#### FALL 2024 ISSUE

# The Change Agent

The Newsletter for Millerville University's School of Social Work



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# A Letter From the Chair

## A Letter from the Chair Dr. Karen Rice, Professor, Department Chair

Fall semester is always the start of another academic year, which gives me the opportunity to welcome new members to our School of Social Work (SSW) community. In addition to the 72 incoming BASW, 99 MSW, and 11 incoming DSW students, we welcome back Juli Veser, adjunct professor who will teach the undergraduate practicum seminar and graduate level advanced micro/mezzo practice courses. We also added 10 new members to our Advisory Committee



who will play a vital role as we undergo our 5 Year Program Review throughout this academic year.

We also experienced three changes to the SSW administration. Dr. Jen Frank has assumed the role of BASW Coordinator, Dr. Marc Felizzi is our DSW Coordinator, and Dr. Heather Girvin has become the Coordinator of our newly enhanced Trauma-Informed Behavioral Health (TIBH) Certificate Program.

The TIBH has two tracks: Expressive Arts and Equine-Assisted Therapy and Education. This enhanced certificate allows us to respond to current best practices in treating individuals, families, and groups who experienced trauma and communities affected by it.

Our PRIME program welcomed 29 students interested in working in behavioral health upon graduation.

We hope to see you at any of the many continuing education and professional development events we will host and/or sponsor throughout the academic year. Additionally, stay connected with us on social media (links are on last page).

As the only public institution in Lancaster County offering a social work degrees at all three levels, we are here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out as we value our existing partnerships and look forward to collaborating to enhance the overall wellbeing of our community. Sincerely,

 $\langle i \downarrow \rangle$ 

Karen Rice, PhD, LSW, ACSW



Millersville University SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK BASW-MSW-DSW

# Congratulations BASW Fall 2024 Graduates

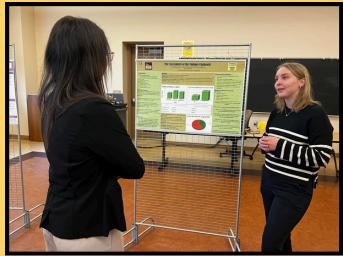
Congratulations to our Fall 2024 BASW graduates who successfully presented their capstone evaluation project and graduated on December 14, 2024.









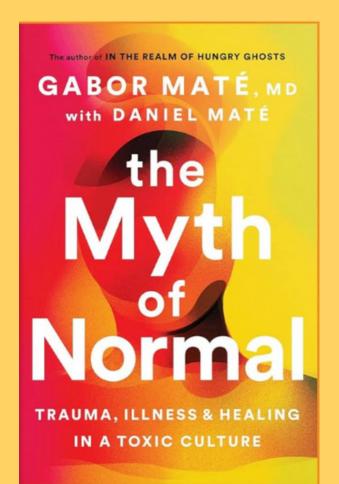




# Exploration

Utilizing Concepts of Bibliotherapy, Students Engaged in Dialogue Around *the Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic Culture* by Dr. Gabor Maté

This fall, Drs. Karen Rice and Heather Girvin co-facilitated three Book Talk sessions for Millersville students. Book Talk combines the creative art therapies of bibliotherapy and art therapy to examine themes within the book and our personal and/or professional connection to them. By using the themes from the book as our shared language, the group examined "what does it mean to be normal," "what is trauma and how does it affect the body," and "how do we navigate a toxic culture." Twenty-three individuals (students, faculty, staff, administrators, community members) participated and through funds from The Learning Institute, to eliminate any barriers to participation, the book was provided free of charge to six students.



<u>Learn More about the Trauma-Informed</u> <u>Behavioral Health Certificate and all Post-</u> <u>Graduate Certificate Options Offered by MU SSW</u>

# Professionalism

## Dr. Bertha Saldana DeJesus and Dr. Wanja Ogongi Presented at the 17th Annual KESSA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

Drs. Bertha Saldana De Jesus and Wanja Ogongi, along with their colleague Dr. Elizabeth Murray, presented Revitalizing Large Classroom: Transformative Strategies For Inclusive and Active Learning Environments and Dr. Wanja Ogongi and MSW student Charles Chebarwett presented Multifaceted Risk Determinants of Intimate Partner Violence in Lancaster's Swahili-Speaking Refugee and Immigrant Populations at the 17th annual conference of the Kenya Scholars & Studies Association. Charles Chebarwett participated in "PitchFest for Early Career Researchers" and won 1st place for his outstanding performance.

