



The Culture of Social Change



2013
SP2 REVIEW

The Annual Publication
of the University of Pennsylvania
School of Social Policy & Practice





Global Engagement *at the School of Social Policy & Practice*

Global engagement is a priority at the University of Pennsylvania, *School of Social Policy & Practice*. Through global inquiry, academic partnerships, collaborative research endeavors, and international immersion opportunities for students, the School is addressing complex social problems around the world.

Students at SP2 gain a global perspective through strong international curricular content, learning from international faculty, interacting with peers from across the globe, and engaging in study abroad programs and global immersion experiences. Through hands on experiences, students have the opportunity to engage with global problems through a multicultural lens. The School is committed to preparing students to be leaders of social change across the globe.

Masthead

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WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Please e-mail us with your feedback or ideas at alumnirelations@sp2.upenn.edu

Please send all stories, tips, and inquiries to sp2prbox@sp2.upenn.edu

Message from the Dean

Every August, I relish reflecting over the course of the last year, assessing the School's growth and achievements, and writing the Dean's welcome to SP2 Review. Taking stock of our many successes is both overwhelming and rewarding. I could not be more proud of where we are today.

This issue of SP2 Review celebrates the conclusion of the most successful capital campaign in the School's history. I am pleased and proud that we not only reached, but also exceeded the lofty goal we set for ourselves. The Campaign for Social Change Leadership raised \$33.6 million—truly an astonishing total.

The Campaign began at a time of great economic uncertainty, making it even more noteworthy that we surpassed our goals. It is a tribute to all who were energized by this campaign and offered their support.

SP2 continues to make a major impact in the West Philadelphia community, in the Philadelphia region, and across the globe. That happens because of an enduring culture and climate and the commitment of an outstanding faculty.

Dr. Dennis Culhane, The Dana and Andrew Stone Professor of Social Policy in the School of Social Policy & Practice, and Dr. John Fantuzzo, The Albert M. Greenfield Professor of Human Relations in the Graduate School of Education, received

a \$1.5 million extension from the MacArthur Foundation to continue their study of the educational well-being of children in assisted housing programs. Their work represents meaningful collaborations that foster the flow of information between researchers, policymakers, and community supporters in the areas of housing and education.

This summer marked the inaugural year of the Schwartz Family Penn Social Impact House, led by Non-Profit Leadership Director, Dr. Peter Frumkin. Professor Frumkin selected 22 Penn students and recent alumni for this two-week program, which convened a unique community of innovators committed to designing effective solutions for social change.

Dr. Zvi Gellis directs the Program in Mental Health Education Assessment, Recovery, and Leadership for Social Workers, which trains Master of Social Work students committed to working in the behavioral health sector to provide integrated mental health care for veterans, military families, and the homeless. This

program is made possible through a three-year grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration.

This year we welcome two stellar standing faculty members joining the School. Dr. Chao Guo comes to us from Indiana University. His research focuses on the intersection between nonprofit and voluntary action and government. Dr. Allison Werner-Lin, formerly of New York University, addresses the intersection of genomic discovery and family life.

It is apparent that the School's far-reaching successes stem from our faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends who truly embody our mission: the passionate pursuit of social justice, innovation, and impact. This is at the core of who we are and the research, teaching, and service that we do.

RICHARD JAMES GELLES, PHD
Dean, The Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence



Welcome from the Editorial Director

Imagine a world where everything and everyone was the same. How boring that would be! Now picture our world as it is today; with diverse cultures, traditions, and beliefs. That world is far more engaging, a rich cornucopia to enjoy.

In order to best serve an increasingly diverse constituency, social change leaders need to cultivate skills and create a vision that encompasses countries and continents across the globe. This year's Review examines how the entire SP2 community conducts social policy and social work practice amongst different cultures, here and throughout the world.

The Culture of Social Change illuminates SP2's colorful bevy of internationally focused activities. Inside, we highlight SP2's student-run affinity organizations, which are led by smart, strong students working toward a common purpose. We also take an in-depth look at SP2 initiatives in Philadelphia, China, India, and Puerto Rico and share excerpts from students and alumni who have studied abroad. In keeping with our theme, this year's "What Are Our Alumni Doing" page lists jobs held by international alumni only. Even our alumni map pictures flags from around the world (including the US), with the numbers of alumni who live there. *The Culture of Social Change's* international flair, complemented by hand-drawn illustrations, will transport you to far away places, while affirming SP2's commitment to making a difference throughout the world.

SP2's overall culture also has been enhanced by the recent success of its *Campaign for Social Change Leadership*, which funneled over \$33 million of new support into the School. The Campaign afforded SP2 an opportunity to attract and retain star faculty, refresh and enhance its curriculum, support the best and brightest students, and beautify aging facilities. This would not have been possible without the unbridled enthusiasm and dedicated support of SP2's diverse and vibrant volunteers. Their contributions of time, talent, and treasure transformed the School, expanding its expertise across multiple disciplines from social work to social policy to nonprofit leadership. Dean Gelles and the SP2 Development and Alumni Relations team (pictured right) also deserve kudos! Congratulations to all!

Enjoy the 2013 SP2 Review,

NADINA R. DEIGH
Associate Dean, Development & Alumni Relations, SP2 Editorial Director



01 Development and Alumni Relations Team:
Theresa Convery, Timothy Wortham, Nadina Deigh, Bart Miltenberger, Rose Bender.

International Programs at SP2

As the Director of International Programs at SP2, people often ask me the following question: why do we want to learn about what happens in other countries when we have so many inextricable problems in our own backyard?

SP2 knows global engagement is integral to educating future leaders of social change. In a world less defined by borders and with citizens increasingly affected by the forces of globalization, it is important for social change agents to learn how to effect change in a variety of social and cultural contexts. Through study abroad experiences, students learn different ways societies attempt to resolve problems that are common across the globe, which enables the students to think outside the box to address similar problems in the United States.

Our study abroad programs develop a creative and stimulating intellectual environment for students to immerse themselves into different cultures as they take course work, conduct research, and collaborate with people in communities across the globe. We emphasize cultivating critical thinking through analyzing local issues and solutions using various theoretical perspectives and a comparative lens.

Study abroad opportunities have taken our students and recent graduates to countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Throughout the SP2 Review you can find student accounts of their experiences studying abroad.

