



*Challenging "isms"  
Privilege Walk 2017*



# UM - Flint Social Work Newsletter

Fall 2018 Newsletter | University of Michigan – Flint Social Work Department

## *Welcome to the 2018-19 Academic Year!*

The Social Work Department has had a productive start to the academic year. Our senior cohort have begun to put their skills and knowledge developed in the classroom into practice out in their field placements. Social Work students at all levels are engaging in meaningful dialogue within the classrooms and in the community.

Please be sure to check the newly updated department website at [umflint.edu/socialwork](http://umflint.edu/socialwork) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram at [UMFlintSocialWork](https://www.instagram.com/UMFlintSocialWork), as we share stories from the department and promote the values of the social work profession!

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## Welcome from Dr. Otrude Moyo

I write to extend a welcome to 2018-2019 academic year, appraise you with activities and efforts of the Social Work department and invite you to partner with us as we combine our unique strengths in building a more sustainable social work community.

- This academic year we welcome, Samantha McCullough, LLMSW, our Community, Field Liaison & Student Recruitment Coordinator. Sam is an alumna of our BSW program and earned her MSW from Michigan State.
- Our BSW CSWE Reaffirmation exercises were completed in May 2018. We invite you to join us in April 2019, at the Evening of Excellence to celebrate this milestone.
- We are proud to have graduated 48 BSWs in April 2018. Of these students 52% are going on to graduate school, and 46% are gainfully employed. Assist us in continuing to boost our student population, as we strive to promote excellence in all areas of our academic and professional study.
- In addition to the BSW program, the UM-Flint Social Work Department now offers an online major, *Substance Use Treatment and Interventions*. We continue to offer the Substance Use Treatment Minor online. In Winter 2019 we will be offering the Crisis Intervention and Disaster Response Minor, also online. We continue to offer an interdisciplinary *Health Navigator* minor. Minors are only five (3) credit courses.



- In 2017, we were among the three programs nationwide awarded the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Katherine A. Kendall Institute for International Social Work Education to facilitate the internationalization of our curriculum in partnership with the Social Work department at the University of Fort Hare, in South Africa. We established a pen-pal program with students/faculty at the University of Fort Hare. In July 2018 our study abroad students met with their pen-pals for a two day symposium at the Steve Biko Center in King Williams Town – South Africa. We are anticipating that the next symposium with South African social workers will be hosted at University of Michigan – Flint in 2019. Consider participating in monthly virtual town hall meetings with social workers in South Africa, please don't hesitate to contact the social work department: [moyoon@umflint.edu](mailto:moyoon@umflint.edu).



## 2018 South Africa Study Abroad

A highlight for the Summer 2018 South Africa Study Abroad is community based learning through, Ubuntu Arts & Dialogues in Diversity Project at Healdtown Comprehensive School, Eastern Cape Province in South Africa. Ubuntu Arts & Dialogues in Diversity Project is a week-long intergenerational community building effort using arts and dialogues around the concept Ubuntu. Participants express Ubuntu in paintings, drawings, dialogues, poetry, dance and story-telling etc., at the end of the gathering participants share their art artifacts with the community. Ubuntu Arts & Dialogues in Diversity coincides with July 18th, annual Nelson Mandela international day of service. This year, the students on the study abroad program participated in library refurbishing and starting a community garden at Healdtown Comprehensive School.



### Student Reflections

“South Africa embraced me, taught me, fed me, sang to me, and transformed me. Now that I have experienced Ubuntu I do not want to live any other philosophy.” – Angela Bonham, 2019 BSW Candidate

“This trip, this class, this stretching of my mind was a conscious choice to rethink the social development not only of Africa, but also in my own Western identity.” – Deb Stallings, 2020 BSW Candidate

“It was a journey where I made life-long friends, felt genuinely connected to others, and ultimately realized that our humanity towards others is the essence of our existence. *I Am Because We Are*: a simple phrase that reinforces the idea that unity is a building block of a just society.” – Christopher Sanjurjo, 2019 BSW Candidate



## Substance Use and Treatment Intervention

The Bachelor of Science in Substance Use Treatment and Intervention (SUTI) is currently in its second year. The SUTI program teaches students how to engage clients as they work toward recovery from drug addiction. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the need for substance use counselors over the next ten years will grow 23%, which is much faster than the average growth in other fields. The need for well-trained substance use counselors is imperative to help with the current opioid crisis. The program coordinator for the SUTI program, Ryan Ashley, will be at Mott Community College for the Transfer Fair on October 25, from 9 am to 7 pm.



“The premise behind Convoy of Hope is not a moment but a movement.” – Todd Womack

## Community Impact

Professor Todd Womack continues to nurture his passion for sustainable community impact in the Flint community through his collaboration with Convoy of Hope and six other local pastors. Convoy of Hope is a faith-based nonprofit that works with communities across the country to provide resources and services. On September 15, 2018, Convoy of Hope hosted a Community Day event at Bassett Park in the Civic Park neighborhood. The event created a social environment for approximately 2,200 community members while also linking good and services from over 98 vendors including free health screenings, haircuts, veteran services, and family portraits. Thousands of grocery items were distributed, music was played, 376 children received free shoes and were able to play games and enjoy time in the inflatable bounce houses. An overall goal for the event was to foster lasting connections within the community to improve physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.



