to excellent.

The cohort of 2019 came from across the United States and the world, with members from Georgia, Washington, Oregon, Virginia, Arkansas, Texas, Maryland, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee and even from Japan. One interesting fact about the 2019 cohort is that they are all females. On this journey to becoming a Doctor, I learned a great deal, as I am sure all of us have. Not just what was taught to us in the curriculum by our masterful professors, but so much more than that. I learned about life, from each of you. Dr. Rhonda Smith who addressed the class, family, friends, and faculty at the DSW brunch stated, "The collective social work experience in the room is astounding. . . I learned about what social work means to the rest of the country, to veterans and service members, to the criminal justice system, to the children in our schools, to the clients in mental health facilities and medical hospitals, and in private practice, on so many levels and in many different cultures."

The graduating class of 2019: Front row, l. to r. - Dr. Lesly Lemus, Dr. Julie Franks, Dr. Dawn Corneau-Dia, Dr. Michelle Piper Tremba, Dr. Dannette Wallace, and Dr. Jill Palmer. Second row - Dr. Janis Knox, Dr. Charlotte Matthews, Dr. Tegrin Averett, Dr. Yolanda Robinson, Dr. Lauren Hannah, Dr. Tracy-Ann Ruglass, Dr. Rhonda Smith, Dr. Nichole Ayres, Dr. Lora Cantwell, Dr. Diane Smith, and Dr. Erica Miller. Not pictured is Dr. DyMisha Richardson.



To put it simply, we love people and it is our personal mission to put that love to work. If I had to make a slide like Dr. Herron's with what the *Road Ahead* looks like for us, I would use my favorite quote attributed to John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can."

-Dr. Rhonda Smith



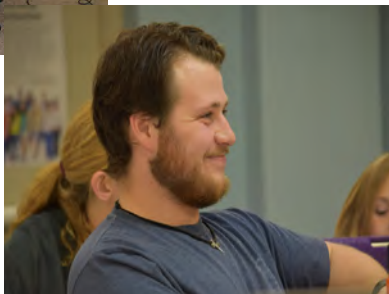
Dr. Tegrin Averett was selected the winner of the 3-Minute Thesis competition among the DSW 2019 cohort. Her presentation was entitled *Seeking Rest for Active Duty Soldiers* and studied insomnia among members of the military. See the presentation at <https://tiny.utk.edu/averett>

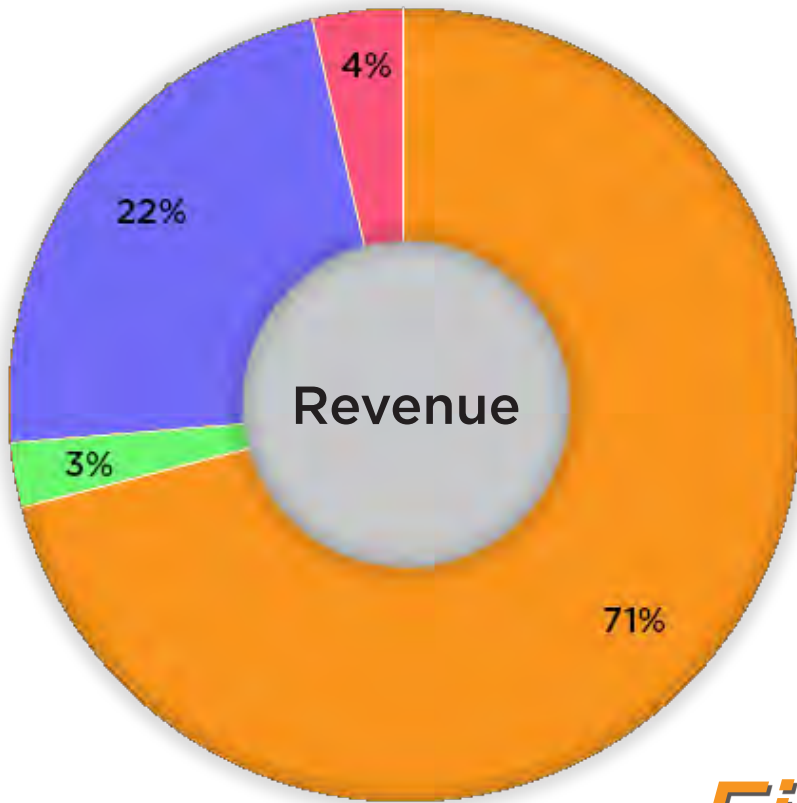
Each graduate of the program wrote and defended a capstone paper. The 3-Minute Thesis competition allowed each student to present a synopsis of their work. Many are currently preparing their capstone papers for publication.