### <u>Global Learning Opportunities</u> within MU SSW



Drs. Bertha Saldana DeJesus and Wanja Ogongi



MSW Student, Charles Chebarwett

# Professionalism

## DSW Student will Assume Role as Executive Director at Acadia Neurorehabilitation

Erica Devery is a Licensed Social Worker through the State of Pennsylvania and holds a Master's Degree from Marywood University, with a specialization in behavioral health. Mrs. Devery is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer (CBIST) and Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP). Currently, Mrs. Devery is the Director of Client Services at Success Rehabilitation, Inc,. She is responsible for the NeuroCognitive, Recreational, Music Therapy, and Nutritional Program, ensuring that client programming needs are met both from a residential and outpatient perspective. She has been with Success Rehabilitation since May 2005 with over 20 years of practice experience in the field of brain injury. She takes a person-centered, cognitive-behavioral, and strength's-based approach with clients to maximize the individual's quality of life. Mrs. Devery has done various presentations, most recently at the 2024 annual conference of the Brain Injury of Pennsylvania. Her presentation, "Ways to Elicit Posttraumatic Growth and Enhanced Social Skills for Individuals with TBI" highlighted the predictors and processes associated with positive psychological outcomes

throughout the continuum of care and brain injury rehabilitation. At the end of 2025, Mrs. Devery will move into the role of Executive Director at Acadia Neurorehabilitation, A Division of Success Rehabilitation.



DSW Student, Erica Devery

Learn More about the DSW Program at MU and Join Fall 2025's Cohort!!

# **Public Mission**

## Drs. Heather Girvin and Abigail Wilson Expose MU Students to Animal-Assisted Therapeutic Services

Lone Oak Animal-Assisted Therapeutic & Educational Services is a nonprofit organization founded by MU associate professor Dr. Heather Girvin and adjunct professor and DSW alumna, Dr. Abigail Wilson. Lone Oak is a nonprofit organization that offers communitybased, equine-assisted services to a diverse client population. Lone Oak relies heavily on partnerships with other organizations, particularly those that are similarly connected to Millersville University. During the summer and fall of 2024, MU's Student Access and Support Services (SASS) has partnered with Lone Oak in a variety of ways. Ms. Darlene Newman, Director of SASS, has been instrumental in facilitating this partnership. SASS students have partnered with Lone Oak as mentors in the Boss Mares program and volunteered for work days on several occasions. Lone Oak and SASS are currently planning future collaborations, including a mentoring program and summer camp in partnership with Milton Hershey Schools.





# **Public Mission**

## Dr. Kat Walsh Presents at Annual CERT Training

Dr. Kat Walsh conducted the Disaster Psychology portion of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course on October 26th, 2024. The CERT course is offered by the Center for Disaster Research and Education at Millersville University. It was held at Bluerock Fire Station and was attended by several social work students.

Dr. Walsh is trained in Disaster Mental Health and Psychological First Aid. She serves as the Coordinator of our <u>dual degree in</u> <u>MSW/MS in Emergency</u> <u>Management.</u> Contact Dr. Walsh at Kat.Walsh@millersville.edu to learn more.



Dr. Kat Walsh



Learn more about CERT Training at MU

# Inclusion

## **PRIME Program Provides Free Training on Cultural Humility**

On Friday, November 15th, the Promoting Rigorous and Interdisciplinary Mental Healthcare Education (PRIME) Program held a training titled "Fostering Cultural Humility in Providing Mental Health Care for Persons with Disabilities." The training, provided by Dr. Erin Andrews, Psy.D., ABPP was sponsored by the Behavioral Health Excellence Technical Assistance Center (BHE-TAC) through HRSA. During this training, participants explored the diversity model of disability and how although disability is included in most definitions of diversity, it is rarely fully integrated into diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Dr. Andrews discussed contemporary trends in disability language and introduced the concept of disability culture to participants. The training was very well attended and highly praised as a significant area of cultural humility that needs further attention for students, faculty, staff, and community professionals providing mental health care.



Dr. Erin Andrews

Fostering Cultural Humility in Providing Mental Health Care for Persons with Disabilities Erin E. Andrews, PsyD, ABPP



#### **Disability Language**

- What People Want
- Concrete guidelines
  Rules to follow that
- generalize across situations
- "Etiquette" procedures
- Reality
  People have varied preferences about disability language
- Language evolves over time

Learn more about our <u>PRIME Program</u> and Apply to our <u>MSW Program</u>, Today!

