Dear Friends,

You have often heard me share one of my favorite quotes from former Dean John Turner: “Why would you ever go it alone?” As social workers, we do our best when we form partnerships with others who share the same values and commitment to human service.

That’s why I’m so proud to share this issue of Contact magazine, which focuses on some of the partnerships that we’ve forged with public and private organizations across our state and beyond. These partnerships are vital to our ability to serve and to lead. Our programs and projects don’t exist in a vacuum — they are part of a human ecosystem that involves many people bringing their knowledge and skills together for the greater good.

I know that our work has an extensive positive impact on social problems ranging from human trafficking to substance use to homelessness. And it’s impressive to see how many different organizations are joining us to explore creative new solutions. This year, our faculty and students have collaborated with everyone you can imagine: medical professionals, corrections officers, clergy members, school administrators, military officials, community leaders and, of course, our colleagues in human service agencies and nonprofit organizations across North Carolina.

These collaborations lead to lasting change and effective solutions, improving the lives of children and adults of all backgrounds. Together, we are working to make our communities better places to live, grow, work and play. You are an important part of that collaboration — your support makes this work possible.

Thank you for partnering with us in so many social work initiatives.

With warm wishes,

Gary L. Bowen, Dean and Kenan Distinguished Professor
UNC School of Social Work
Village for construction, UNC School of... time to make the different pieces of this puzzle come together," Wilson said.

Perhaps more important, the Tiny Homes Village illustrates the promise and potential of research-community partnerships, said Dean Gary Bowen. Such collaborations enable academic researchers and community members, such as business and government leaders, nonprofits, faith leaders and others, to work together for a common good. These relationships help to bridge the gap between science and real world solutions, Bowen said.

“As a School, our mission is to transform systems, advance equity and improve lives, but we need the support and input from our communities to succeed in this mission. We can’t do it alone.”

Dean Gary Bowen

“Substance Use Prevention and Education for Robeson (SUPER)” will target youth, ages 11 to 14, to educate them on the dangers of substance use and offer strategies for avoiding substances.

The intervention program also provides parents with training problem solving and conflict resolution to help them strengthen communication and their relationships with their children.

“My hope is that we’ll see improved parent and youth outcomes because parents feel better prepared to manage challenges at home,” Goings said. “And I hope youth acquire skills in SUPER that will help them successfully navigate adolescence.”

In addition, the program will focus on trainings within the community and a widespread public awareness campaign to help thousands of employers, churches, schools, nonprofit groups and others better understand how to prevent substance use among at-risk youth. Long-term, Goings and Barbee think a decrease in youth substance use could potentially lead to a reduction in youth violence, which also continues to challenge the county.

Ultimately, knowing what works in his community is vital to the center’s mission and success, said Barbee, who has a history of working with researchers. “Having a research element of a project guarantees evidence of impact,” he said. Previous research has enabled the center to secure additional funding and provide more resources for the community, he added.

Such partnerships also ensure that communities have a greater voice in potential solutions, Goings said. She also appreciates that her own work is strengthened when the people who are affected by the problems she’s trying to solve can contribute to her research.

“I am competent in research methods, data analysis and substance use prevention, but no one knows the experiences, the culture, the values of a community like the community,” she said. “So there are things I have a sense of nationally that I just wouldn’t know about Robeson County. I am actively meeting people and learning from them. It is important for me to understand the culture, strengths and challenges in the county to ensure that this program is not only effective but that it doesn’t do harm. That’s what is most important to me. I want to help, but I certainly don’t want to do harm.”

(continued, next page)
USING DATA TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

As a research assistant professor, Joy Stewart is used to spending long hours in front of a computer screen reviewing and analyzing huge chunks of data. Stewart is among the faculty members with whom state agencies often contract to evaluate public programs and processes to ensure they are working efficiently and effectively, especially those involving child welfare.

Most recently, Stewart has been partnering with the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts to measure and improve court outcomes for children involved in abuse, neglect and dependency cases. Since last year, she and a team of colleagues have been reviewing foster care data that the courts collect. Where some simply see raw numbers, Stewart is looking for stumbling blocks that could interrupt a child’s transition from the child welfare system into a permanent home.

“We’re helping them to analyze a child’s trajectory through the courts,” Stewart explained. “For example, how long does it take for a child to have that first hearing in which the court decides whether DSS has enough evidence that the child has been abused or neglected?

“We’re looking at this data from across the state because there are a number of things that can happen. Although the courts are required to hold certain hearings within certain timeframes, they can be rescheduled, or there can be bottlenecks that impede a child’s progress. So we’re helping them to get more of a bird’s-eye view of that.”

The data can also give the courts an idea of the experiences of children as they move through the system. Stewart is particularly interested in learning how children of different ages, races and genders are faring in each of the state’s judicial districts. The team will eventually develop a website so that the public can also assess the progress of children within their communities.

Because of the state’s growing problem with opioid use, North Carolina is seeing more children entering and remaining in the foster care system. Stewart said. The average length of stay for a child is around 472 days. Digging a little deeper into what’s happening in different regions of the state is the best way to ensure these children have healthier and more positive outcomes, Stewart said.

“You want a child’s time in foster care to be as short as possible,” she said. “So if there are aspects of this process that could improve to make their time in care shorter, there really shouldn’t be administrative delays in that. Are there particular issues or types of cases, such as parents involved in substance abuse, that have slower timelines? Are there areas of the state where these slowdowns are happening more than others, and can you direct services toward that to correct for that?

“Our goal is to drill down to the core issues that are impacting children and families and keeping them within the system longer than we would want.”

(continued, next page)
PROTECTING YOUTH FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Assistant professor Cindy Fraga Rizo and professor Rebecca Macy are among several faculty at the School who are working in various ways to eliminate labor and sex trafficking. For nearly five years, the researchers, along with professor Sandra Martin at the Gillings School of Public Health, have been helping to develop evidence-informed lessons and materials schools can use to educate students on human trafficking and to ensure that teachers and other educators know where to find support if a child identifies as a survivor or appears at risk for trafficking. The project is in partnership with the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA). In addition, various stakeholders and agencies, including the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, have provided guidance and support.

Rizo and Macy focused much of their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. Their early efforts on surveying North Carolina’s school principals to determine what, if any, educational programs or materials were being used. "We also need to know how we’re doing because it doesn’t make sense to keep putting money down on something if it isn’t working. That’s why the impact is so important.”

Much of Rizo and Macy’s work over the past few years has involved developing lessons on human trafficking that can be folded into the state’s health curriculum for 7th-, 8th- and 9th-grade students. Among other topics, the lessons address consent and sexual boundaries and healthy and unhealthy relationships. As teachers advance through the curriculum, lessons shift toward descriptions of sex trafficking, consequences for survivors/victims and help-seeking.

Ultimately, the goal is to give schools the best tools to support their students, Rizo said.

“Our goal is to help prepare schools and school personnel to identify and respond to sex trafficking,” she said. “We want teachers to know about sex trafficking and to recognize potential red flags so that we have this wider safety net for youth. That way, if teachers see something, they can offer support as early as possible to potentially prevent someone from experiencing trauma and victimization.”

“We also did interview groups with stakeholders across the state about how best to educate kids about sex trafficking because there is limited available empirical evidence to guide practice,” Rizo said. “Although a number of agencies have developed materials to educate youth about human trafficking, few have been evaluated. So we really don’t know much about these existing programs or their effectiveness.”