BSSW Debates

Each year BSSW students under the mentorship of Dr. Stan Bowie in SW416, the Social Welfare Policies and Issues course, engage in a series of debates on current issues. Students are assigned to an affirmative or opposition side of a question. Teams of two or three debate, learning about definitions, presentation, argument, and thinking on their feet.

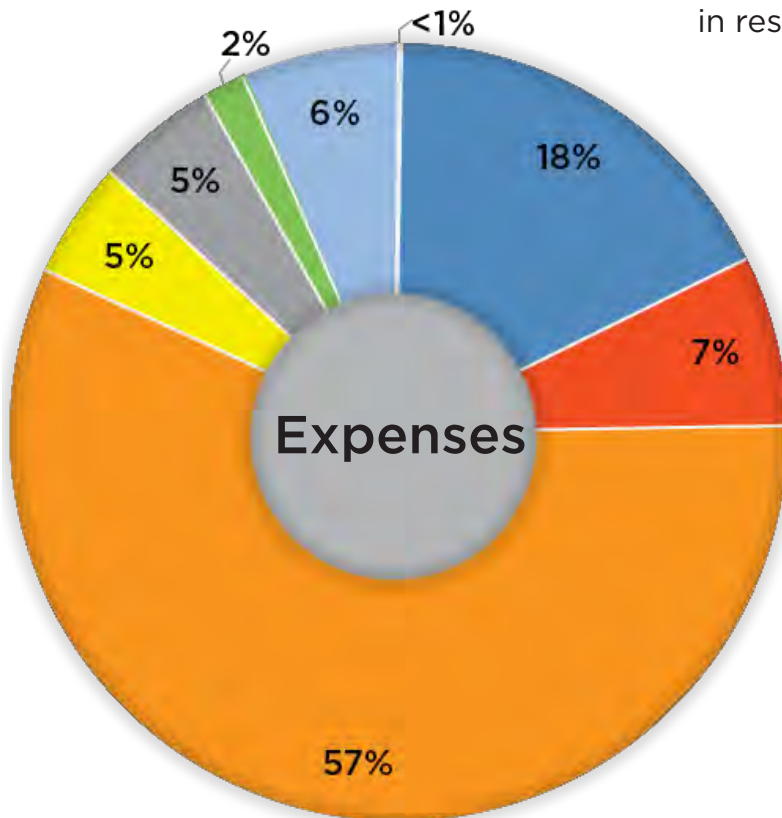




- 71%** - Recurring College Budget
- 3%** - Summer School Revenue
- 22%** - Distance Education
- 4%** - Field Fees

Fiscal Year 2017

In Fiscal Year 2017, the academic programs of the college had available resources of \$6,312,390 in restricted and unrestricted funds.



- 57%** - Faculty Salaries
- 5%** - Graduate Assistant Salaries
- 5%** - Professional Salaries
- 2%** - Summer School Salaries
- 6%** - Clerical, Technical & Maintenance Salaries
- <1%** - Student Salaries
- 18%** - Operating Expenses
- 7%** - Administrative Salaries

UT's land grant mission has three goals: educate, discover, and connect. As part of the University of Tennessee's land grant mission, our college supports two centers that make a significant impact in the lives of Tennesseans and around the globe.