SP2 envisions the consolidation of our global educational strategy by leveraging academic partnerships and collaborative research endeavors in order to cultivate deep engagement of SP2 students in global communities. Our programs embrace the benefits of cross-fertilization between the U.S experiences and the experiences of other countries in the arenas of social welfare, human services delivery, and non-profit organizations. We are committed to incorporating the global experiences into curricular and co-curricular offerings of all programs at SP2. Our students are encouraged to view an international experience as an important part of their education during their time at SP2 and directly after graduation.

IRENE WONG, PHD
Associate Professor, Director of International Programs





SP2'S GLOBAL REACH / CHINA

Building Social Work Capacity in China

As leaders in their professions, SP2's faculty and administration actively shape international social work policy and practice. The school initiated a cross-national, interdisciplinary partnership between Penn and Peking University aimed to help China advance social work education in health and mental health care settings.

The inaugural step of that partnership was the China-US Health and Mental Health Social Work Conference held in Beijing in November, 2012.

"China is experiencing a period of tremendous change," said SP2 Associate Professor and Director of International Programs, Irene Wong, PhD, a principal organizer of the conference. "While the country is undergoing rapid economic growth, about 70% of residents are living on income below the country's average income per capita, which is 5 U.S. dollars per day. There are immense, multifaceted medical and mental health needs in both urban and rural areas and the Chinese government has designated social work as the paramount profession to address these needs."

According to Wong and co-conference organizer Mary Mazzola, MSW, EdD, Associate Dean of Enrollment & Global Outreach, China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, in alignment with 18 other ministries, envisions a plan to train three million social workers by the year 2020.

01 Conference Organizers: Yuyuan Liu, MSW '12
Mary Mazzola, MSW '85, Irene Wong, PhD



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- 01 Joretha Bourjolly, Associate Professor/Clinical Educator, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Director of the MSW Program, explained the importance of becoming culturally competent in the field of Mental Health Social Work.
- 02 Jiao Yahui, from the Department of Medical Administration, China Ministry of Health, spoke at the opening ceremony of the China-US Health and Mental Health Social Work Conference.

While this ambitious strategy is a potentially effective means of addressing a range of psycho-social needs related to medical and mental health challenges, it also requires the nation to build capacity among its existing social work faculty.

“The vast majority of China’s faculty members lack professional practice experience and an orientation that integrates theory with practice,” said Wong. “Additionally, most have not received cross-disciplinary professional training.”



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“In organizing the conference, we thought about how we could best empower the professors who will be training China’s growing cadre of social workers,” said Mazzola. “Our goal was to facilitate a ‘Training of Trainers’ (TOT) educational initiative for faculty of social work in China. Another goal was to build an education-research partnership aimed at enhancing cross-cultural understanding of health and mental health issues in order to inform social work practice.”



“The vast majority of China’ faculty members lack professional practice experience and an orientation that integrates theory with practice,” said Wong. “Additionally, most have not received cross-disciplinary professional training.”

The conference, co-organized by SP2, PKU, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Baptist University, promoted an exchange of knowledge among practitioners, faculty, and researchers as well as government officials. With a grant from the Global Engagement Fund of Penn’s Vice Provost of Global Initiatives Office and the SP2 China-US Social Development Research/Education Fund, SP2 organized an interdisciplinary delegation to participate in the conference. The delegation included 18 highly-regarded experts representing the fields of social work, bioethics, psychiatry, internal medicine, and health economics.

Penn’s delegation presented on a variety of topics including medical and mental health systems in the US, social work practice in hospital settings, integrated primary and behavioral health care models, and changing roles for social workers in a transforming system.

The delegates were assisted by a recent SP2 graduate from China, Yuyuan Liu, MSW ’12. “Yuyuan was instrumental not only in coordinating the travel and presentations for all the delegates, but also in translating materials and providing cultural background about China,” said Mazzola. “She also helped to analyze the post-conference evaluation.”

The success of the conference was made evident by the overwhelmingly positive ratings yielded from the evaluation. As Mazzola noted, “In addition to providing valuable information to the 160 Chinese faculty members, practitioners, and government officials who attended, the conference furthered the core values of Penn’s Global Initiative Strategy—understanding, engagement, and impact.”

STUDENTS ABROAD

Lori Latimer,
MSW’12

STUDIED IN Cuba

Many Americans have preconceived notions about life in Cuba, but Lori Latimer, MSW’12, who traveled to the country as part of a course called Cuban Education and Social Welfare Policy noted the reality is much more complex. “It was an eye-opening experience,” said Latimer, who had the opportunity to speak with Cuban educators, health care providers, scholars, and everyday citizens.

“The course gave me a different perspective in my approach to social welfare,” she said. “We did see many of the problems one would expect, but we also saw how resilient the Cuban people are. They embrace their struggles. They have a strong sense of community and family.”

“Many of the people we spoke to clearly love their country, but there are also significant inequalities,” Latimer said. “We heard many contrasting stories and, as social workers, we had to think about the individual’s point of reference when analyzing what they told us. It gave us a lot to think about.”