Because research around the topic remains limited and because no single agency collects data on human trafficking across the state, those working to serve survivors have struggled a bit to understand the significance of the problem in North Carolina, said Robin Colbert, associate director of NCCASA. Research-community partnerships can help to fill in these gaps, she said.

“Research and analysis are not our expertise,” Colbert said. “This is why these relationships are so important. We need researchers to collaborate with folks on the ground who are doing the work around human trafficking so that we can get a better idea of what’s really happening. That way we have proper information when we’re talking to policymakers and when we’re talking to law enforcement and service providers and any other person that victim may come into contact with, to ensure we know how best to serve them.

“We need researchers to collaborate with folks on the ground who are doing the work around human trafficking so that we can get a better idea of what’s really happening.”

Robin Colbert, associate director of the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

ENHANCING THE WELL-BEING OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

Some of the School’s most active partnerships have involved major branches of government, including the U.S. military. Over the past year, faculty have been developing and finalizing an assessment and services planning tool that behavioral health care professionals can use to explore the overall well-being and mission readiness of Air Force service members and their families. The assessment tool is designed to help service members identify key strengths in their lives and relationships that aid in dealing with the demands of military service, including deployments, frequent relocations and combat exposure, said research associate Todd Jensen, who is leading the project. Research has shown that physical, emotional, and sexual abuse among active-duty service members may be attributable to these unique stressors.

With the assessment tool, practitioners can help service members reflect on strengths and growth opportunities, and guide them to relevant services and community support. Jensen said.

“We’re really trying to guide these folks toward positive outcomes,” he said.

The project also further illustrates the valuable role that communities play in social work research, he added.

“In community-driven work, you come in as a research partner and together you co-create a plan to answer the questions that the community has,” Jensen said.

“That’s what’s so powerful. You’re entering an environment with its own needs, and you’re generating products that can fit into that community because you’re developing it with them. I find this kind of work so incredibly rewarding and humbling because everything you do is in service to a community and a common goal.”

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Todd Jensen, Ph.D.
School of Social Work nets $1 million grant for Tiny Homes Village

By Susan White

In October, the UNC School of Social Work was awarded a $1 million, two-year grant from the international Oak Foundation to help fund the construction of the Tiny Homes Village, a demonstration project designed to create a new form of affordable housing for people with mental illness and other health conditions. The village will also support and house veterans in need.

The project is being built through a public-private partnership led by local nonprofit Cross Disability Services (XDS) Inc. and the School of Social Work. XDS, Inc.’s founder and CEO Thava Mahadevan is the founder and director of the Tiny Homes Village. Mahadevan has spent the last few years trying to get the innovative community off the ground, working closely with Amy Blank Wilson, co-director of the project and an associate professor and social work researcher at UNC-CH School of Social Work.

Mahadevan and Wilson see the Tiny Homes Village, which includes the construction of fifteen 400-square-foot houses, as a model for building well-designed, permanent, sustainable homes for $50,000 each. The village will also feature community amenities, such as a clubhouse, walking trails, and an outdoor pavilion. The village will adjoin The Farm at Penny Lane, an alternative therapeutic farm in Chatham County that will provide residents with access to a community garden and healthy food, meaningful daily activities and physical and behavioral health services.

“Our goal is to build these homes in an environment that is designed to foster community participation and health and well-being.”

Associate professor Amy Blank Wilson, Ph.D.

Residents are not expected to move in until the entire project is completed in 2021. As proposed, the tiny homes will consist of a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living room that are designed with a flexible floor plan, giving residents the ability to tailor these living spaces to meet their specific needs and preferences, Wilson said.

The $1 million Oak Foundation grant is the largest award UNC and XDS have received to support the overall project. In 2016, Wilson received a $75,000 C. Felix Harvey grant to fund initial research on the project. Two years later, Oak Foundation awarded the partners $50,000 to help finance the initial phase of construction, including planning and design. Money from the latest grant will be used to finance paving and other needed road improvements for Penny Lane, to clear and prepare the 4-acre site for vertical construction, including connection to sewer, and to construct three homes. 

“Safe and affordable housing supports are fundamental to the recovery of people impacted by mental illness,” Mahadevan said. "Fortunately, we are now one step closer to making it a reality with the support of Oak Foundation, the School of Social Work and other community partners.”

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FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

Every organization needs a strategic plan — a map that outlines where that organization wants to go and what path it will take to reach its destination.

This year, our School undertook the process, both arduous and rewarding, of developing a comprehensive plan for moving forward. We worked with consultants from UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School to survey alumni, students, faculty, staff, community leaders and other constituent groups about their perceptions of our School. We assembled committees and forums to discuss our goals and our challenges. We crafted a mission statement that encapsulated our beliefs and hopes for our School:


Although this is our new mission statement, it reflects a commitment to service that has been the foundation of our School for nearly 100 years. Now it is the foundation for a multi-faceted strategic plan that includes 16 objectives and 43 associated initiatives to help our School grow and thrive, built around the five priorities of school culture, education, research and engagement, global focus, and communications and marketing. We’re already taking action based on this strategic plan. For example, in 2020, we’ll launch a new 20-month option for advanced standing MSW students, an initiative within the education priority.

The development of this strategic plan is one of our most important accomplishments during the 2018-2019 academic year, but it is accompanied by many more wonderful accomplishments. This annual report highlights some of the most noteworthy and provides an overview of our School’s operations throughout the year. Within these pages, you’ll also find a list of our leading donors, whose support is so vital to the continuing success of our School.

Thank you for your engagement with our mission. We are grateful.

With warm wishes,

Gary L. Bowen, Dean and Kenan Distinguished Professor
UNC School of Social Work

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Kaiyn Wilson
UNC School of Social Work faculty received national, state and university recognition for their service, research and other contributions to the field, our world and our mission. We are proud of each individual and want to share their accomplishments with you.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

**FACULTY**

**IRIS CARLTON-LANEY**
Council on Social Work Education
Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award
Department of Social Work at N.C. Central University Lifetime Achievement Award

**FACULTY**

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Prudence P. and Peter J. Mehan Early Career Professorship

**FACULTY**

**REBECCA MACY**
Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development

**FACULTY**

**PAUL LANIER**
Wallace Kuralt Early Career Distinguished Scholar
Fellow of the Society for Social Work and Research

**FACULTY**

**MIMI CHAPMAN**
Frank A. Daniels Distinguished Professor

**FACULTY**

**TAUCHIANA WILLIAMS**
Advanced Standing MSW Program Director

**FACULTY**

**JODI FICK**
National Council for Behavioral Health Top Mental Health First Aid Instructor

**FACULTY**

**AMY LOCKLEAR-HERTEL**
MLK Unsung Hero Award

**NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES**

During the 2018–2019 academic year, UNC School of Social Work named select faculty to key leadership roles within the School. Congratulations to these individuals!
One of the characteristics of a nationally-recognized school is nationally-recognized students! This year, UNC School of Social Work students received national honors as well as top University awards. It is our privilege to work with such high-achieving students.

**Engagement Fellowship**

**STEPHANIE MSW STUDENT**

**RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE**

**6 UNC School of Social Work Annual Report FY19**

One of the characteristics of a nationally-recognized school is nationally-recognized students! This year, UNC School of Social Work students received national honors as well as top University awards. It is our privilege to work with such high-achieving students.