Center for Behavioral Health Research

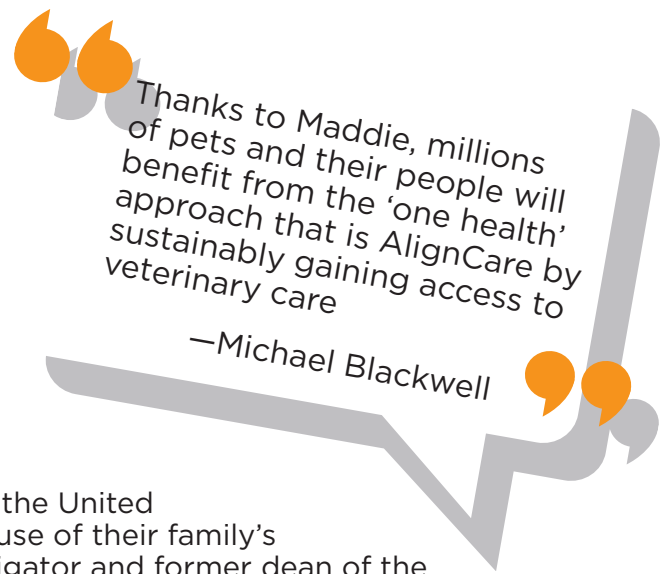
Vision: *Improve the lives of at-risk children, adults, and families.*

Program for Pet Health Equity

The College of Social Work Program for Pet Health Equity has received a \$2.8 million grant from Maddie's Fund to support research and development of AlignCare, a health care system designed to improve access to veterinary care for underserved families.

AlignCare grew out of concern for the millions of pets in the United States that lack access to veterinary care, primarily because of their family's limited financial resources. Michael Blackwell, lead investigator and former dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, stated, "Lack of access to veterinary care is the greatest animal welfare crisis affecting owned pets in the United States. We can manage our way out of this problem by making evidence-based decisions, ultimately achieving pet health equity and improving family and community health and well-being."

With the help of the college, the Access to Veterinary Care Coalition published an extensive study of Barriers, Current Practices, and Public Policy. At the end of June UT's Colleges of Social Work and Veterinary Medicine are hosting a symposium on the subject.



2019 Access to Veterinary Care Symposium

Presented by:



June 28 & 29

Learn more & register at:
<http://pphe.utk.edu/>



Michael Mason, Betsey Bush Endowed Professor in Children and Families at Risk, and his staff conduct exciting research in adolescent and young adult substance use prevention and treatment, social and environmental risk factors, and using mobile technology to address public health. They study the intersection of peer networks and environmental settings and how these factors contribute to healthy and risky behaviors.



This year Dr. Mason and his staff have conducted multiple studies on preventing and treating substance use disorders using text-delivered counseling programs. Recently they completed a randomized clinical trial on UT's campus with 100 young adults with cannabis use disorder and found that the texting program was effective in reducing cannabis use and related interpersonal and academic problems. Results from this trial were used for a grant application to the National Institute on Drug Abuse that will test this intervention with 1000 young adults from UT and Colorado State University. Currently the team is completing a study on reducing adolescent risk for opioid misuse targeting adolescents and parents with a text-delivered intervention. Dr. Mason also is a co-investigator on an NIH study called the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study. This is the largest (11,000 adolescents) study of its kind that seeks to understand to what extent does drug use change the adolescent brain.

In the course of the past year, Dr. Mason published seven papers in conjunction with CSW students and colleagues. Most recently, *The Accuracy of Young Adult Cannabis Users' Perceptions of Friends' Cannabis and Alcohol Use*, was published in Addictive Behaviors. Co-authors were PhD alum Matthew Moore and PhD student Aaron Brown.

Dr. Mason has recently been confirmed by National Institute of Health Director Francis Collins to join an NIH chartered review group of the Center for Scientific Review: Community Influences on Health Behavior. In addition he will be chairing the 2020 annual meeting of the Society for Prevention Research, an interdisciplinary society dedicated to advancing scientific investigation on the etiology and prevention of social, physical and mental health, and academic problems and on the translation of that information to promote health and well being.

On March 25, 2019, at the UT Knoxville Office of Research and Engagement 2019 Research Awards Luncheon, Dr. Michael Mason was named a Research Spotlight Award Winner.

New CBHR Staff

Angela Gilley has joined the staff at the Center for Behavioral Health Research as a Coordinator for grants and grant budgets. She is working with Dr. Michael Mason and Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason as well as several other center projects.

A UT alum, Angela completed her undergraduate degree in Animal Science and her Master's degree in Education. She has worked for UT for 14 years.

