



# THE FELLOW

## GREETINGS!

Greetings from the DSSC,

Welcome new students, and welcome back to those of us who are returning to another eventful school year in the SP2 PhD program. The halls of 3815 Walnut St and the Caster building are always more pleasant during the school year because, like cool weather after a blazing summer, SP2's PhD students bring a refreshing atmosphere wherever they happen to be. For us second and third year cohorts this school year will be especially pleasant now that our preliminary exams are successfully completed. Congratulations! Now that we are out of the metaphorical frying pan we can focus on completing the next big steps in achieving our PhDs: finishing our coursework and creating dissertations.

The DSSC also wants to welcome the new cohort to the PhD program. Welcome Sambuddha, Eunhae (Grace), Ryan, Angelina, Alexandra, Jeffrey, and Daniel! If there is anything your fellow PhD students can do to help you as you begin the program, just let us know. Feel free to contact either of the DSSC co-chairs personally or to bring up issues at the regular DSSC meetings. Also, feel free to reach out to the other PhD students in the program. We remember what it was like to be new and we are generally nice people. Most of us are willing to help whenever we can.

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### EDITORIAL BOARD

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*The Fellow* is the official peer-reviewed publication of the Ph.D. students at the School of Social Policy & Practice at the University of Pennsylvania

\*Peer Review and alumnae interview have been omitted for this edition to accommodate new student bios. These sections will return in the January 2013 edition.

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the 2012-2013 academic year! People are coming and going. In the past year, five people graduated –Tom Byrne, who joined SP2 as an assistant research professor; Itay Greenspan, who has begun an assistant professorship at the Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare at Hebrew University; Heather Klusaritz, who is now teaching in the Family Medicine and Community Department at Penn's School of Medicine; Jonathan Lukens, who has started an assistant professor position at the School of Social Work at Salem State University, which is launching a PhD program; and Charlene McGrew, who is teaching part-time and working as a consultant. Robin Mekonnen, who is teaching through USC's Virtual Academic Center, and Maayan Schori, who will soon assume an assistant professor position at the School of Social Work at the University of Haifa, finished in the past week.



Just a few days ago, we were joined by seven new students – Sambuddha Chaudhuri, most recently of the Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences (Kolkata); Eun Hae (Grace) Kim, most recently of the MSW program at the University of Chicago; Ryan Petros, most recently of Spectrum Community Mental Health (Minneapolis); Angelina Ruffin, most recently of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health; Alexandra Schepens, most recently of the NYU School of Medicine; Jeffrey Sharlein, most recently of Development Centers, Inc. (Detroit); and Dan Treglia, most recently of the New York City's Department of Homeless Services.

Also joining SP2 are several new faculty members – Professor Peter Frumkin, Director of the Non-Profit Leadership Program; Assistant Professors Malitta Engstrom, Antonio Garcia, and Johanna Greeson; and Assistant Research Professors Tom Byrne (per above) and Elizabeth Montgomery. Two who you likely will see with regularity are Prof. Frumkin, whose office is at 3815 Walnut, and Prof. Engstrom, who is teaching the new proseminar.

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# MEET OUR NEW STUDENTS

## Sambuddha Chaudhuri

Trained to be a primary care physician in India, Sambuddha has been working day jobs at hospitals and participating in research with communities which remains his main area of interest. Right from the early years at Medical school he volunteered with GLBTQ support groups where for the first time he got to interact with people in their everyday community settings and what it implied for research. Since then he has worked with populations of sex workers from Kolkata on various projects on drug adherence, mental health screening, parent child communication on issues of sex and sexual health. He has also been working on a paper that looks at the lived experiences of stigma and it's relation to risk taking behavior in a group of MSM population in Kolkata. His area of interest for future research lies in health seeking behavior, high risk behavior, stigma, mental health, HIV/AIDS, drug adherence and the role of community based interventions in modulating risk and affecting behavior change. He wishes to work with queer communities both in South Asia and the US and other 'at risk' and marginalized populations like sex workers and substance users.

## Eunhae (Grace) Kim

Eunhae has just earned her MSW from the University of Chicago and she holds BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan. As a third culture kid, Eunhae has lived in six different countries from Singapore to Saudi Arabia. Through her international experiences and internship at the Rush Medical Center, Chicago serving depressed older adults, she became passionate about well-being of older adults. Her main areas of interests are mental health care of older adult trauma survivors and medically home-bounded elderly. She is very excited about working and learning from other PhD students with various backgrounds.