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Jewish Social Work Alliance

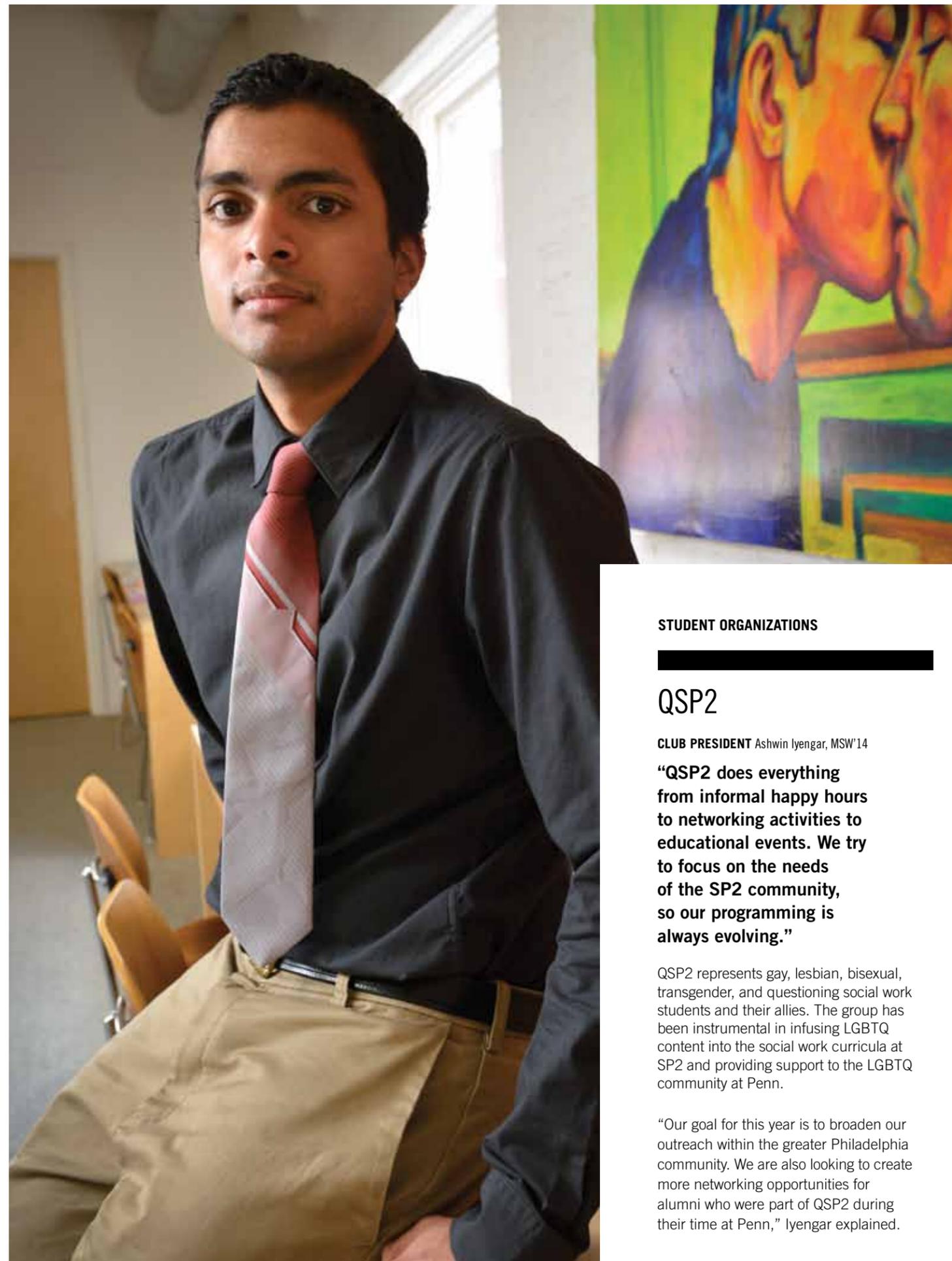
CLUB PRESIDENT Becca Stern, MSW'14

“As it grows, The Jewish Social Work Alliance will attempt to develop a Jewish community within SP2. While the group’s focus is not professional, we may explore the social issues that impact Jewish communities.”

The Jewish Social Work Alliance supports the Jewish community through social events. The group co-sponsored a dinner at Chabad house with the Jewish Law Students Association to promote collaboration among Schools throughout the University.

Stern, the group’s president, hopes the group will also bring cohorts together. “I’d like to form a bridge between the first and second year students,” she said.

JSWA hopes to create awareness of challenges that face the Jewish community and to address social welfare issues from a Jewish perspective.



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

QSP2

CLUB PRESIDENT Ashwin Iyengar, MSW'14

“QSP2 does everything from informal happy hours to networking activities to educational events. We try to focus on the needs of the SP2 community, so our programming is always evolving.”

QSP2 represents gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning social work students and their allies. The group has been instrumental in infusing LGBTQ content into the social work curricula at SP2 and providing support to the LGBTQ community at Penn.

“Our goal for this year is to broaden our outreach within the greater Philadelphia community. We are also looking to create more networking opportunities for alumni who were part of QSP2 during their time at Penn,” Iyengar explained.

“The HCA is about appreciating the ordinary and extraordinary stories that impact our region.”



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01 Cecilia Ramirez, NPL'10, uses her spunk and enthusiasm to highlight the accomplishments of Philadelphia's Hispanic community.

SP2'S GLOBAL REACH / PHILADELPHIA

Celebrating the Ordinary and Extraordinary

The glamorously dressed pose on the red carpet, as photographers jostle to get the best shot. It's a Hollywood moment, right here in Philadelphia, that makes SP2 alumna, Cecilia Ramirez, NPL'10, proud.



Ramirez is co-producer of the Hispanic Choice Awards, an event that honors leaders from all industries, celebrates cross-sector collaborations, and highlights the robust and influential Hispanic presence in the Philadelphia region.

Created over 10 years ago by Ramirez's partner, Javier Suarez, the HCA began as an intimate affair celebrating Hispanic businesses. Now, thanks largely to Ramirez's moxie, it is one of the region's most anticipated events.

“I attended the Hispanic Choice Awards for several years and was captivated by its tremendous potential,” said Ramirez. Turning an entrepreneurial eye toward the event, Ramirez reached out to Suarez and gave him ideas about developing the awards to impact more lives. Suarez was so impressed, he hired her on the spot. Today they manage C-Luxe Axiom, an event strategy firm.

“The HCA is about appreciating the ordinary and extraordinary stories that impact our region,” said Ramirez. “When people are publicly recognized, it not only affects how they feel and what they do, but it inspires others. Every year, someone comes up to us after the awards and says, ‘That’s going to be me next year.’ That is a powerful motivational tool for the community.”

“I tell people that Richard Estes changed my life,” Ramirez said. “His course taught me how to walk an organization through a planning process and help them see their strengths and opportunities. That’s what I did with Javier and that is the foundation of our company today.”

“When people are publicly recognized, it not only affects how they feel and what they do, but it inspires others.”

CECILIA RAMIREZ, NPL'10

The Association of Black Social Workers

CLUB PRESIDENT Djuan Short, MSW'14

“The Association of Black Social Workers aims to create community amongst ourselves, cultivate community outside of the School, give back to the surrounding West Philadelphia community, and develop a sense of cultural identity for black social workers and what it means to be a black social worker.”



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In the flurry of festivities and traditions that occur around graduation, the Association of Black Social Worker’s Rites of Passage Ceremony is among the most poignant. “The ceremony is a way of welcoming new social workers into the village of professionals who have committed themselves to fighting oppression,” said Irvin Moore, ‘MSW’13.

ABSW is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research. The group is comprised of people of African ancestry throughout the Penn student body and surrounding community. For Moore, the Association provided a sense of connection to both his chosen profession and to student and faculty mentors who supported him on his journey.

“What I found meaningful about Rites of Passage was seeing the transformation of my peers,” he said. “They are no longer my classmates, they are my colleagues. Together we’ve grown as black people and as black professionals.”

03 Djuan Short, MSW'14, leads ABSW to enhance the quality of life and empower people of African ancestry.

Among the highlights of the event, which included dinner, entertainment, and a speaker, was the spice ceremony where students partook of various spices, each representing a unique and integral aspect of life. The final spice, coconut, which represents blessings, was particularly resonant for Moore who noted that the fruit’s hard, rough shell often hides the sweetness within.