When Angela is not working, she enjoys hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking. "I love the mountains," she says. She has done volunteer work for Keep Knoxville Beautiful, both in the area of recycling and planting trees.

Angela Gilley
Knoxville CBHR Staff



Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS)

Vision: *Better outcomes for individuals, families, communities, and organizations.*

For over four decades the Social Work Office for Research and Public Service (SWORPS) has been contracted to provide program management, survey research and program evaluation, data collection and analysis, database development and hosting. SWORPS serves clients on local, state, and national levels ranging from the Knoxville Community Action Agency to the Tennessee's Department of Human Services and Department of Housing and Urban Development. They partner with organizations such as the Signal Centers, Inc., the Knoxville City Government, and the state Department of Education to carry out service and research projects.

SWORPS has had direct outreach impact through 30 contracts that support a variety of initiatives including:

- *Building Strong Brains*, to prevent and mitigate *Adverse Childhood Experiences*.
- Improving child care, through assessment and training.
- Helping non-custodial parents meet their child support obligations.
- Providing an empirical window into homelessness in Knoxville-Knox County through KnoxHMIS.
- Child abuse prevention and training.





SWORPS Welcomes Shandra Forrest-Bank as Director

Dr. Shandra Forrest-Bank is the new Director of the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS). She will also maintain her faculty position in the College of Social Work as a newly tenured associate professor. Dr. Forrest-Bank brings more than 10 years of administrative/managerial experience working in community-based addiction treatment programs to SWORPS. She is passionate about maintaining and expanding the already extensive contribution that SWORPS makes in our communities while also working to further integrate SWORPS with the Center for Behavioral Health Research and the college as a whole.

Interim Dean David Dupper expressed the college's appreciation to Maryanne Cunningham for her outstanding leadership as Interim Director of SWORPS during the past 4 years. Maryanne returned to her position as Associate Director of Outreach and Administration and is working with Shandra to ensure a smooth transition.

County Community Health Assessment

Community survey responses



200

Telephone responses



123

Paper responses



65

Web responses

The Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE), a unit within the College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) is currently collaborating with Covenant Health to complete Community Health Assessments in four counties. CARE conducts community surveys and focus groups with community leaders to inform decision makers as they identify priority health issues to address within their community. The unit collects data using a variety of collection methods.

Office of Research and Engagement Award

Maryanne Cunningham, as principal investigator for the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service, led the university with the highest number of new funded proposals in the past year. The college is proud of the dedication of Cunningham to the work of SWORPS and UTCSW.

College of Social Work Activities . . .

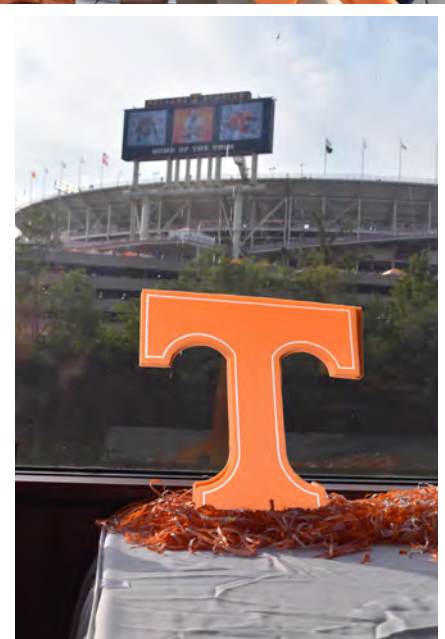


Sailgate

To revitalize our engagement with alumni, faculty, staff, current students, and donors and community partners, Sailgate was initiated as our new fall event in October 2018. Under the auspice of the Board of Visitors and leadership of Tony Murchison, special projects manager at the college, alums and friends enjoyed several hours on the Tennessee River before the UT-Fla game.



Board of Visitors chair, Daryl Akins (r.), and vice-chair Margaret Dye, worked this year to bring new direction and vision to this support organization.



and Initiatives

Coalition of Black Social Workers

Beginning last year as a project of the Social Justice Innovation Initiative, this group has goals related to Engagement, Connection, and Empowerment. The Coalition of Black Social Workers now has members and leaders in both Nashville and Knoxville.