**2018–2019 MSW AWARDS**

**Melvarene J. Howard Adair Scholarship**

Piaanagelo Cruz, Emily Kathleen Pelachich, Charles Loffin Sapp

**Dean’s Scholarship Award**

Rachel Helen Albright, Lisa Camille Carr, Allison H. Davis, Sophia Margaret Durant, Rachel Leigh Floyd, Amun Garaway, Elizabeth Amanda Godown, Katherine Marie Hargraves, Amber Lee Henry, Jazmyne Diemier Jones, Yolanda Yeveding, Fatima Amina Massaquoi, Lindsay Dowd Moody, Alyshae Akeley O’Connor, Nona Plouck, Tracy Springer, Juan Enrico Tuset, Melissa Elyn Walker

**Alumni Development Award**

Carolyn Marie Amy Brandt, Courtney Alexandra Cooper-Leaver, Katie Donaca Haberman, Nora Elizabeth Simmons, Kaylin Danielle Wilson

**Jane Hall and William Johnston Armfield Scholarship**

Querrey Ruth Sanchez Lopez, John Hiw Tuong

**Berg Scholars Award**

La Elizabeth Barbara Katz

**Annie Rizer Boot Award**

Bridge Kathleen McNeny

**Amy Louise Brannock MSW Memorial Scholarship**

Allison H. Davis

**Cheney-Jacobs-Preyer Award**

Morgan Charlier

**Brett Ovias Memorial Scholarship**

Christian Eugene Goertz Scoville

**Robert and Peggy Culbertson Scholarship**

Yolanda Yvette Manor

**Martha Sherrill Dunn Scholarship**

Amber Lee Henry

**Bertie Oscar Edwards Scholarship**

Lisa Camille Carr

**Joanna Finkelstein Gerhan Scholarship**

Cassidy Ashton Closer, Amber Jenelle Faison, Jay L. Miracle-Hus, Madison Rose Poupard, O. Lamonté Roberson

**Kirsten E. Hewitt Scholarship**

Melissa Elyn Walker

**Jeffrey Langston Scholarship**

Rachel Leigh Floyd

**Leadership Education in Interdisciplinary and Related Disorders (LEIRD) Alexander Alvarez Rosé**

James and Connie Meynard Scholarship

Ashley Akeley O’Connor, Juan Enrique Tuset

**Robert Ernest McClendon Memorial Fund**

Chloe Merritt Bethany, Shannon Marie Gaylord, Sarah Grace Neff

**Margaret Mebane Parker Scholarship Fund**

Madeline Anderson Wilson

**Neehan Scholarship**

Diana Darrel Baker, Kiessiang Giscombe

**Betsy Rogers Ruth Scholarship**

Leah Vivian Wolff

**Graham Henry Morton, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**

Brina Eileen Pfeuffer

**Jane Curtis Parker Award**

Euna Victoria Chavis, Mariah Michael Cowell, Lisa Elie Barbeatz Kaz, Stephanie Nohemi Mejia, Kayla Danielle Williams

**Joan Phillips-Trimmer Scholarship**

Sabrina Lee Baeza

**Ellen E. Power Scholarship**

Christian Eugene Goertz Scoville

**Kathleen Price Scholarship**

Ruye Dooley, Margaret K. Edwards, Ashley Lynn Eoy, Gabrielle Hannah Johnson, Bridge Kathleen McNenay, Stephanie Nohemi Mejia, Amyleigh Myers, Abigail Rose Sepanski, Catherine Louise Swift

**Kenneth E. Royall, Jr. Scholarship**

Elizabeth Cruemple Anderson

**Janice Hough Scholarship**

Dana Victoria Chavez, Autumn Cooper, Hannah Renea Elia, Olivia Elizabeth Giglio, Sarah Ann Grant, India Naya Johnson, Casey Pierce Miller, Ciara Danielle Rickert, Kristina Chayenne Roberts, Mackenzie Nicole Rockett, Bethany Anne Wichman-Bouchen

**Dean E. Smith Opening Doors Fund**

Rebekah Daniel, Ginger Gooch Lechner, Lauren Elizabeth Kulp, Kayla Danielle Williams

**Social Justice Fund Scholarship**

Kristal Lynn Keese

**Florence Salton Memorial Scholarship**

Stephanie D. Wallace

**Spring Memorial Scholarship**

Veronica Kenny-Mascheroni, Marquita Patricia Laughlin

**Linda M. Summer Scholarship**

Lavaya Denise Woods-Dorre

**Leah Tennabon Scholarship**

Laura Catherine Carroll, Claire Elizabeth Fondtweiler, Matthew Runolland, Raul A. Zamora Duprey

**Kirsten Marie Toalmanseel Anderson Scholarship**

Lanee Marie Mananzante

**Smith P. Theimann Scholarship**

Megan Nicole Stanley

**UNC-PrimeCare**


**Washi-Goffi Award**

Angela Abigail Krider

**Ellen Black Winston Scholarship**

Margaret Parker Ivancic

**2018–2019 PH.D. AWARDS**

**Outstanding Doctoral Student Award**

Laurie Michelle Graham

**Outstanding Doctoral Student Award**

Patricia Anne McGovern (2016-17), Charity Snead Watkins (2016-17)

**Dean’s Recognition of Teaching Excellence**

Patrick Anne McGovern

**Five-Year Royster Society of Fellows Caroline H. and Thomas S. Royster Fellowship Award for Doctoral Study**

(awarded by the UNC Graduate School)

Lauren Michelle Graham

**Injury and Violence Prevention Fellowship**

(awarded by the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center)

Lauren Michelle Graham

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**2019 OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL STUDENT**

Laurnie Graham is the 2019 recipient of the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. Graham was honored during the School of Social Work’s Ph.D. reception on May 10. Associate Dean for Doctoral Education Mimi Chapman presented the award, which recognizes a doctoral student who demonstrates exemplary scholarship, teaching, service, leadership and collegial support of fellow students. Graham is a Royster Fellow and a three-time Tar Heel, having earned her Bachelor of Arts (sociology and psychology) and Master of Social Work degrees from UNC. As an undergraduate, Graham served as an intern in the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and volunteered at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center (OCRCC), where she worked with survivors of interpersonal violence. She returned to OCRCC after earning her MSW, serving as programs director and as a crisis response coordinator. While at OCRCC, Graham developed a handbook on best practices for developing and implementing support group programs for survivors of sexual violence. Her work on this handbook helped earn her the 2013 Peer Support Award, presented by the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She was also named a "Hometown Hero" by WCHL in October 2014 for her work with OCRCC. Throughout her doctoral studies, Graham focused her research on gender-based violence intervention and prevention, working with Rebecca Macy, Ph.D., L. Richardson Preyer Distinguished Chair for Strengthening Families. In 2018, Graham was selected for the inaugural class of Fellows with the UNC Injury and Violence Prevention Center. Graham currently serves as a tenure track assistant professor at the University of Maryland.
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019!

The UNC School of Social Work held its 98th annual hooding ceremony on Saturday, May 11. Friends, family members, and others gathered in Memorial Hall on UNC’s campus to celebrate this year’s 130 MSW and three Ph.D. graduates.

Iris Carlton-LaNey, Ph.D., Berg Beach Distinguished Professor of Community Social Work, delivered this year’s commencement address. With a career spanning more than 40 years, Dr. Carlton-LaNey is a nationally renowned scholar who has received many accolades for her work, including the National Association of Social Workers N.C. Social Worker of the Year award, the 50 Heroes for Justice award and the Social Work Pioneer award.