“When you work with vulnerable populations, you see a lot of hurt and bitterness,” he said. “Our role as social workers is to go deeper and help people understand the more palatable things in their lives.”

03



01 Students tasted eight different spices during the Spice Ceremony. Each represented an integral aspect of life.

02 The Spice Ceremony included the following spices, listed with what they represented (clockwise from top):

1. Red juice or wine: blood shared with African people
2. Honey: joy and sweetness of life
3. Lime or lemon: bitterness of life
4. Salt: choice or free will
5. Cayenne pepper: critical times of life
6. Water: renewal and refreshment
7. African palm oil: strength and power
8. Coconut: blessings

STUDENTS ABROAD



Tara Matthews, MSW'11

STUDIED IN Israel

Tara Matthews, MSW'11, came to SP2 because it was one of the few programs that encouraged students to conduct independent research abroad. When she took advantage of that opportunity and traveled to Israel to study human trafficking she felt fully supported and prepared.

"SP2 provided the concrete tools that allowed me to design, implement, and evaluate my own research project," she said. "Irene Wong and Richard Estes were instrumental in helping me plan the trip and map out my work."

After graduation, Matthews, who now serves as a Presidential Management Fellow, was able to continue her work in human trafficking as part of an assignment with the International Exploitations Crime Unit. Her current assignment with the Department of Homeland Security offers additional opportunities for international travel including a recent trip to Paris to investigate corruption.

"My experiences at SP2 laid the foundation for the work I do now," she said. "I rely heavily on the skills I gained in writing, quantitative evaluation, and data analysis. I am better able to handle the challenges of professional travel abroad."



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SP2'S GLOBAL REACH / INDIA

Experiencing Social Change from a Grassroots Perspective

While most of the Penn community was ringing in the New Year, a group of students led by Dr. Femida Handy met with women in India to learn how microfinance has changed their lives.

In a country where poverty rates are staggering, microfinance is an effective strategy for enabling women who have few financial options to embark on income-generating activities. Self-help groups, typically 10 to 20 women who meet regularly to save small amounts of money and take out loans as a group, are an essential element of the strategy.

The course, which included students representing Masters programs from across Penn, visited 19 self-help groups. They also participated in a conference titled, "Development Challenges: Global Aspirations and Local Realities."

"I was drawn to the course because it combined learning about concrete poverty solutions, like microlending, with the less tangible, but very important, social impact of women's empowerment," said NPL candidate Jennifer Gillard.

"The course allowed students to experience the power of social change at a grassroots level, which is very different from what they read in books," Handy explained.

01 Martha Heuser, NPL'13; Holly Cronin; Dr. Femida Handy, Jennifer Gillard, NPL'14; and Laura Repcheck, MSW'13 each wear a piece of the same sari to remember their experience.





“At least 70% of people live in villages with no access to banks,” said Handy. “If you are very poor and the only place you can keep your money is under the mattress it is almost impossible to save.”

Encouraged to put themselves in the shoes of women living in this male-controlled society, the students were aghast at the everyday treatment and the crushing financial constraints women must endure. “At least 70% of people live in villages with no access to banks,” said Handy. “If you are very poor and the only place you can keep your money is under the mattress, it is almost impossible to save.”

Even as the government tries to increase financial inclusion by opening local bank branches, there are many obstacles to overcome. “Low levels of literacy make it difficult for people to fill out paperwork,” she said. “If they have to walk, they face safety issues so they can’t carry money with them. It is a very challenging environment.”

There has been some criticism of microfinance, particularly when commercial lenders are involved. However, Handy explained that, “When it works well it really changes lives. The women are still poor, but they have an income and they have food on the table.”

Gillard noted that many of the women credited joining a self-help group and earning money through microenterprises, such as sewing or pickle making, with improving their self-confidence. They felt empowered to talk more, go out in public, and handle bank transactions. For some it meant being able to afford to send their children to school, expand their homes, build toilets, or buy electric fans.

“Meeting these women continues to inspire me,” Gillard recalled. “A group of empowered women can do just about anything.”



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01 Members of a women’s self-help group that specializes in tailoring.

02 Member of a self-help group in rural Mangalore; one of their businesses is making phenol oil.

“Meeting these women continues to inspire me,” Gillard recalled. “A group of empowered women can do just about anything.”

JENNIFER GILLARD, NPL CANDIDATE

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Social Work Advocates for Immigrant Rights

CLUB PRESIDENT Katharine Cristaudo, MSW'14

“We work with all immigrants, regardless of their country of origin. This year we worked in Center City with District 1199c two hours a week helping refugees with resume writing. We definitely want to collaborate more with different schools throughout Penn and be more involved in the community.”

SWAIR provides support to immigrants and immigrant organizations in the Philadelphia community, and aims to strengthen knowledge and understanding of social workers' role in issues of immigration.

“As social workers, according to our core values and ethics, we are the advocates for our clients no matter who they are. I think this is the perfect example of a group that doesn't have a voice,” Cristaudo explained.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