# Integrity

## Being Homeless in America: Dr. Jennifer Frank Provides Testimony at the Senate Democratic Policy Hearing

Dr. Jennifer Frank was one of four individuals invited by Senators Katie Muth and Nikil Saval, as well as State Representative Ismail Smith-Wade-El to provide testimony at the Senate Democratic Policy hearing on unsheltered homelessness on September 13, 2024.



Dr. Jennifer Frank

Dr. Frank shared her opposition to the criminalization of homelessness, in light of the US Supreme Court's Grants Pass decision, which allows criminal penalties for acts like sleeping in public, even when shelter space is unavailable. Dr. Frank argues that such policies exacerbate homelessness, harm mental health, and create barriers to housing and employment. She advocates for policy changes including increased housing subsidies, eviction prevention, and improved emergency shelter options. Dr. Frank also highlights the global success of the Housing First model, as seen in countries like Finland and Germany, calling for systemic change to treat homelessness as a human rights issue.

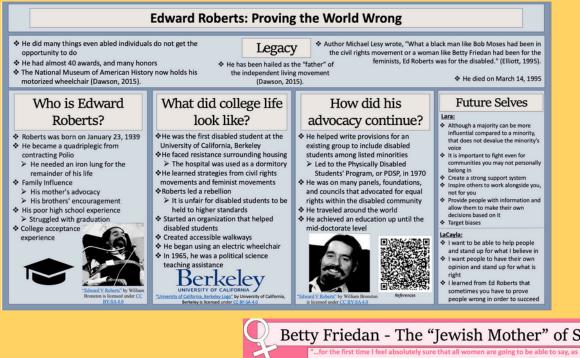
Watch **Dr. Frank's** <u>Testimony</u> (beginning approximately at 1 hour 37 minutes):

Read Dr. Frank's written testimony

# Compassion

# BASW Students Research the History of Various Social **Justice Warriors**

Students in our FYEX 100 course researched a social justice hero to create informative scholarly research posters. This assignment provided an opportunity for students to share the story of their social justice warrior, including their societal contributions and social advocacy strategies. At the same time, students learned valuable research and information literacy skills through the support of our library colleagues. Students presented their creative posters in a gallery walk atmosphere where they conducted a professional conference-style presentation to their peers and others. Posters are currently on display in Stayer Hall. For more, contact Dr. Jenifer Frank at Jennifer.Frank@millersville.edu



#### Betty Friedan - The "Jewish Mother" of Second Wave Feminism Biography Accomplishments Betty Friedan had a love for Friedan spent 5 years reading and education from a young age (2) interviewing suburban women for her book, the Friedan graduated Summa Feminine Mystique (1) National Women's Political Cume Laude from Smith College (1) Caucus (1) She worked as a reporter in Co-founded the National New York until she was fired Organization for Women (4) during her second Co-Founded NARAL, a pro pregnancy, after which sh choice organization (1,5) became a housewife (3) "You will change 'If they don't like me comeday they'll learn Organized Strikes for equal pay and access to abortion (3) society if you give Public Her effect on us ien an equal role in it," to respect me. She led protests against the Opinion "One of my main goals includes advocating for groups, both those that I am a part of and those that am an ally for. This mimics the work that Betty exclusion of women in "men "As I move forward in my career, I want to be the kind of Was seen as unlady like (4) only" spaces (5) She wrote 6 books in her Book viewed as narcissistic (5) Helped "pull the trigger on social worker who not only Resources provides support but also actively challenges systems of lifetime about feminism (1) history" (5) Seen as a centrist (5) Friedan has done as she helped inequality and works toward use her platform to support the ir, R. (2023). Berry

- Validated women in their
- experiences(1) "It is not frivolous to call her the Martin Luther King of the feminist movement." (2)

justice issues she stood by to benefit other groups."-Janel

creating a more just and inclusive society for everyor -Jenna Burney



niversity Press. https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.5666745 and, L. (2011, January 17). Betty Friedan and Books bs. The New Korker.