Congratulations, graduates! We honor you and your families, and we wish you the best as you continue your careers as social work professionals.

SOCIAL WORK
PH.D. GRADUATES

Laurie Michelle Graham
Patricia Anne McGovern
Elana Michele Sabatine
Charity Snead Watkins (hooded in May 2017)

We were also proud to recognize five Distinguished Alumni Award recipients for their outstanding leadership, service and achievement:

Susanna Stepp Birdsong, MSW ’08
Dr. Noel Sebastian Bost, MSW ’98
Jessica Nakell Burroughs, MSW ’98
Mia Ives-Rublee, MSW ’09
Marcia Lynn White, MSW ’78

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES

Ashley Alexandra Coleman
Johanna Alexandra Contreras
Autumn Cooper
Megan Patricia Cooper
Mariah Michal Powell
Colleen Elizabeth Culley
Laura Yvonne Dugati
Rebekah Daniel
Ally Elizabeth Davis
Yovania Dechiar
Anna Elizabeth Dikun
Jaye Dooley
Margaret K. Edwards
Hannah Renea Elia
Amber Janelle Faison
Theresa Michelle Flores
Rachel Leigh Floyd
Antwon O’Neil Fogle
Sara M. Forcella
Mary Kathryn Forrest
Shannon Marie Gaylord
Olivia Elizabeth Giglio
Lissette Roio Guerrero
Katie Donaca Haberman
Essence Nichole Hairston
Katherine Kaitlyn Harris
Jessica Claire Harper
Caroline Suzanne Harris
Amber Lee Henry
Hilary Herron
Melissa Elizabeth Hombeck
Sarah K. Howard
Chelsea Hope Hughes
Stephanie Brooke Jarrell
Emmy Johnson
Gabrielle Hannah Johnson
Megan McKenzie Johnson
Savannah Paige Johnson
Naisha Shenee Johnston
Lia Elizabeth Barbezat Kaz
Ashley Kaziouh
Kristal Lynn Keesee
Stephanie Lee Kennedy
Veronica Kenny-Macpherson
Michelle Carolyn Kline
Lauren Elizabeth Kulp
Amy Rebecca Lakin
Mary Katherine Lasitter
Marquita Patricia Laughlin
Ginger Goosch Lechner
Yolanda Yvette Mainor
Brenna Kathleen Martin
Bridget Kathleen McElraney
Anna Margaret McHaleen
Stephany Nohemí Mejía
Alina Michelle Miller
Renee Frances Mína
Jay L. Miracle-Hue
Sean Moffitt
Lindsey Dawn Moody
Amyleigh Myers
Sarah Grace Neff
Ashley Arlene O’Connor
Jessica Michelle Ownbey
Mary Catherine Penn
Briana Illese Pfeiffer
Jesse Marie Phillips
Claire Elizabeth Poindexter
Madison Rose Poupard
Lacy Catherine Rardin
Lindley Danielle Reynolds
Ciara Danielle Rickert
O. Lamonte Roberson
Kristina Cheyenne Roberts
Mackenzie Nicole Rockett
Katherine Ashe Roethling
Amanda Davis Sale
Luz Sanabria-Reyes
Krista Nicole Scheffey
Christopher Eugene Goerd Scoville
Emily Bess Seligman
Abigail Rose Sepanski
Susan Kathleen Shumaker
Nora Elizabeth Simmons
Ceara Velesa Smith
Olivia Lee Wilson Smith
Tina Long Spach
Madeline Rose Spear
Tracy Springer
Mattie Steele
Danielle Leah Strauss
Catherine Louise Swift
Alexandra P. Tomlinson
Guillermo Miguel Tremols
Juan Enrique Tuset
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Viera
Rachael Ann Wade
Melissa Ellyn Walker
Sebastian James Weinell
Kayla Danielle Williams
Kalyn Danielle Wilson
LaVoya Denise Woods-Dionne
Caroline Austin Wootten
Jandira Alexandra Zaki

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019!

The UNC School of Social Work held its 98th annual hooding ceremony on Saturday, May 11. Friends, family members, and others gathered in Memorial Hall on UNC’s campus to celebrate this year’s 130 MSW and three Ph.D. graduates.

Iris Carlton-LaNey, Ph.D., Berg Beach Distinguished Professor of Community Social Work, delivered this year’s commencement address. With a career spanning more than 40 years, Dr. Carlton-LaNey is a nationally renowned scholar who has received many accolades for her work, including the National Association of Social Workers N.C. Social Worker of the Year award, the 50 Heroes for Justice award and the Social Work Pioneer award.

Congratulations, graduates! We honor you and your families, and we wish you the best as you continue your careers as social work professionals.

SOCIAL WORK
PH.D. GRADUATES

Laurie Michelle Graham
Patricia Anne McGovern
Elana Michele Sabatine
Charity Snead Watkins (hooded in May 2017)

We were also proud to recognize five Distinguished Alumni Award recipients for their outstanding leadership, service and achievement:

Susanna Stepp Birdsong, MSW ’08
Dr. Noel Sebastian Bost, MSW ’98
Jessica Nakell Burroughs, MSW ’98
Mia Ives-Rublee, MSW ’09
Marcia Lynn White, MSW ’78

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES

Ashley Alexandra Coleman
Johanna Alexandra Contreras
Autumn Cooper
Megan Patricia Cooper
Mariah Michal Powell
Colleen Elizabeth Culley
Laura Yvonne Dugati
Rebekah Daniel
Ally Elizabeth Davis
Yovania Dechiar
Anna Elizabeth Dikun
Jaye Dooley
Margaret K. Edwards
Hannah Renea Elia
Amber Janelle Faison
Theresa Michelle Flores
Rachel Leigh Floyd
Antwon O’Neil Fogle
Sara M. Forcella
Mary Kathryn Forrest
Shannon Marie Gaylord
Olivia Elizabeth Giglio
Lissette Roio Guerrero
Katie Donaca Haberman
Essence Nichole Hairston
Katherine Kaitlyn Harris
Jessica Claire Harper
Caroline Suzanne Harris
Amber Lee Henry
Hilary Herron
Melissa Elizabeth Hombeck
Sarah K. Howard
Chelsea Hope Hughes
Stephanie Brooke Jarrell
Emmy Johnson
Gabrielle Hannah Johnson
Megan McKenzie Johnson
Savannah Paige Johnson
Naisha Shenee Johnston
Lia Elizabeth Barbezat Kaz
Ashley Kaziouh
Kristal Lynn Keesee
Stephanie Lee Kennedy
Veronica Kenny-Macpherson
Michelle Carolyn Kline
Lauren Elizabeth Kulp
Amy Rebecca Lakin
Mary Katherine Lasitter
Marquita Patricia Laughlin
Ginger Goosch Lechner
Yolanda Yvette Mainor
Brenna Kathleen Martin
Bridget Kathleen McElraney
Anna Margaret McHaleen
Stephany Nohemí Mejía
Alina Michelle Miller
Renee Frances Mína
Jay L. Miracle-Hue
Sean Moffitt
Lindsey Dawn Moody
Amyleigh Myers
Sarah Grace Neff
Ashley Arlene O’Connor
Jessica Michelle Ownbey
Mary Catherine Penn
Briana Illese Pfeiffer
Jesse Marie Phillips
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Tina Long Spach
Madeline Rose Spear
Tracy Springer
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Melissa Ellyn Walker
Sebastian James Weinell
Kayla Danielle Williams
Kalyn Danielle Wilson
LaVoya Denise Woods-Dionne
Caroline Austin Wootten
Jandira Alexandra Zaki
The School of Social Work thanks the many alumni, friends, foundations and corporations who made financial contributions as gifts or grants for sponsored research between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Thanks to your generous support, our School constantly ranks as one of the top schools in the country. We produce leaders in social education, research, direct practice and community service. Your generosity enhances everything we do. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the listing below. If an error or omission has occurred, please notify Mary Beth Hernandez at marybeth@email.unc.edu or 919-962-6469.