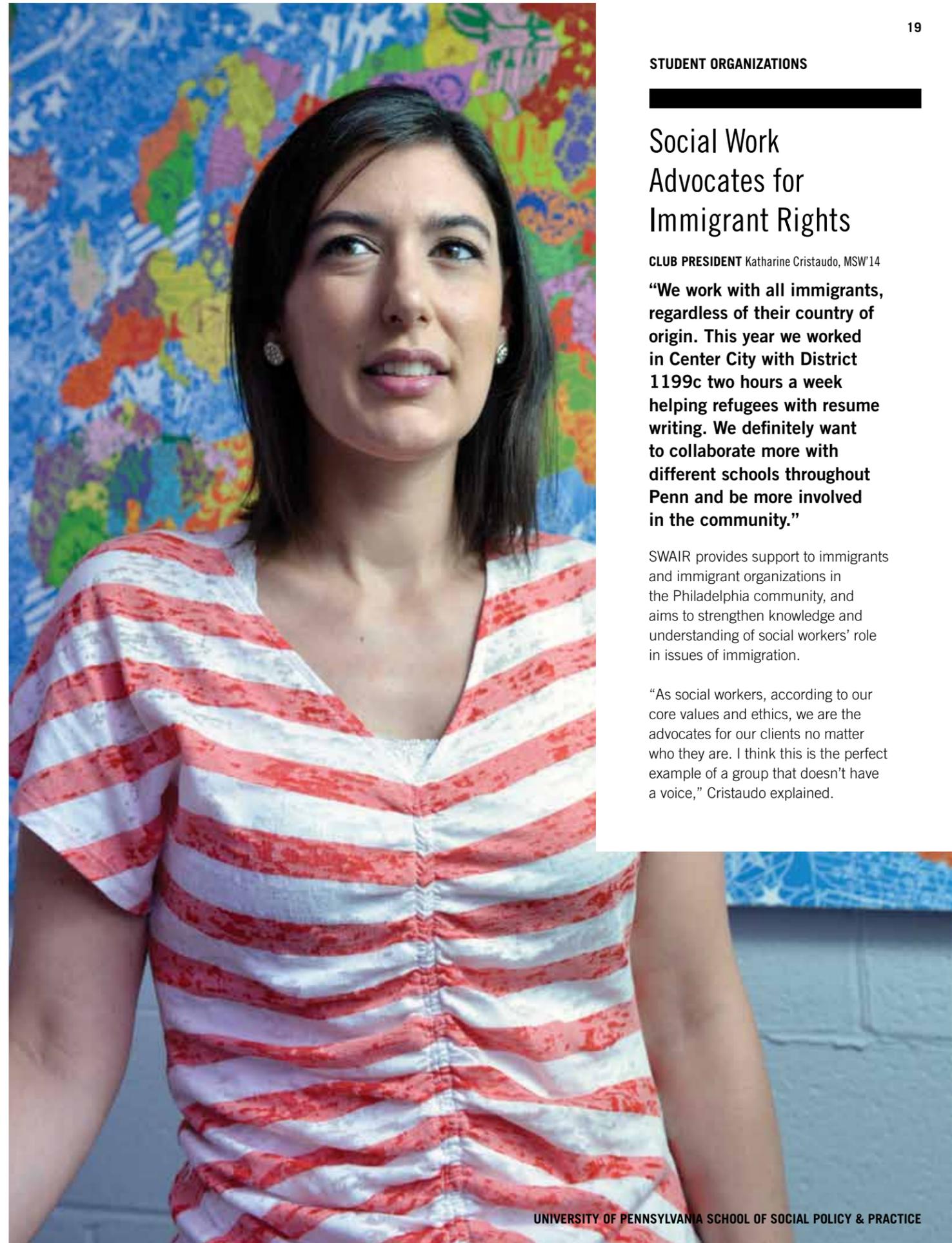
Hispanic/Latino Alliance for Change and Equity

CLUB PRESIDENT Elaine Weisman, MSW'14

“No matter what area of social work students want to enter, we all have a stake in understanding issues that affect the Latino community. As part of Penn's mission to promote cultural awareness, HACE brings resources to the School to promote a critical discussion of issues that impact Latino families.”

The Hispanic/Latino Alliance for Change and Equity (HACE) sponsors campus activities to engage the Penn community about local, national, and global issues concerning the Latino community.

“A big focus of the curriculum at SP2 focuses on how policies affect diverse communities. HACE extends that commitment by supporting initiatives that encourage us to consider how we, as social workers, can make a meaningful change at service and policy,” Weisman explained.





01 Jen Bowles, MSW '10, lead the new international course in Puerto Rico.

SP2'S GLOBAL REACH / PUERTO RICO

Conscientious Collaborators in Social Change

SP2 Professor, Toorjo Ghose, PhD, believes social work has had a poor history of global involvement. “Too often, we come at problems from a social management perspective instead of working collaboratively with the community,” he said.

In an effort to change that dynamic Ghose teamed up with Jen Bowles, MSW '10, a doctoral candidate at Drexel University, to lead a new international summer course in Fajardo, Puerto Rico during which students worked alongside community members to advance social change.

Farjardo, a small city in the east region of the island, is greatly affected by the dual epidemics of HIV and injection drug use.

Few options exist for individuals to access clean syringes, but one clinic is spearheading advocacy efforts to empower drug users and people with HIV to lead the fight against the AIDS epidemic. The clinic called CAIM has teamed up with Housing Works, a healing community of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, to provide clean syringes, harm reduction counseling, and referrals to health and drug treatment services.

STUDENTS ABROAD



Marisa Jones, MSP '12

STUDIED IN Cuba

For Marisa Jones, MSP'12, the opportunity to study in Cuba provided a lesson in cultural humility. “My family is from Cuba and I was brought up with a singular narrative around the revolution,” she explained. “But when I was in the country, I spoke with many people who had a very different experience. Grappling with that cognitive dissonance required a great deal of self reflection.”

Jones, who recently completed a six-month White House Internship and runs a local-level health policy campaign in the Washington DC area, said her visit to Cuba deeply affected her thinking about public policy.

“Seeing the widespread negative effects of the embargo, which Cuban’s call ‘bloqueo,’ was eye-opening,” she said. “When policies are implemented to prove a point to another country’s leadership, we must consider the effect those policies will have on everyday citizens. It’s also important to recognize that what may have worked many years ago might not still work today.”

“While survival is clearly an issue for many citizens in developing countries, our goal should be to advance social change and counteract market forces that produce communities of need internationally.”

As a primary component of the four-week course, the students collaborated with these agencies and with members of the affected community to collectively develop and implement harm reduction strategies. They also read a variety of texts about the identity of Puerto Rico and about addiction, such as *Righteous Dopefiend*. In the field, they worked in small groups on community-based participatory research addressing both clinical and macro issues, and worked with community members on a project for use in clinical practice and advocacy initiatives.

According to Bowles, who spent her childhood in Puerto Rico and later returned to study at Inter American University of Puerto Rico, there is still a great deal of controversy surrounding strategies such as syringe exchange on the island. “Many may believe syringe exchange enables drug use. These views can serve to impede the diffusion of harm reduction messages.”

One of the primary goals of the course, taught by Bowles, was to help students better understand how cultural and historical factors impact the way social issues are viewed. “Cultural differences



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affect the way drug use looks from country to country, which in turn affects how to best address needs and interact with the community. There isn't a one-size fits all approach.”

“The common denominator,” she noted, “is the importance of respecting human dignity and recognizing the value in every human life.”



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01 Jen Bowles, MSW 10, volunteers at Prevention Point, a needle exchange program in Philadelphia.

02 Similar to the program established in Puerto Rico, Prevention Point helps to reduce the spread of HIV through injection drug use.



“As social workers, whether at home or abroad, we are always outsiders, but we can be conscientious collaborators in social change.”