## Ryan Petros

After trying his hand at many different facets of direct-practice social work and finishing his MSW at the University of Minnesota, Ryan spent the last three years working in a community mental health center running programs that serve adults who have experienced long-term homelessness. Eager to join the league of researchers at UPenn, Ryan is interested in the intersection of social identity categories, poverty, and wellness. Ryan is also interested in assisting the research community investigate the influence of the medical model and evidence-based practices in direct-practice social work interventions.

## Angelina Ruffin

Angelina Ruffin was most recently the Director of Performance Management in the Health Commissioner's Office at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. In this position she managed the department's Strengthening the Public Health's Infrastructure Grant from the CDC and was charged with developing a comprehensive performance management system. Angelina previously served as a policy advisor to the Secretary of Health at the Pennsylvania Department of Health from 2007-2011. In that role as an Executive Policy Specialist, Angelina identified emerging public health issues and contributed to the development of policy for the well-being of all Pennsylvanians.

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## Dr Sorenson's Welcome (cont. from page 1)

The revised curriculum begins this year. It will apply to incoming students, who will take all required courses in two, rather than three, years. And it will affect all students who have not successfully defended their dissertation proposals by the start of the semester; anyone in that position is required to enroll in the new proseminar. The proseminar promises to be an engaging learning experience. All students, regardless of year, and faculty are encouraged to attend. I'm told that one of the first sessions will include a talk by Dean Gelles about how to complain, which undoubtedly will contain some useful nuggets.

New Graduate Group members, in addition to the four new standing faculty members, are Jim McKay, Thomas McLellan, and Laura Perna. Information about them is on the program website, which is updated regularly.

New student profiles will be added to the website soon. Candace DiCarlo, who took student photos last year, is slated to photograph the incoming students in the next few weeks.

Shara Fox will continue to provide administrative support for the program, including oversight of travel funds. We are fortunate to again this year be able to offer each PhD student \$500 in travel funds. Use them because they don't carry over from year to year!

The 2011-2012 annual reviews with dissertation committees seemed to go well from the perspective of both students and faculty. Students' online report of 2011-2012 activities will be reviewed by the Graduate Group in October. The number of presentations, publications, and grant applications is quite impressive! I hope for a similarly productive year for you. Let me know if I can ease the way.

Susan B. Sorenson, Ph.D., Professor and Director, PhD Program in Social Welfare



## MEET OUR NEW STUDENTS, cont.

### **Angelina Ruffin, cont,**

Angelina attended Cornell University and graduated in 2004 with a B.S. in Policy Analysis and Management. She was a Dean's Healthcare Scholar at Carnegie Mellon University where she earned her Masters degree in Health Care Policy and Management, and graduated with distinction in 2005. Angelina is of Jamaican descent and currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with her two year old son Chase and husband Jeff.

### **Alexandra Schepens**

Alexandra Schepens' main research interest is in developing programs for people with substance use disorders within the criminal justice system. This interest stems from her work as a mental health clinician at the Suffolk County House of Correction in Boston, MA, her work as a policy analyst for The Justice Center in New York, NY, and most recently her work as a Clinical Research Manager at NYU Medical School. In this latter role, Ms. Schepens oversaw the Mental Health and Addictive Disorders Research Program, a program that conducted numerous research protocols regarding mental health and addiction within the Veterans Administration and Bellevue Hospital.

### **Jeffrey Sharlein**

Jeffrey Sharlein holds a BA in English from Wesleyan University and an MSW from Hunter College. He has practiced social work at Esperanza, an alternative to out-of-home placement for adjudicated juvenile delinquents in New York City, and at Development Centers, Inc., in Detroit, where he worked as a therapist in the school-based program. Prior work and internships were also largely in community-based settings in inner-city communities, and often with criminal- and juvenile-justice involved individuals. Given that background, Jeffrey is primarily interested in studying policy as it pertains to criminal and juvenile justice, poverty, and their intersections. He plans to approach these issues from a social justice perspective, with a focus on communities, and with both theoretical and practical emphases.

### **Daniel Treglia**

Dan comes to SP2 looking to enhance his understanding of homelessness as well as its interactions with public agencies and performance management. Prior to enrolling in this program he worked at the New York City Department of Homeless Services conducting program evaluation and research of trends and dynamics in homelessness, with a focus on quantitative methods. He has a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelors degree in Political Science from Penn. Dan spends his ever-decreasing spare time cooking and running, the latter a necessary companion of the former.

### **DSSC Welcome, continued from page one.**

The DSSC would also like you to seriously consider getting involved by taking advantage of the many opportunities to volunteer at SP2. Volunteering with the Fellow, DSSC, GAPSA, the colloquium series, or any other program will benefit others and help you make a positive contribution to the PhD student community.