Officers for the CBSW 2019-2020 are (l to r) are Marquita Dortch (VP-Knoxville), Greyson Dulaney (Pres-Knoxville), Alea Whitfield (VP-Nashville), Makala Johnson (BSSW Rep), Carmen Foster (Faculty Advisor), Jazmynn Hardy (Pres-Online).

Not pictured: Latoya Ewert (Secretary—Online).



United Nations Trip

Students from UTCSW attended the 36th Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations on Monday, April 1, 2019. Social Work Day at the UN is a gathering place for people around the world who are working to make a difference. (l. to r.) Marc Sloan, Meghan Donahue, Kayla Parker, Suzanne Sawausch, Katherine Griffin.

Marc Sloan presented at the Social Work Day at the United Nations Student Conference. His presentation was titled Ending Child Marriage in Suburban Ghana, West Africa.

Peace Corps Vol

2019 BSSW graduate Hope Woodard has been accepted as a Peace Corps Volunteer for the next two years. She will join a team and travel to Benin, which is a small country in West Africa between Togo and Nigeria. She will be working with pregnant women assisting with maternal health care, as well as working on malaria prevention projects.



Research

David Patterson Presents on Homelessness at Conference in Europe



David A. Patterson, Director of the CSW DSW program, presented at this year's husITa conference in Dublin, Ireland, on Saturday, July 7, 2018. His topic, "Sustaining University-Community Engagement in Service of Individuals and Families Experiencing Homeless Through Applied Information Technology" allowed him to overview the Homeless Management Information System (KnoxHMIS) that has been managed by Dr. Patterson and the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service for the past 15 years. KnoxHMIS serves as an empirical window into homelessness in Knox County.

Sukey Steckel Funded to Develop "Resilient Tennessee" Training

Sukey Steckel and others from UTCSW have been funded under the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Build Stronger Brains (BSB) initiative to develop "Resilient Tennessee," a partnership between ACE Nashville and the college to promote workforce development, grounded in evidence-based science and resilient organizational practices, to maximize the physical and psychological safety of both clients and staff, facilitate recovery of the child and family, support individual, family and community resilience, and ultimately prevent and mitigate ACEs in communities throughout Tennessee.

The effort is funded by the Department of Children's Services and it will devise and implement strategies for statewide impact that enhance and expand ACE Nashville's existing Templates for Resilient Organizations and build a sustainable infrastructure for ongoing training and consultation, thus enhancing wider scale adoption of trauma informed care. Resilient Tennessee's ultimate goal is to create a comprehensive, BSB aligned, statewide network of public and private, trauma informed, and resilient human service organizations.

Pictured are Cayce Watson UTCSW adjunct professor with Professors April Mallory, Sukey Steckel, and Kim Mallory.



Social Justice Innovation Initiative - Events 2018 and 2019



The Coalition of Black Social Workers began in Nashville as an outgrowth of the Social Justice Innovation Initiative.

UTCSW and the Coalition hosted two sessions of **Real Talk About Racism** an honest conversation about racism and what we can do to create positive change. Picture left.

Through **Speak Out Against Racism** (SOAR) students presented in person and online training that discussed the 5 D's of bystander intervention: Direct, Distract, Delegate, Delay, and Document.



Nikole Hannah-Jones (l.) was hosted by UTCSW with WATE's Tearsa Smith (r.) for a Keynote Speech and Q & A session on the topic of **Understanding Modern Day Segregation**.



Thanks to Our Donors

As a child, two things were clear to Dona Diftler. She wanted to be a counselor, to make a difference in people's lives. And she enjoyed giving gifts more than she liked receiving them.

"One of the things I learned from my family was the importance of giving – to be there for others who were struggling," Dona says. "We were raised to have compassion and empathy for all people."

It took some time to find her path. She completed a Master's degree in Education with a specialty in therapeutic recreation. Later, she worked at UT in Alumni and Development and enjoyed traveling across the country to visit with graduates and hear their stories.



Dona Diftler

"But back on campus, I would walk past Henson Hall and feel this pull to social work," Dona recalls. "After a while, I couldn't ignore it. It was meant to be."

She enrolled in the Master's program and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in 1994. She has been in private practice for nearly 20 years. Dona has remained involved with the College of Social Work as a long-time member of the Board of Visitors.