Honor Roll of Giving

Thank you

Chancellor’s Club ($2,000 or Greater)

Janice S. Linaugh
Mark Linaugh
Anita M. McClennen
Daniel R. McClennen
Miriam F. McCadden
Peter J. Meehan
Prudence F. Meehan
Pansy K. Morton
Margaret P. Parker
Andra Pfaum
Courtney K. Pflaum
L. R. Priester
Mary P. Priester
Prospect Hill Foundation Inc.
Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc.
Jaye W. Schiel
Schwab Charitable

Howard Odum Founder’s Circle ($1,000–$1,999)

Barry Nakell
Jane F. Pope
Andrew M. Schoenbach
Marion E. Schoenbach
Victor J. Schoenbach

Wells Fargo Community Support
Sheryl Zimmerman

Howard Community Foundation
Community Foundation of New Jersey

thank you
“They are a wonderful advocate for clients and were able to present four times at conferences and workshop regarding gender-inclusive care in eating disorder treatment.”

“Our student impacted at least 25–30 patients and families. Just today, one of his study participants wrote that her conversations with the student had been ‘a blessing.’”

Placements by city

- Burlington, 3
- Chapel Hill, 65
- Hillsborough, 9
- Greensboro, 16
- High Point, 3
- Jamestown, 1
- Kernersville, 3
- Winston-Salem, 10
- Morganton, 1
- Asheville, 1
- Salisbury, 1
- Pittsboro, 10
- Silver City, 5
- Sanford, 4
- Fayetteville, 1
- Garner, 2
- Raleigh, 32
- Cary, 1
- Durham, 51
- Butner, 3
- Carborro, 10
- UNC School of Social Work Annual Report FY19

Data reporters: Rebecca Brigham, Denisé Dews, Linda Pridgen-Braswell

113 generalist students
90 specialization students – direct practice
40 specialization students – community, management and policy practice

Data reporter: Joseph DiConcilio

“Tuition and Fees - $1,346,078
State Appropriations - $6,222,534
Expendable Gifts and Foundation Payout - $838,577
Endowment Payout and Other Investments - $715,784
Other Revenue and Adjustments - $327,007
F&A from Contracts and Grants - $293,895
Contracts and Grants - $11,788,357
Instruction and Faculty - $6,489,257
Research Employees - $5,339,293
Other Personnel - $3,466,444
Scholarships | Fellowships - $491,483
Honorarys | Consultants - $302,027
Travel - $223,932
Supplies - $179,439
Meetings - $129,309
Maintenance Operations - $104,110
Communications - $91,653
Miscellaneous - $77,671

DATA REPORTER: JEFF BONNER

MSW students in field placements
The development of a new SSW Strategic Plan ranks among the School’s leading accomplishments during the 2018–2019 academic year. Dozens of students, faculty, staff, alumni and other stakeholders shared their ideas through a series of meetings, surveys and other activities.

The resulting SSW Strategic Plan addresses five areas of focus for the School, each with its own priority statement and several associated objectives:

**SCHOOL CULTURE:**
Be a diverse, inclusive and accessible environment.
- Foster a strong sense of belonging, identity and shared mission among the SSW community of faculty, staff, field instructors and students.
- Increase diversity of the SSW community and expand accessibility of educational opportunities.
- Take action to increase the School’s capacity to confront oppression and discrimination.

**EDUCATION:**
Create and deliver action-oriented educational content to promote knowledge into action.
- Expand educational offerings for MSW students.
- Increase continuing education offerings that promote the ability of practitioners to move science into action.
- Train faculty, staff, students and alumni to communicate effectively about social work research and practice.
- Focus educational opportunities on translating knowledge into action.

**RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT:**
Influence public conversation, practice and policy through rigorous high-quality, high-impact research, community engagement and innovation.
- Create new capacity for influential and integrated research.
- Promote the development and adoption of pragmatic evidence-informed practices.
- Build the School’s capacity to influence policy at the local, state, national and international levels.

**GLOBAL FOCUS:**
Advance a global perspective.
- Engage in cross-national research to expand knowledge addressing real-world challenges.
- Enhance and expand global competence of students.
- Develop a visible platform to amplify the School’s global mission.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING:**
Modernize the School’s communication infrastructure and strategy.
- Assess the School’s current communication infrastructure and strategies.
- Determine the School’s unique brand identity, reputation and perception.
- Build a communication infrastructure and strategy to maximize the effectiveness and impact of internal and external communications.

Implementation of the plan has already begun, with initiatives that include the development of a new option for advanced standing MSW students, diversity and inclusion retreats for faculty and staff, a new intramural for the School and more.

Watch a video about our Strategic Plan online: go.unc.edu/SSW-Strategic-Plan

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**Carlton-LaNey receives top CSWE award**

Iris Carlton-LaNey, Ph.D., the Berg-Beach Distinguished Professor of Community Social Work, received the Council on Social Work Education’s 2019 Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award. The prestigious award recognizes a social work educator’s exemplary achievements in research and scholarship, pedagogy and curriculum development, and organizational leadership over his or her entire career.

Carlton-LaNey was presented with the award on Oct. 27, 2019, during CSWE’s 65th Annual Program Meeting in Denver, Colo. The School of Social Work also hosted a reception during the conference to honor the distinguished professor’s achievements.

“Dr. Carlton-LaNey is especially deserving of this award,” praised UNC School of Social Work Dean Gary Bowen. “Over the course of her lengthy and luminous career, her scholarly and practice efforts have made an enormous impact on both professional and client communities — both directly and indirectly through the work of the thousands of students she has taught and inspired.”

Carlton-LaNey has served on UNC’s faculty since 1994. She previously taught at UNC-Charlotte and at North Carolina A&T State University. A nationally-renowned scholar with an interest in aging issues and African American social welfare history, Carlton-LaNey has authored four books, as well as numerous articles in research journals.

Over the course of her career, she has earned numerous awards, including Social Worker of the Year by the North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and CSWE’s Distinguished Recent Contributions in Social Work Education Award.

In 2012, the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Social Work identified Carlton-LaNey as one of its 50 Heroes for Justice and in 2015, she was named a Social Work Pioneer, one of the highest honors awarded by the National Association of Social Workers.

More recently, Governor Roy Cooper appointed her to serve on the North Carolina Social Services Commission.

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“Dr. Carlton-LaNey is congratulated by Saundra Starks, of Western Kentucky University and CSWE president Darla Spence Coffey.
**MSW students launch initiative to strengthen North Carolina’s kinship care system**

By Susan White

As child protective services interns, MSW students Angela Krider, Erin Adams, Alecia Mitiguy and Katie Pollard saw first-hand the challenges that many foster families face, particularly in households where kinship caregivers – relatives or non-relative family members – are caring for children.

Although the state often relies on these caregivers to provide stable homes for foster children, most are not legally licensed as foster parents. Without a license, kinship caregivers do not automatically qualify for state and federal support, training or any other assistance. That means relatives and non-relative family members are being called upon and stepping forward to care for children still in the legal custody of the state but without any offer of financial help.