## *Faculty Research*

Dr. Sheryl Groden has been developing a study “Meditation with Older Adults in Flint”. This MICHR funded pilot study is a partnership between UM-Flint Social Work and Valley Area Agency on Aging (VAAA). The goal of this pilot study will be to collect data to explore the usefulness of meditation and mindfulness as a non-pharmacological approach to help older adults manage issues such as stress, chronic pain and anxiety. An introductory series of classes will be taught in two senior centers and one senior residence. In this five-week series a meditation teacher will cover a variety of beginner meditation approaches that can be practiced at home. Participants will get a better understanding of the general purpose and process of meditation through different guided meditation periods and group discussions.

Dr. Julie Ma’s research examines the role of father engagement on child outcomes. To promote strong fatherhood and positive parent-child interactions, she has recently partnered with Involved Dad, a community-based fatherhood program for non-custodial fathers and their children in Genesee County. They have developed a mobile app that will deliver parenting resources to the Involved Dad participants’ smartphones.

Dr. Woojong Kim is currently working with community partners regarding research focused on women and children who are economically and socially disadvantaged.

Otrude N. Moyo is Associate Professor and Chair of the Social Work Department at the University of Michigan-Flint. Her scholarship focuses on social development issues, diversity and critical multiculturalism including, indigenous knowledge, inequality and social change as it pertains to Southern Africa and Africans in the Diaspora. Dr. Moyo is working on a book project on Ubuntu – African philosophy. She is currently working on a community based research project to improve well-being outcomes for youth who come into contact with the courts.



## *Mentoring in Social Work*

Mentoring is off to a great start. The social work department is working with students to help support their learning. **All students who have declared social work as their major are assigned a mentor who will help facilitate a supportive environment for students to have a successful graduation.** Our social work department at The University of Michigan-Flint is working diligently to distinguish our program from others around the country and this is just one aspect of doing just that.

Best,

Laura Macias, LMSW, CSW-G

Academic & Professional Mentoring Coordinator



## Welcome to Field Education

The field practicum experience has the potential of being the most challenging and rewarding of a student's social work education. It is also designed to create an environment in which the students grow professionally and interpersonally. To achieve the most from field practicum, the student will be asked to take risks. By that, I mean exposing themselves to the new learning experiences offered in their field agency and community.

The social work program asks students to move into the professional role, no longer thinking of themselves as "just a student". Field education is the Signature Pedagogy of social work education. Truly dynamic opportunity for students to bring the classroom to life through experiential learning. Focus on strengths, communicate and create relationships and this year will be full of rewards and achievement.

Good Luck and Go BLUE!  
Kasie White, LMSW  
Field Education Coordinator

**“Focus on strengths,  
communicate and  
create relationships”  
– Kasie White**



## Shining Star Awards

At the annual Evening of Excellence in Social Work event the department selects both students as well as community partners who have given a spotlight to both the skills and values of the social work profession. At the 2018 Evening of Excellence, the following were celebrated for their contributions to the profession and the communities they serve –

- ★ Michele Vincent, LMSW – Bendle Public Schools
- ★ Bernadette Hilliker, LMSW – GCCARD Headstart
- ★ Dominique Nunn – 2018 BSW Graduate
- ★ Karle Maurer – 2018 BSW Graduate
- ★ Katherine Jones 2018 BSW Graduate
- ★ Erica Everett –2018 BSW Graduate



## Social Work Club

Social Work Club is a student driven organization allows for students to focus on the many diverse interests within our campus community and the larger communities surrounding us all. Students engage in activities to improve social welfare and promote social work values. The club provides students with social, educational and services opportunities. This opportunity truly shows the eclectic nature of social work and the impact each interaction may have on an individual and community.

Consider JOINING the Social Work Club, it is open to ALL students regardless of major.

Thank you and Go BLUE!  
Kasie White, LMSW  
Social Work Club Advisor



## Phi Alpha Honor Society

The Zeta Lambda chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society is a University of Michigan-Flint organization that stresses community service through knowledge building opportunities. Phi Alpha puts on educational workshops and is currently planning a Social Work Licensure workshop. They also partner with Social Work Club occasionally as they did for Legislation, Education, and Advocacy Day (LEAD) and the creation of rain barrels to bolster Flint's community garden movement. Any Social Work student who is interested in joining Phi Alpha should first review the membership requirements on the department website at <https://www.umflint.edu/socialwork/current-students#tab-student-organizations>.



Through Knowledge – The Challenge is to Serve





## Upcoming Events

The Social Work department continues to engage in projects that serve the community and promote continued opportunities for learning. Please visit the department website for more information about the following upcoming events:

- ★ Project Community Connect
- ★ Privilege Walk
- ★ NASW's Legislative Education Advocacy Day
- ★ Homeless Awareness Week
- ★ Soup-per-Bowl
- ★ Continuing Education Trainings
- ★ Phi Alpha – Social Work Licensure Workshop
- ★ Social Work Club – Holiday Sponsorship

## Strength in Social Work!

The University of Michigan-Flint Social Work department is the only known college in the country utilizing Gallop's Strengthfinder's 2.0 to enhance our strengths-based philosophy of learning, professional practice, and leadership development.

**Simply put: Talent + Knowledge + Skills = Strength**



48 BSW Graduates in 2018



46% of 2018 BSW graduates employed in the social work field full time



52% of 2018 BSW graduates going on to graduate school

### 2018-19 Academic Year Important Dates

September 3, 2018 – First day of Fall Semester

September 7, 2018 – Strengthfinder's Summit

October 29, 2018 – Privilege Walk

December 10, 2018 – Last day of Fall Semester

January 7, 2019 – First day of Winter Semester

April 18, 2019 – SW Department Evening of Excellence

April 19, 2019 – Last day of Winter Semester

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