PROFESSOR TOORJO GHOSE, PHD



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

SP2 Student Government

CLUB PRESIDENT Britney Thornton, MSW '14

“Because of the time restraints they face, students can end up being pulled in many different directions. Student Government aims to increase partnership across organizations and to build community throughout the School, the University, and globally.”

“Student Government strives to connect with other Schools across the University and encourage students to identify not only as SP2 students, but as Penn community members as well,” Thornton said.

The group focuses on student wellness, building relationships among student organizations, and developing partnerships across the University and within the Philadelphia community. “Student Government can play a big role in bringing students together and encouraging interaction with the global community,” explained Thornton.

SP2'S GLOBAL REACH / LIBERIA

Turning Adversity into Action

At the heart of social change is the ability to turn adversity into action.

Dr. Kimme Weeks, NPL'o8, a survivor of the Liberian conflict and world-renowned activist for children, youth, and families, has done just that.

Weeks was one of three people nominated for the 2013 World's Children's Prize, which honors individuals who dedicate their lives to promoting the well-being of children. Presented in Stockholm, by HM the Queen of Sweden, the prize serves as a catalyst for growth and development of a more humane global community.

Weeks was spurred to activism at the age of 14 when, after almost dying of cholera while fleeing wartime Liberia, he pledged to devote his life to helping disadvantaged children.



Weeks was spurred to activism at the age of 14 when, after almost dying of cholera while fleeing wartime Liberia, he pledged to devote his life to helping disadvantaged children. With his friends, he founded Voice of the Future and learned about the rights of children. At 16, he organized a campaign to disarm child soldiers in the civil war. Weeks was forced to flee to the United States to escape assassination after he revealed that Liberian President Charles Taylor was recruiting child soldiers.

Today, Weeks is Executive Director of Youth Action International, a nonprofit he established while at Amherst College, which provides education, health care, and economic empowerment to children and youth in post-war African countries. Since 2005, the organization has affected over 150,000 lives. Weeks has inspired countless young people to devote their own lives to social justice.

STUDENTS ABROAD



Erica Goldberg, MSW '13

STUDIED IN Bengal

In Bengali, the word durbar means unstoppable. For Erica Goldberg, MSW'13, it is a fitting name for the sex worker collective she worked with in Kolkata, India during her enrollment in a course called Postcolonial Social Work Practice: International Social Welfare in India.

The collective, formally known as Durbar Mahilla Samanwaya Committee, established in 1992, currently has over 65,000 members around the country. “They are an amazing group that fights for the rights of sex workers through a variety of initiatives, including an extremely effective peer-led sexual health education program, anti-trafficking work, and microfinance,” Goldberg explained.

Goldberg, who has worked with ACT UP and is interested in community advocacy, said the course was an ideal opportunity to study an international group run by those who are affected by HIV. “We did not go in to conduct a specific intervention. Rather we sat with the women, learned about their projects, and said, ‘How can we help each other?’”



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

United Community Clinic

“With classes and field work it’s a lot to juggle, but [United Community Clinic] is an incredible opportunity to gain both clinical and management experience and to collaborate with a variety of disciplines. Most of all it’s fun. I love it.”

- Elle Fabian, MSW'14

01

Situated between two bridges, the Parkside neighborhood is somewhat isolated from the rest of Philadelphia. For many residents who rely on public transportation and don't have health insurance, accessing care is challenging. The closest health center is two transfers away and the wait time for an appointment can be up to 83 days.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of several MSW candidates and students from Penn's Medical, Dental, Nursing, and undergraduate schools, residents have another option. Every Monday evening, these students come together to run the United Community Clinic, an interdisciplinary, student-run, free health clinic in the First African Presbyterian Church at 42nd and Girard.

The clinic provides primary, preventative, and short-term health care to the community. SP2 MSW candidates Jose Medina, Kate Beele, Pyagya Verma, Elle Fabian, and Andrew Defeo serve as social work coordinators who manage the flow of the Clinic and make decisions about what services the Clinic offers. They ensure that every patient receives a psychosocial assessment of basic needs, insurance status, food security, and other mental and physical health risks.

“We refer patients to appropriate services and help them advocate for their own health care needs,” Fabian said. The latter point is a key tenant of the clinic. “We don't tell patients what we can do for them. Rather we work collaboratively with them as part of the community,” explained Verma. UCC also offers a Hypertension clinic. “Hypertension is highly prevalent

04



02

in the community and if it goes untreated it can lead to renal failure,” said Medina. “Patients need ongoing care and behavior modification. We counsel them on how to reduce psychosocial stress, educate them on diet and exercise, and provide continuity of care while working to get them into more formal care networks.”

In addition to these services, a new community counseling clinic is slated to open in October, 2013. Offering services to address mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and stress, the new clinic is the result of a collaborative community process including social work coordinators, community leaders, and SP2 advisors.

While students are the driving force of the clinic, they are supervised by residents and attending doctors, dentists, and licensed social workers. “What’s great about UCC is that we are given the autonomy to practice, but we also have mentors who help us develop our skills,” Medina noted.

All of the students who work at UCC volunteer their time. “With classes and field work it’s a lot to juggle,” said Fabian. “But it’s an incredible opportunity to gain both clinical and management experience and to collaborate with a variety of disciplines. Most of all it’s fun. I love it.”

03



01 Clockwise from top left: Jose Medina, MSW'14; Kate Beele, MSW'14; Andrew Defeo, MSW'14; Pragma Verma, MSW'14; Elle Fabian, MSW'14.
02 Andrew DeFeo discusses options with a patient.
03 Pragma Verma performing a patient's psychosocial assessment.
04 Jose Medina providing long-term care information to a patient.

STUDENTS ABROAD



Liz Mehaffey, MSW'12

STUDIED IN South Korea

While many students choose to study abroad to experience cultures vastly different than their own, for Liz Mehaffey, MSW '12, an adoptee from South Korea, the decision was more personal.

“Many South Korean adoptees move back to their birth country to live permanently,” she said. “These individuals often describe experiencing an identity change. Although they initially identified as American, they begin to think of themselves as Korean American. I wanted to study this phenomenon.”

For her research project, designed with Dr. Irene Wong and Dr. Joretha Bourjolly, Mehaffey interviewed approximately 20 adoptees. Their stories provide a fascinating glimpse into how biological culture can shape identity. “One interviewee told me, ‘I felt like a white girl, but when I looked in the mirror I saw that I was not white,’” she recalled.

Mehaffey is working with Bourjolly and Wong to publish a paper about her research. “I would highly recommend more people design their own study abroad,” she encouraged. “It is a lot of work, but it is definitely worth it.”