# **FYEX Social Justice Posters**



#### Sandra Steingraber:

How Sandra Steingraber's personal experience with Cancer opened the door to the exploration of the environment impacting women's reproductive health

#### The Spark:

- Born in 1959, she grew up in Perkin Illinois (Le Ree Illinois (Le Rougetel, 2010). She was adopted and even though she is not blood related to her family, they too struggled with Cancer (Le Rougetel, 2010). She grew up in a town with large amounts of chemicals being produced de Rougetel, 2010.
- produced (Le Rougetel, 2010). At sixteen there was blood in her urine, but she thought nothing of this at the time (Le Rougetel, 2010).
- Her mother was a microbiologist, and her father was a community college professor. Both of her parents were heavily influenced by Rachel Carson (Talbot, Sherman, Dane,

- Gaining her Education: Bachelors in Biology: Illinois Western University (Talbot, Sherr Date et al. 2022)
- Dane, et al., 2022). Masters in Creative Writing (Le Rougetel, 2010). el, 2010). torate in Biology: University Doc
- of Michigan (Talbot, Sherman, Dane, et al., 2022). he was diagnosed with Bladder
- Cancer at 20 (Le Rougetel, 2010).

#### Her Legacy s about chemicals in the Sandra Steingraber brought of

- cer (Musil, 2014) She is actively involved with politics and the environmental advisory board
- .
  - She joined Militants Women's Breast Cancer march (Musil, 2014)
  - In March 2013, she blocked the entrance of the Inergy facility and protested about indoctrination of Finger Lakes, she got arrested due to this (Talbot, Shen Dane, et al., 2022).
- In 2014, she was involved in a civil disobedience campaign where she trespas and blocked a chemical truck from entering the gates of Crestwood Midstrear she was arrested for this too (Talbo, Sherman, Dane, et al., 2022).
- She has devoted her life to understanding chemical pollutants in our environment and how they endanger our health and well being (Talbot, Sherman, Dane, et al., 2022).
- orked with young girls to get toxins in nail polished banned in Europe ()

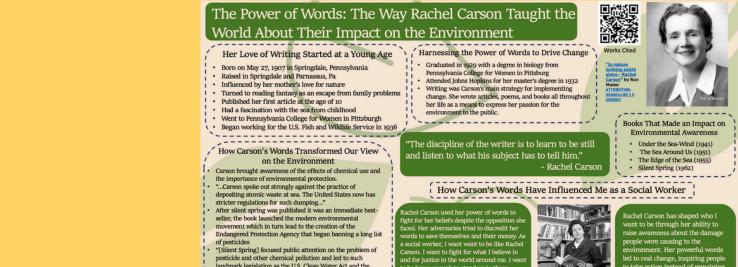


#### Letter to our future selves Where is she now? • She lives in Trumansburg, New York ied to Jeff de Castro She has two children abo, Shernan, Dare, et al., 2022)

#### Sharing her story with the world:

· She i

- Sandra is an author who has made three books Living Downstream: Struggles with Bladder Cancer and its link with the
- environment (Musil, 2014) Having Faith: Ecology of motherhood and talks about what environmental hazards threaten infant development
- Raising Elijah: Talks about how children face the most harmful ment now (Mitra & Steingraber, 2013).
- In 2017, she made "Unfractured
- documentary on struggles with Bladder Cancer (Talbot, Sherman, Dane, et al., 2022). She was won two honorary degree and was named Women of the Year by Ms. Magazine in 1997 (Le Rougetel, 2010)
  - By: Lacee Miller and Maggie Austin

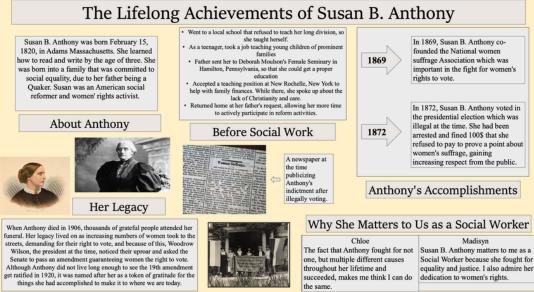


"Isuent spring) locused public attention on the problem of pesticide and other chemical pollution and led to such landmark legislation as the U.S. Clean Water Act and the banning of DDT in many countries throughout the world." "... Carsons work inspired, Sp vears of fierer resistance to protecting the environment continues." - Sacha Vignieri

.....



- Lillian Rid



throughout her lifetime and succeeded, makes me think I can do the same.

# Alumni Highlights

## DSW Alumna Appointed Inaugural Director of the Center for Interprofessional Innovation

Dr. Kelli Star Fox is the inaugural Director of the Center for Interprofessional Innovation (CIPI) at Stony Brook University, where she leads the integration of interprofessional education, research, and practice across health professions. Previously, she was associate clinical professor and director of fieldwork at the University of New England (UNE), where she played a key role in embedding interprofessional education into the social work curriculum. Dr. Fox earned her doctorate from Millersville



University in 2023, with research focused on supporting social workers' professional identity to enhance interprofessional collaboration. Her work, which has been presented at international conferences, includes exploring the role of social work in interprofessional practice. In addition to her research, **Dr. Fox** is passionate about global health, annually volunteering in rural Ghana to provide culturally responsive healthcare through the Cross-Cultural Immersion to Ghana program. She values the cultural exchanges and partnerships formed through this work.