“I remember a family I worked with - an aunt who was struggling to take care of her eight-year-old nephew alongside raising her own two children,” recalled Krider, who along with Adams, Mitiguy and Pollard are all Child Welfare Education Collaborative scholars. “Her life literally changed overnight. Despite working a full-time job and doing all she could to ensure her nephews felt loved and had stability, economic hardship was very real. It just didn’t make any sense to me why these families were not getting any money for the same expectations as foster parents.”

More troubling, the students agreed, are the children coming from experiences of neglect and abuse and now living with kinship caretakers who are under-equipped to help them through their trauma. Further, without access to supportive networks or education on how the foster care system works, many kinship caretakers are forced to navigate the system on their own.

All of these issues highlight serious concerns and a need to reform the state’s foster care system, the students said. For more than a year, they’ve been working to do just that.

With guidance and financial support from their professor Mark Testa, a nationally known expert in child welfare, foster care and kinship care, the students launched a research initiative last year that aimed to get a clearer picture of kinship placement and foster care licensing in the state. The students spent most of the summer traveling to as many counties as they could fit into their schedules to speak with representatives and supervisors from foster care, licensing, adoptions/ permanency planning, in-home services, and investigations’ units.

“We really wanted to talk to the people on the ground because as we had discussed in class, there can be this disconnect between people who create policy and the people who do the work,” Adams said. “We wanted to acknowledge that these agencies really are the experts. The huge takeaway was that everyone agreed we can’t keep doing things the same way.”

After months of interviews and assessing data, the students formally presented their findings in November to state and county representatives and to key officials with foster care licensing organizations at the first Kinship Care Summit in Greensboro, Children’s Home Society of America, which has worked closely with Testa on various child welfare issues, hosted the event.

Several common themes emerged from the students’ report, including the need to recognize the importance of kinship caregivers, as well as their need to receive funding support and trauma-informed training. Additionally, the students advocated for child welfare social workers in the field. The team also recommended different steps for licensing, including a tiered model tailored specifically for kinship providers.

Testa praised the students’ efforts to help improve the state’s foster care system. The research team is currently working with Ph.D. student Daniel Gibbs to publish an article.

“They work is very important because it not only raises a number of issues that policymakers have struggled with, it has an on-the-ground look at what local offices see as some of the challenges that relatives face in raising children who are in the custody of the state,” Testa said. “I think their work really validated that most local offices think we need to improve the way we work with relatives.”

For Krider, who grew up with a grandmother who served as a kinship caregiver for her cousins, the work remains personal. “Ultimately, my goal has been to not only recognize that kinship providers exist but to show that we still believe in families,” she said. “I believe that there’s healing in families and that families should be supported and empowered when they are trying to help take care of their own.”

"Our work is very important because it not only raises a number of issues that policymakers have struggled with, it has an on-the-ground look at what local offices see as some of the challenges that relatives face in raising children who are in the custody of the state," Testa said. “I think their work really validated that most local offices think we need to improve the way we work with relatives.”

From left: Alecia Mitiguy, Katie Pollard, Mara Testa, Erin Adams and Angela Krider

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**Happy retirement!**

We thank these outstanding social work professionals for their contributions to our School and to the profession, and we wish them the best upon their retirement.

**Lane Cooke**

Lane retired in September 2019, after nearly 50 years of service to the state of North Carolina. For 27 years, she served as the program coordinator for the Family and Children’s Resource Program (FCRP), where she was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the program, including management of state-funded contracts with the North Carolina Division of Social Services, the North Carolina Division of Public Health, and the North Carolina Division of Aging.

In addition, she managed program activities with external organizations as well as consultation and technical assistance with state and county organizations in the field of family and child welfare services.

Over the course of her nearly five-decade career in North Carolina, Lane served as a social worker in Robeson and Wake counties, as a social work supervisor in Orange County and as a program manager for the state Division of Social Services. A 1979 MSW graduate of UNC, she joined the School’s faculty in 1991 as the educational coordinator and consultant for the School’s Center for Aging Research and Education Services. She began her role with FCRP in 1991.

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**Mary Anne Salmon**

Mary Anne retired in September 2019, after 33 years of service to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, including 31 years within the School of Social Work. She joined UNC in 1986 as a research associate for the Health Services Research Center (now the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research), and devoted her career to working to improve programs and policies that impact America’s growing aging population. Most of her tenure was spent as a research specialist with the Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES) within the Jordan Institute for Families. She was among the first employees to be hired for the new center.

Her passion for supporting and strengthening services for vulnerable older and disabled adults and their families extended to statewide service. For years, she served on a team that assists the Division on Aging and Adult Services and Area Agencies on Aging with the extensive process of certifying senior centers across the state. She was also a member of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging, helping to educate lawmakers and the public on the need for resources for North Carolina’s growing baby-boom generation.

As a faculty member, Mary Anne worked with the Rethinking Guardianship Initiative, evaluated online training for child welfare workers and served as chair of the School’s pre-Institutional Review Board Committee.
In memory

Maeda Galinsky

Maeda Galinsky, a long-time social work scholar, researcher, teacher and mentor, died on Sept. 9, 2019.

Galinsky retired from the UNC School of Social Work in 2015 following 50 years of service. A pioneer scholar for her work with groups and with intervention research, Galinsky was the longest-serving member of the School’s faculty.

Her professional path began to take shape as an undergraduate student majoring in social relations at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Mass. While there, she served as a volunteer and then director of a program that enabled student volunteers to work with people with mental illnesses in a psychiatric hospital. She went on to receive an MSW and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, where she also taught for a year.

She arrived in Chapel Hill in 1965, when her husband David was offered a position with UNC’s psychology department. While there, she served as a volunteer and then director of a program that enabled student volunteers to work with people with mental illnesses in a psychiatric hospital. She went on to receive an MSW and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, where she also taught for a year.

She arrived in Chapel Hill in 1965, when her husband David was offered a position with UNC’s psychology department. Soon after, Galinsky was hired as an assistant professor at UNC School of Social Work, where she remained until her retirement.

Galinsky’s influence on the field, especially on social work theory and practice with groups, continues to be felt today.

Carl Henley Jr.

UNC School of Social Work professor emeritus Herbert Carlisle “Carl” Henley Jr. died on Tuesday, July 23, 2019.

Henley taught research methodology at the School for more than 30 years, after earning a master’s degree in public health and a doctoral degree in biostatistics. Henley was remembered as a kind and generous person with a great sense of humor and as a teacher fully committed to his students. In 1989, students presented Henley with the School’s first teaching award.

In 1996, Henley was chosen as a torchbearer for the Olympic torch, one year after he suffered a spinal cord stroke that left him paralyzed along his right side. He learned how to walk again, carrying the torch along Franklin Street in Chapel Hill during its route to the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga.

Rachel Dedmon

UNC School of Social Work associate professor emerita Rachel Dedmon died on Nov. 29, 2019, in Pawleys Island, S.C.

Dedmon, who earned her Ph.D. at Smith College School of Social Work in Massachusetts, joined the UNC School of Social Work faculty in 1974. Over the course of her 28-year career at UNC, Dedmon held many different responsibilities, from associate dean to director of admissions and financial aid. As a faculty member, she taught courses in adult and child mental disorders, in mental health services, and in ethical decision-making.