01 Yimeng Zhang, MSW'14, made many resources accessible to South Philadelphia's Chinese immigrants.



SP2'S GLOBAL REACH / SOUTH PHILADELPHIA

Opening Doors for Chinese Seniors

For some SP2 students, global engagement starts right here at home. One such student, Yimeng Zhang, MSW'14, has had a significant impact in the lives of older Chinese immigrants in South Philadelphia.

Zhang, a Chinese native, serves as an intern at the St. Charles Senior Community Center where he helps Chinese immigrants apply for a federal food program and other benefits. Since his arrival, the number of Chinese participants has grown from six to 32.

“Because of Yimeng and the work he has done here, we are afforded the opportunity to assess and serve the needs of the Chinese people who live in this area,” Center Director Kathy Boyles said.

When Zhang noted that many of the Center's non-English speaking participants had questions about health care, he helped organize and translate a Medicare

informational program, which was extremely well attended.

“Older immigrants can feel very isolated,” said Zhang. “The senior center is a great asset because it can not only help them address basic needs, but also provide a place to meet others. I think having someone who not only speaks their language, but also understands their culture has made it less intimidating for them to access what the center has to offer.”

Boyles couldn't agree more. “Yimeng has been such a gift to us all,” she said. “He is kind, skilled, proactive, and extremely observant.”

“Because of Yimeng and the work he has done here we are afforded the opportunity to assess and serve the needs of the Chinese people who live in this area”

KATHY BOYLES, DIRECTOR, ST. CHARLES SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Students for International Social Work

CLUB PRESIDENTS Laura Buckley, MSW'14
Kira Silk, MSW'14

“Recently we went to the United Nations for International Social Work Day which brought in members from the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Workers, with representatives from the UN and EU, to talk about the UN Millennium goals and how social work can play a part in that.”

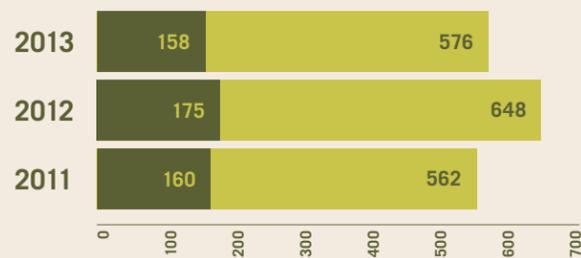
“We live in a global world and we think SP2 should be a part of it and try to engage in it,” Co-President Laura Buckley, MSW'14, said. SISW is committed to raising awareness, inspiring involvement around international issues, and exploring the role of social work in international practice.

“It’s not just about working internationally though. We have international communities in Philadelphia with whom we could do more hands-on work,” explained Kira Silk, MSW'14, Co-President.

2013/2014 Student Data



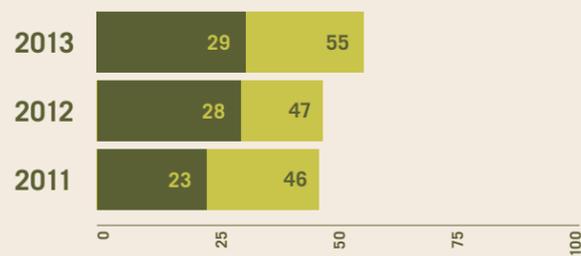
MSW 3-YEAR ADMISSION TRENDS



MSSP 3-YEAR ADMISSION TRENDS



NPL 3-YEAR ADMISSION TRENDS



DSW 3-YEAR ADMISSION TRENDS



PHD 3-YEAR ADMISSION TRENDS



“This year, I have the pleasure to present five entering cohorts of extremely bright and motivated students from 26 states and eight foreign countries.”

MARY MAZZOLA, MSW’85, EdD, ASSOCIATE DEAN, ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

Where Are Our Alumni?

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  AUSTRALIA |  EL SALVADOR |  MALAYSIA |  SWITZERLAND |
|  BERMUDA |  GREECE |  MONGOLIA |  TAIWAN ROC |
|  BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA |  HONG KONG |  NETHERLANDS |  THAILAND |
|  BRAZIL |  INDIA |  NEW ZEALAND |  UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA |
|  CAMBODIA |  INDONESIA |  PHILIPPINES |  UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |
|  CANADA |  ISRAEL |  POLAND |  VIETNAM |
|  CHINA |  JAMAICA |  REPUBLIC OF KOREA | |
|  COLOMBIA |  JAPAN |  SIERRA LEONE | |
|  COSTA RICA |  JORDAN |  SINGAPORE | |
|  DENMARK |  KENYA |  SOUTH AFRICA | |



**Long Term
Local
Consultant**

GERMAN TECHNICAL
COOPERATION, SIERRA LEONE

**Founder &
Director of
Programs**

GLASS WING INTERNATIONAL,
EL SALVADOR



**Investment &
Development
Coordinator**

SEHNZHEN KEHUITONG
INVESTMENT HOLDING CO., LTD., CHINA

**Social Work
Services
Inspector**

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE, UK



**What are
our Alumni
Doing?**

**Disaster Risk
Reduction
Coordinator**

OXFAM GB, INDONESIA

Director

HAIFA DRUG
ABUSE TREATMENT
CENTER, ISRAEL

**Manawatu
Practice
Manager**

OPEN HOMES
FOUNDATION,
NEW ZEALAND



Social Worker

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD SERVICE, CANADA

**Design
Manager**

RETIREMENT
SECURITY LTD, UK

Professor

NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY, TAIWAN

Professor

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
OF KOREA,
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Researcher

SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, REPUBLIC OF KOREA



**Senior
Medical
Social
Worker**

DEPARTMENT
OF CHILD
AND ADOLESCENT,
IRELAND

**Community
Affairs
Manager**

MICROSOFT CHINA,
CHINA

**Assistant
Professor**

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF SINGAPORE,
SINGAPORE

**European
Editor**

VINTAGE
RACECAR, UK



Director

PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM, NATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**Deputy
Director**

PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY
PROGRAM, KING HUSSEIN
CANCER CENTER, JORDAN

**Executive
Director**

THE CENTER FOR
JEWISH CHRISTIAN
COOPERATION, ISRAEL

**Coordinator
of Foster Care**

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD
AND FAMILY SERVICES, BERMUDA

**International
Philanthropy Fellow**

CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY STUDIES, JAPAN

**Family
Therapist**

MANITOBA GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

Teacher

KANSAI UNIVERSITY,
JAPAN

**Clinical
Supervisor**

THE CROSS ROADS
CENTER, ISRAEL



**Director
of Social
Services**

MANORCARE,
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Campaign for Social Change Leadership

SP2's *Campaign for Social Change Leadership* was launched in 2005 (part of Penn's "Making History" Campaign). In seven years, SP2 received more than double the amount of fundraising dollars raised in the previous 97 years, increasing average annual gift income from \$1.8 million to \$4.1 million. The Campaign officially ended in December 2012.