Last year, Dona and her brother Bob made the decision to include the College in their estate plans.

"During my time in the Master's program, I began to understand how social work expands the development of human potential. Since graduating,

it has been profoundly rewarding to assist my clients in achieving their goals, both for personal development and contributing to society. Being a social worker means standing up for human rights and social justice," Dona says. "Social work gives back to the community. Social workers are in every walk of life, offering assistance and support, as well as respect for each individual's path."

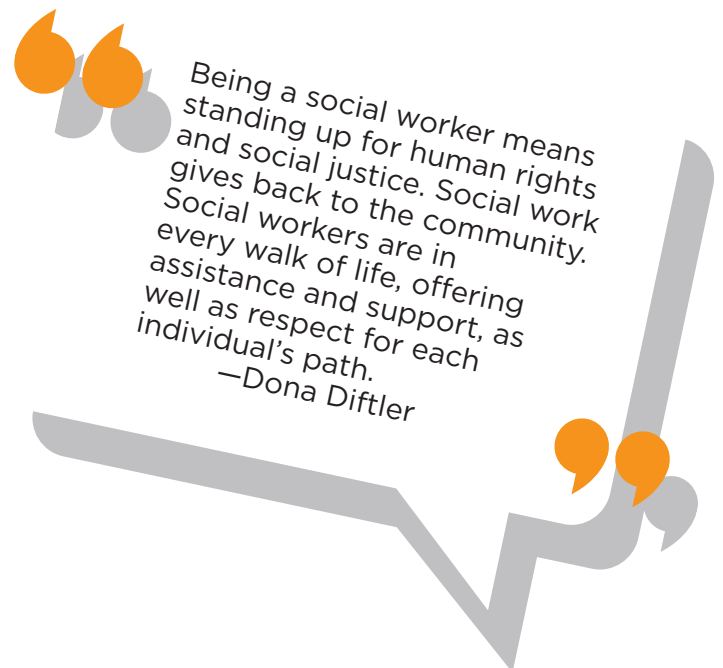
Bob Diftler, also a UT alumnus, has come to a greater understanding of social work through his sister's career. "We live in a challenging, complicated world, and people need guidance and help," he says.

His years as a sales manager for major companies underlined that need, Bob notes. Problems of everyday living often spill into the workplace.

"If the companies I worked for had in-house social workers, I would have sent half my sales team to them," he says.

The endowment created by the Diftlers' estate gifts will establish new graduate scholarships and provide support for the Veterinary Social Work Program, a special interest of Dona's. The gift will also create an unrestricted fund for the Dean's priorities.

"I can't think of a better gift than to offer students the opportunity I had: to fulfill their vision of contributing to the community," Dona says.





JOIN THE
JOURNEY


Lighting the path for others is part of our history and tradition at the University of Tennessee and the College of Social Work. It embodies what it means to be a Volunteer and to practice social work. Your giving provides opportunities to participate in research and to explore new frontiers in the field and around the globe through study abroad programs. Thanks to the support of our alumni and donors and the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff, US News and World Report ranked our MSSW program 22nd among public universities in the nation.

The College of Social Work has already exceeded its campaign goal of \$5.5 million, having raised \$11,239,621 by May 31, 2019. Fiscal year 2019 has been another outstanding year of fundraising for the College. Our goal was \$2,500,000. As of May 31st, we have raised \$3,092,607.

Gifts of all sizes continue to build on our outstanding programs and to fuel the work of exceptional students, faculty and staff.

Please join the journey at journey.utk.edu/socialwork.

\$11.2 Million



“My education is possible because of the support and involvement of alumni and donors. Thank you for joining the journey.”

-Sara Henson



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Kate Chaffin—Director, MSSW Program, Nashville and Online

Ragan Schriver—Director, MSSW Program, Knoxville

Robert Mindrup—Interim Director, BSSW Program

Rebecca Jackson—Director, Field and International Education

Stephanie Piper—Director of Development

Tiffany Harmon—Director of Budget, Finance, and Operations

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E01-4013-005-19 (19046)

Tell us about your journey! Email cswnews@utk.edu or send us a picture. Include your name, UT class year, and a note that says, "OK to use."