She also published widely in the fields of child mental health, Tourette’s syndrome, mental health case management, attention-deficiency, and hyperactivity. Upon retirement and following her move to Pawleys Island, Dedmon served as a volunteer for Teach My People, an academically-focused afterschool and summer program for students in need. She also worked as a volunteer researcher at Brookgreen Gardens.

L. Worth Bolton

L. Worth Bolton, retired clinical faculty member and former director of the School of Social Work’s Certificate Program in Substance Abuse Studies, died Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019.

A 1981 MSW graduate of UNC, Bolton spent his entire career assisting people with substance use problems to find help and health, beginning at a time in history when they were considered by most to be a lost cause.

In his 40-year career, Bolton was a treatment provider, clinical supervisor, mentor, trainer, teacher and consultant. He worked with community organizations, professional associations and state and national substance use disorder authorities to ensure that practice informs policy. In all of these roles, he made a significant impact on students, practitioners, veterans, policymakers and people seeking recovery. His influence will continue to be felt throughout the state.

In memory
Bringing social innovation and entrepreneurship to North Carolina’s prisons — and beyond

Near 28 years ago, Brian Hamilton, joined his friend Robert Harris on a prison ministry visit. He talked with men who were preparing to leave prison, and he wondered if they could find jobs with prison records.

“When you’re convicted, you really get two sentences,” Hamilton said. “Your first one [in prison], and when you get out.”

He wanted to help, sharing a belief in social justice with his wife, the late Maureen Brenner Hamilton, who earned her MSW degree from UNC School of Social Work.

Working with Harris and others, Hamilton developed the innovative “Inmates to Entrepreneurs” program, offered through the Brian Hamilton Foundation.

A HEART FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Hamilton is no stranger to entrepreneurship. Growing up in Connecticut, he operated a landscaping business to help pay for his college expenses. After college, he opened a few laundromats, and later, he earned his MBA at Duke University and eventually became a co-founder of the financial software company Sageworks.

He believed that the skills he used as an entrepreneur — coming up with a business idea, finding customers, hiring employees and managing business finances — could be used by anyone to start and grow their own companies.

For “Inmates to Entrepreneurs,” Hamilton developed a training program to provide an introduction to marketing, selling and customer service. He encouraged the men to look at low-capital service businesses that they could start for less than $1,000, such as catering, lawn care and auto detailing.

Hamilton taught an introductory course to groups within correctional facilities — just the basics, condensed into a two-hour workshop, so that inmates could begin thinking about what they wanted to accomplish. He built a network of successful entrepreneurs to serve as mentors, and he added an eight-week community-based course for individuals who had completed their sentences and been released.

“Not everybody that comes into our program starts a business,” Hamilton said. “They learn about business. They learn about being a better employee.”

In the past six months, “Inmates to Entrepreneurs” has launched eight-week courses in Durham, Raleigh, Charlotte, Asheville and Wilmington, with other activities in Hillsborough.

“In the future, we’re really two ways to get ahead in America: Get an education, and be an entrepreneur,” Hamilton said. By teaching inmates and previously incarcerated persons to become entrepreneurs, the “Inmates to Entrepreneurs” program helps individuals find opportunities to get ahead. About 30 percent of the program’s participants are female.

A CONNECTION TO SOCIAL WORK

Hamilton’s leadership in social innovation and entrepreneurship can serve as a model for students at UNC School of Social Work, according to Gary Nelson, Ph.D., who serves as Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair in Public Policy and directs programming in social innovation and entrepreneurship at the School.

“We’re exploring opportunities to learn from [Hamilton],” Nelson said. “When he sees a problem, he has to solve it — that sounds like social work to me.”

Social work has many parallels to entrepreneurship, Nelson added. “We need to own what we know — how to build relationships, how systems work.”

A MOVE TO MAIN STREET

Hamilton has now expanded his initial concept with “Entrepreneurship for All,” an online training program for anyone who wants to start what Hamilton describes as a “Main Street business” — dry cleaners, hair salons, shops, service companies and other businesses that are found in every small town.

He has worked with Minority and Women Business Enterprise programs and talked about entrepreneurship with middle and high school students across North Carolina. His foundation partnered with the national nonprofit Flagship Labs to offer entrepreneurship programming for veterans and military spouses.

The 12-hour online course (available free to anyone at www.brianhamilton.org) includes stories from successful entrepreneurs, quizzes and discussions with others who have enrolled in the course.

Brian Hamilton was a guest speaker for the UNC School of Social Work advisory board meeting on April 12, 2019.

Hello, alumni —

As the new president of our SSW Alumni Council, I wanted to introduce myself to all of you and share some of the exciting ways our council wants to serve our alumni and our School. I think you’ll be pleased.

Over the past few months, our council has worked to develop a strategic plan for growth and impact, using suggestions from our own alumni and ideas from alumni groups at other schools of social work. Our plan has three priorities:

• Engagement
  We want to provide you with fun networking opportunities and social engagement, beginning with a new private Facebook group for SSW alumni (www.facebook.com/groups/uncswalumni) where you can reconnect with classmates and make new connections. We are also creating opportunities for alumni to network at select SSW events, including Clinical Lecture Series programs and regional gatherings.

• Education
  We recognize that you are lifelong learners, always seeking opportunities to enhance your professional knowledge and skills. We are exploring new opportunities for alumni to learn more about research projects, social entrepreneurship programs and other innovative activities at our School.

• Service
  We know that our School needs the support of its alumni. Because we remember our own struggles as graduate students, we know that current students need and deserve our encouragement. Our council is organizing efforts to invest in the new Heart of Social Work Fund, which was created by Kim Strom to help meet students’ emergency financial needs.

Within each of these priorities, we want to involve a diverse group of SSW alumni — different ages, different races, different professional backgrounds, different interests — and we hope that we’ll attract participation from those of you in all of the School’s different programs and cohorts.

I am proud to be a graduate of UNC School of Social Work, and I believe that we all have a responsibility to keep our School among the nation’s top-ranked programs of social work. We can work together as alumni to make it happen. In partnership,

Kristen Register Lakis

Kristen Register Lakis has served as president of the UNC School of Social Work Alumni Council since April 2019. She graduated from the MSW/MDiv dual-degree program in 2012, concentrating in direct practice with a focus on healthcare-related social work. Her passion for spirituality and healthcare had been cultivated for many years — participating in Methodist congregations, studying religion and psychology as a Duke University undergraduate student and, prior to enrolling at SSW, working in adult community mental health care in Washington, D.C. Her SSW field education experiences at Duke Hospital, neurological intensive care unit and Duke Hospice Bereavement Center, where she provided grief counseling, helped confirm her commitment to clinical social work in a healthcare setting.

Lakis remains invested in the critical role that social work plays in improving healthcare delivery, outcomes and access for all people in North Carolina. She currently serves as the clinical social work team lead for Duke Palliative Care. Previously, she served as the clinical social worker on the adult and pediatric bone marrow transplant teams at UNC Hospitals and completed a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) internship and residency at UNC Hospitals. She also serves as a founding board member of Luka the Lion Foundation, on the NC Institute of Medicine Task Force on Serious Illness and on the Duke Chaplain Services Professional Advisory Group.
1960s

Susan Davis, MSW ’68, of California announced she will not seek reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she has served for nearly 30 years. Davis worked as a social worker and served for six years in the California State Assembly before being elected to Congress.