SP2's faculty, staff, and students gratefully acknowledge the transformational generosity of the School's most loyal donors and friends, who helped make the Campaign successful.

The Campaign for Social Change Leadership focused on educating future social change leaders to help solve society's most complex problems. The Campaign expanded the School's footprint in crucial areas, including high impact philanthropy, gerontology, child welfare, and domestic and family violence. Additionally, it supported faculty development, capital renovations, and more.

Guided by the leadership of Dean Richard Gelles, Associate Dean of Development and Alumni Relations Nadina Deigh, and Campaign Chairs Andrew Heyer and Ann Nolan Reese, the Campaign yielded 2,626 donors and reached its \$33 million goal three months ahead of time. Ultimately, \$33.6 million in new support was funneled towards the School's key priorities as follows:

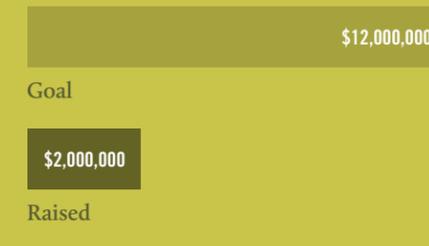
Explore our new interactive timeline and the Campaign for Social Change Leadership's impact at SP2Campaign.com

Program Support



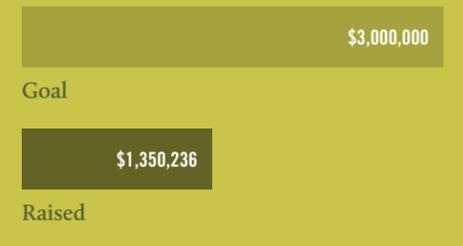
SP2 is recognized as a premiere institution that promotes social justice and develops social policy by creating initiatives to impact current social issues. Some examples are the Ann Nolan Reese Penn Aging Concentration (PAC), which addresses the need for geriatric social workers and the Goldring Reentry Initiative (GRI), which works with prisoners transitioning back into society.

Faculty Development



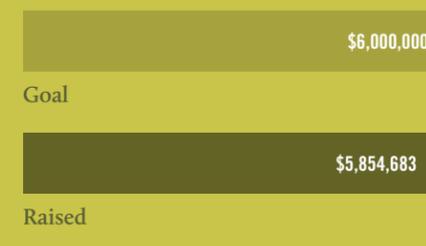
In order to sustain and grow SP2's excellent educational programs and continue to attract the best students, the School must recruit renowned experts in premiere fields of interest like gerontology and non-profit leadership. SP2 has acquired just three endowed professorships in its 100-plus year history – two during the Campaign.

Capital Renovations



After over 40 years of facing a remote court yard, SP2 repositioned its front entrance to face Locust Walk, the hub of campus for students. Class Gift Campaigns and matching funds have created spaces that enhance the Caster Building, including Schaye Café, an on-site eatery, and a "Wellness Room" for students, which includes tools to help them relax and regroup. The third floor conference room was transformed into a versatile space for lectures, receptions, and more.

Graduate Financial Aid



SP2 awards over \$3 million in tuition assistance annually for Master's Degree program students. About 85% of all students receive financial aid. Most SP2 students finance their social work and social policy education through a combination of named or Dean's merit awards, grants, federal educational loans, and other personal sources. They often incur a large amount of debt, especially in proportion to the modest starting salaries they may receive in their chosen professions. Nine new term and 12 endowed scholarships were created during the Campaign.

High-Impact Philanthropy



Established in spring of 2006 by the Dean of SP2 and a small group of anonymous Wharton alumni, the Center for High-Impact Philanthropy (CHIP) provides independent analysis, education, and other decision making tools for donors concerned with maximizing the social impact of their funds. To meet its goal of providing smart, practical guidance to donors who care about impact, CHIP synthesizes the best available information from three domains: research, informed opinion, and field experience. CHIP believes the most promising opportunities exist where these recommendations overlap.

SP2 Research



SP2's innovative research projects help bridge research and practice by addressing some of society's most challenging problems, like domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and homelessness. Some examples are the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy Program (AISP), Program for Religion & Social Policy Research (PRSPR), and the Social Impact of the Arts Project (SIAP).

“Before I ever met Rich Gelles, his work had inspired my family to adopt two children. I am privileged to have been a part of helping to realize his vision of a school at the intersection of social work and social policy-Penn SP2.”

SP2 BOARD MEMBER

“The school, before and after Richard J. Gelles’s 12 years as a dean, is not the same. Quantitatively the differences are in three new programs (NPL, MSSP, and DSW) and an additional building.”

SP2 FACULTY MEMBER



Transitioning a Great Leader

Richard J. Gelles will complete his tenure as Dean in June 2014. He reinvigorated the School by creating new degree programs, recruiting distinguished faculty, and forging new local and global partnerships. Thanks to Dean Gelles, SP2 has a strong future ahead in providing excellent education for social work, social policy, and nonprofit leaders. Below, representatives from SP2’s community share well wishes and expressions of gratitude.

“Dean Gelles, it is very rare to find a great leader who is also a great friend to so many people. Thanks for being that wonderful person who was always willing to offer new perspectives and bold ideas.”

MSSP ‘10

“Dean Gelles’s commitment to SP2 and its constituents is tangible in so many ways. Beyond the most apparent—the strength of our programs, accomplishments of our faculty and alumni, enhancements to physical space—I see the Dean’s dedication to the School’s staff manifested every day. I don’t know how many deans would play softball, sing in a talent show, show staff appreciation at a Phillies game, or have an open door policy. These seemingly small acts speak volumes and have an incredibly motivating effect. It is a large part of the reason that we are all excited to come to work every day and give our all.”

SP2 STAFF MEMBER

“Over the years, it has been my pleasure to get to know Dean Gelles and the level of his commitment to promoting SP2, particularly on a global scale. Although we have not always seen eye-to-eye on some ideals (and probably never will) his encouragement and support in providing opportunities to me has always been present. By means of these opportunities and support I have been given the platform to advance social work theory and practice to others.”

MSW/MBE ‘03

“Dean Gelles represents a wonderful balance of ambition, humility, and good humor. He was always accessible to students and made sure our voices were truly heard.”

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