Speaking of volunteer positions, there have been a few changes that we should mention. Megan has replaced Maayan as editor-in-chief of the Fellow. Congratulations Maayan on completing the program! We know that Megan will also do a great job. Liz is also taking Stacey's place as the student representative on the Doctoral Steering Committee. Thanks for your good work Stacey and we're confident that Liz will also represent our interests well.

One of Stacey's accomplishments as the previous student representative on the Doctoral Steering Committee was advising the committee on the recently implemented curriculum changes. This is the first semester in which the new curriculum changes are being implemented. We are looking forward to the new curriculum and expect everything to go great. If you have questions or concerns about the new curriculum, let us or Susan or Liz know.

Finally, last year's End of the Year party went very well, as did other DSSC events last year. We look forward to having some great events this year as well. Feel free to bring any good ideas for events to the DSSC meetings so we can continue to build a vibrant and pleasant PhD student community.

DSSC co-chairs,

Marlene Walk and Daniel Curtis

## Publications

**Evans-Chase, M.**, Kim, M., & Zhou, H. (in press). Risk-taking and self-regulation: A systematic review of the analysis of delinquency outcomes in the juvenile justice intervention literature 1996-2009. *Criminal Justice & Behavior*.

Lee, S., Rothbard A.B., & **Noll E. L.** (2012). Length of inpatient stay of persons with serious mental illness: Effects of hospital and regional characteristics. *Psychiatric Services*. DOI: 10.1176/appi.ps.201100412.

**Shier, M.L.**, & Graham, J.R. (2012). Social work, religion, culture and spirituality. In K. Lyons, T. Hokenstad, M Pawar, and N. Huegler (Eds.). *The Sage Handbook of International Social Work* (pp. 279-293). London, UK: Sage Publications.

**Shier, M.L.**, & Handy, F. (2012). Understanding online donor behavior: The role of donor characteristics, perceptions of the internet, website and program, and influence from social networks. *International Journal of Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Marketing*, 17(3), 219-230.

## Presentations

**Noll, L.**, Rothbard, A.B. & Cole, M. (2012, April). Converting partial hospital day programs to community integrated recovery centers for persons with serious mental illness. Panel presented at 2012 Eastern Evaluation Research Society Annual Conference, Absecon, NJ.

**Walk, M.**; Schinnenburg, H.; Handy, F. (2012, July): Human Resource Management in German Nonprofits – Are Strategies missing? Presented at the 10th International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) conference. Siena (Italy).

**Walk, M.** (July, 2012): Life Concepts of Business and Social Work Students – Influencing Factor for Sector Choice? Presented at the 10th International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) conference. Siena (Italy).

Handy, F.; Crossley, H.; Greenspan, I.; **Walk, M.** (2012, June): The impact of social businesses: The case of the Academy of Computer & Employment Skills (A.C.E.S). Presented at the 4th Annual meeting of the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER). Waterloo, Ontario (Canada).

## Awards/Funding

**Julie Tennille** commissioned by the Temple Collaborative on Community Inclusion to author a monograph for their website entitled, "Community Inclusion Involves Promoting and Supporting Sexual Expression and Intimate Relationships."; total: \$2,500

**Julie Tennille** awarded a consulting contract by SAMHSA to develop and present a workshop on The Role of Intimacy in Recovery at the Zarrow National Mental Health Symposium in Tulsa, Oklahoma (September, 2012)

**Julie Tennille** retained as consultant to Penn Behavioral Health to provide training on Motivational Interviewing techniques for behavioral health personnel (October, 2012).

## Completed Dissertation Titles

**Thomas Byrne**, PhD, August 2012

*Modeling rates of chronic homelessness in American communities*

**Itay Greenspan**, PhD, August 2012

*Israeli environmental NGOs and philanthropic foundations: Donor dependence, organizational characteristics, and selection mechanism*

**Jonathan Lukens**, PhD, August 2012

*The willingness to engage: A factorial survey of clinical social workers' adherence to the value of client autonomy in treating the severely mentally ill*

**Heather A. Klusaritz**, PhD, May 2012

*Health professionals training in the era of the patient protection and affordable care act (P.L.111-148): Educating to meet workforce demands*

**Charlene Chen McGrew**, PhD, May 2012

*Social service agency partnerships with religious congregations in Wilmington, Delaware*

**Maayan Schori**, PhD, September 2012

Organizational correlates of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in substance abuse treatment facilities: Examining how institutional forces shape treatment