1970s

Andrew Meyer, MSW ’79, retired from Wake County Human Services (WCHS) after nearly 40 years of service, the last 18 years of which he worked as a program supervisor with the 4-H Youth Development Program. Prior to his last role in the county, Meyer served for 21 years as the supervisor of Wake House, the 90-day emergency shelter for children and youth in the custody of WCHS/Children’s Welfare. At his retirement, Meyer was honored with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, among the most prestigious awards conferred by the Governor of North Carolina. The award is given to individuals for exemplary service to the state and to their communities.

1980s

Laura S. O’Neal, MSW ’81, was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to serve a 4-year term on the Nash Community College Board of Trustees. O’Neal worked for the Nash County Department of Social Services for 42 years in various roles, including as assistant director and director.

Mick J. Rogers, MSW ’80, defended his dissertation on “Best Practices in Teaching Advanced Micro, Mezzo and Macro Advocacy Skills to MSW IIs” and earned his Ph.D. from Smith College School for Social Work.

1990s

Paula Bohland, MSW ’98, was featured in the Salisbury Post article, “Business growth coach aims to help others.”

Bobby Cagle, MSW ’98, was featured in a video produced by Southern California’s PBS network and its Social Impact Initiative. Cagle, a former foster child and trained social worker, directs the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

Edna Comer, ’98 Ph.D., retired from the University of Connecticut’s School of Social Work. Comer had served as associate dean for academic affairs, associate professor and faculty coordinator for the Urban Service Track.

Kristin Lavergne, MSW ’94, celebrated 25 years of service with Inter-Faith Council for Social Service. Lavergne is the community services director and closely with IFC’s staff to connect people with the resources and services they need.

Yvonne Rena Lewis, MSW ’97, completed her Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work degree from Norfolk State University in May. She continues to work in the education field as a licensed school social worker and adjunct professor.

Matt Sullivan, MSW ’97, was featured in The Daily Tar Heel article, “Chapel Hill fire chief Matt Sullivan to retire after 32 years of service.” Sullivan also reflected on his service in New York City following the Sept. 11 attacks for the University’s “Well Said” podcast.

2000s

Erin Cox Bonzon, MSW/MPH ’06, was appointed to lead the Howard County Office of Children and Families, between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Bonzon is the former project director for the National Academy for State Health Policy.

Ryan Estes, MSW ’09, was elected Region V representative of the national board of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Estes will represent NASW members in North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Virginia and West Virginia. Estes is the treatment operations director for Coastal Horizons Center in Wilmington, where he focuses on program development, fiscal and policy oversight, and clinical and administrative consultation.

Johanna Greenson, Ph.D. ’09, recently published, “Caring Adults ‘R’ Everywhere (C.A.R.E.),” a research-informed, social work-oriented intervention for older youth in foster care that strengthens their power of connection to caring adults. The book is published by I Am My Life publishing co., which was started by Rachel Foster Stuart, Ph.D. ’09.

Mia Ives-Rublee, MSW ’09, was featured in Frank Stasio’s “The Frame of Things” program on WUNC radio.

Anna Schwantes, MSW ’07, died on June 8, 2019, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Schwantes was appointed by her husband, Tim, also a 2007 MSW graduate, and their son, Sam. Anna wrote off and on about her journey with cancer for two years in the personal blog, “Anna MC in NC.” Tim posted the last entry in June shortly after her passing.

Danielle Glickman Swick, Ph.D. ’07, was appointed associate chair in social work for academic affairs at UNC-Greensboro’s Department of Social Work. Swick has served on the UNC-G faculty since 2013 and is known for her research on the impact of school-based mental health services on children’s academic and socio-emotional outcomes.

2010s

Kathryn Falbo-Wilson, MSW ’16, was a master’s student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and completed her internship with the National Academy of Social Workers for the National Academy of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter.

Charrisse Hart, MSW ’13, was named chief executive officer of Ready for School, Ready for Life in Guilford County, an organization that supports early childhood development and education. Hart has worked for the last several years as the CEO of the YWCA of Lower Cape Fear in Wilmington, N.C.

Katie Bess Hilibnger, MSW ’18, is the founder of Say It Solutions.

Carla MacKenzie, MSW ’10, was elected a member at-large to the board of directors of the National Association of Social Workers North Carolina.

Kalea Martin, MSW ’17, was a keynote speaker for the International Association for Public Participation conference in Charlotte.

Tobirus Newby, MSW ’19, was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Georgia School of Social Work. Washington received the 2019 Outstanding Faculty Contributions to Service-Learning in Higher Education Research Award from the Gulf South Summit.

Kristen Stefacearc and Randy Smith, both MSW ’13 alumni, welcomed their first child, Blake, on June 27. Kristen and Randy met during the School’s JumpStart Orientation and married in 2016.

Liz Styron, MSW ’17, was a keynote speaker for the International Association for Public Participation conference in Charlotte.

Tiffany Washington, Ph.D. ’13, was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Georgia School of Social Work. Washington received the 2019 Outstanding Faculty Contributions to Service-Learning in Higher Education Research Award from the Gulf South Summit.
A new fund at UNC School of Social Work will honor faculty and staff and create a resource to help students with unexpected financial crises.

Kim Strom, the Smith P. Theimann Distinguished Professor for Ethics and Professional Practice at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, founded the Heart of Social Work Fund with two purposes. Primarily, she wanted to recognize former colleagues who have been especially giving of their time in service of others. “People like Dee Gamble, Rachel Dedmon, Kathleen Rounds, Gary Shaffer and Vanessa Hodges always had open doors and responded to the needs of others with meals, hospital visits and other acts of compassion. They made the School a welcoming and caring community, often at the expense of their own professional recognition.

“People who worked or studied here were changed by their acts of kindness,” Strom said. “I hope the fund inspires School employees and alumni to use this opportunity to recognize others who have been of help to them.”

In the spirit of the caring colleagues, the second purpose of the fund is to provide support to social work students experiencing financial crises. It is a challenge Strom understands firsthand.

“When I was a grad student, my car constantly broke down,” Strom remembered. “I paid for repairs that didn’t help and couldn’t keep up, living in a rural area and trying to keep a part-time job as well as school and field obligations.” Even with family help to buy another used car, the stress was significant. “Research shows that unexpected expenses, food insecurity or losing belongings to fires, disasters or crime can delay or derail students’ educations.”

“People who feel compelled to make a difference [through social work] may not wait until their life conditions are perfect to come back to school,” Strom explained. These graduate students may not have emergency funds in place. Although they may receive financial aid, the funds may not come through in time for textbook purchases or other start-of-semester needs.

Sometimes, a series of events can precipitate a financial crisis. Strom knew one MSW student with small children at home. That student faced one emergency after another, and finally the family’s washing machine broke. “It was the final straw” that could have pushed that student out of school, Strom noted. Administered by the Student Services team, the Heart of Social Work Fund will attempt to buffer unexpected barriers and contribute to the sense of community and belongingness at the School.

Strom is inviting others with a connection to UNC School of Social Work to honor their own “unsung heroes” with a contribution to the Heart of Social Work Fund. “I pledged to contribute to the fund annually for ten years so that we have predictable resources. To me, the size of the gift is less important than taking the time to express gratitude for the good deeds of others through an enduring commitment. I don’t see it replacing other ways of giving for scholarships or other tributes, but rather it is a special recognition and a special resource.”

If you would like to support students in financial crisis and honor an “unsung hero” with a gift to the Heart of Social Work Fund, please visit this website and choose the “Heart of Social Work Fund” from the pull-down menu:

go.unc.edu/giveSSW