Stay connected! We love to hear from our alumni and feature the great work you are doing! <u>Click here to give us an update</u>

# Scholarship

## **Presentations**

**Chebarwett, C.**, & **Ogongi, W.** Multifaceted risk determinants of Intimate Partner Violence in Lancaster's Swahili-Speaking refugee and immigrant populations. Presented at 17th annual KESSA Conference, Atlanta, GA, September 6-7, 2024.

Frank, J. Food justice: An exploration of charitable food networks in a rural area. Presented at CSWE's APM, Kansas City, MO, October 26, 2024.

**Frank, J., Watson, D., & Graeff, J.** The Grassroots Advocacy Circle: Empowering solidarity and amplifying the voices of marginalized helping groups in homelessness services, presented at the NASW-PA Annual Conference, Pocono Mountain, PA, October 14, 2024.

Frank, J., Watson, D., & Preibisch, R. The Dehumanizing trajectory of hyperprofessionalism in social work, presented at the NASW-PA Annual Conference, Pocono Mountain, PA, October 14, 2024.

Girvin, H. The alchemy of breath. Keynote Address presented at RLPS Places to be Well, Harrisburg, PA, November, 7, 2024.

**Girvin, H., & Wilson, A.** Lone Oak Animal-Assisted Therapeutic & Educational Services: Use of the ARCH Model. Presented at James E. Anderson 2024 PA Conference, Harrisburg, PA, November, 7, 2024.

**Granruth, L.,** & Influencing Social Policy Colleagues. Socrates in the Trump era: Teaching students and educators policy dialogue skills. Presented at CSWE's APM, Kansas City, MO, October 25, 2024.

McDevitt, K., **Rice, K.**, Grager, T., & Mentzer, G. Implementing social work in police departments. Presented at annual PA Municipal League Summit in Scranton, PA, October 10, 2024.

Murey, E., **DeJesus, B., & Ogongi, W**. Revitalizing large classroom: Transformative strategies For inclusive and active learning environments. Presented at 17th annual KESSA Conference, Atlanta, GA., September 6-7, 2024.

Walsh, K. Disaster psychology. Presented as part of CERT course, Millersville, PA, October 26, 2024.

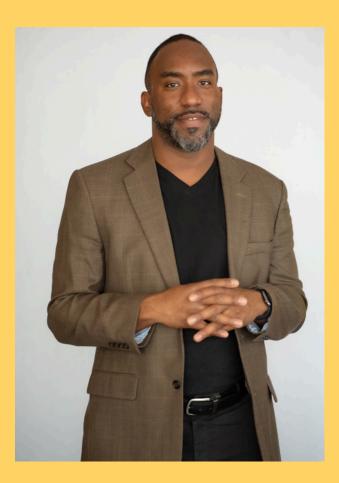
# Scholarship

## **Publications**

Frank, J. M., Granruth, L. B., Girvin, H., Glazier, M., Leffler, B., Preibisch, R. & Watson, D. (2024). Stepping Stones: Using letter writing to build human connection, Relational Social Work, 2(2. 8 (2), 21-41), https://rsw.erickson.international/archivio/vol-n-9/02\_frank\_rsw\_2-24/

Eyrich-Garg, K., Frank, J. M., Aykanian, A., Clemmons, V. (2024). Do you know where your students are? Uncovering bias about poverty and homelessness among social work students, Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 16-35, https://doi.org/10.1080/08841233.2024.2433784

## DSW Student Selected as one of this year's Doctoral Studies Institute Fellows



Following a rigorous review process, DSW second year student, **Cornell Davis** was selected to participate in the Network for Social Work Management's Doctoral Studies Institute from September 26-27, 2024. The DSI is for doctoral students conducting research in leadership, management, and organizations and exposing students to leading faculty and scholars in these areas. DSI Fellows are given an opportunity to discuss their dissertation research with peers and scholars as they continue to hone their focus. **Stay Connected** 

# <u>Learn About Our</u> <u>Upcoming Learning</u> <u>Institute Events</u>



https://www.millersville.edu/learninginstitute/

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# MU SSW ALUMNI

Stay connected! We love to hear from our alumni and feature the great work you are doing! <u>Click here to give us an update</u>