



# The Business of Social Change

2010 SP2 Review, annual publication of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice



*Under the direction of Franklin Pepper, the Children’s Bureau of Philadelphia, on November 2, 1908, inaugurated a training program for social work professionals in Philadelphia. The purpose of the course was “to give practical training in modern principles and methods of child-helping under the direction of experienced workers in this field.”*

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From September 2008 through June 2010, the School of Social Policy & Practice celebrated its centennial and 100 years of social work education at Penn. Highlights of the celebration included publication of a history book (by Mark Frazier Lloyd, Penn’s Director of University Archives), special symposia, stimulating lectures, and engaging alumni events. The 2010 SP2 Review marks the end of both this momentous occasion and a wonderful moment in the school’s history.

Follow the  to learn about important milestones in the past 100 years.

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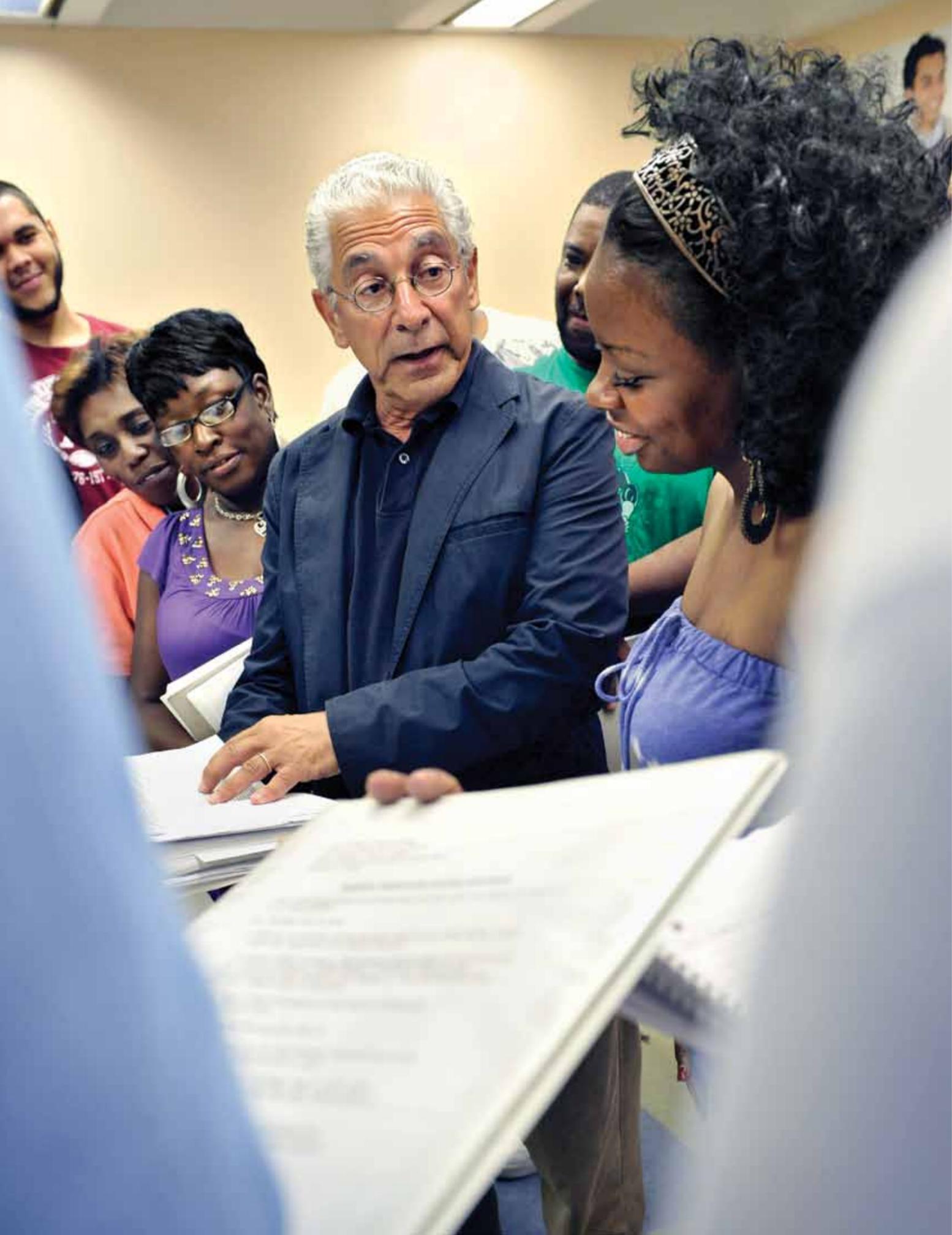
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 Centennial Point No. 2

# *In 1910 the Philadelphia School greatly expanded and was renamed the Philadelphia Training School for Social Work.*

## Mission

The School of Social Policy & Practice contributes to the advancement of more effective, efficient and humane human services through education, research and civic engagement. In pursuit of this mission, its theory-based masters and doctoral programs in social work, social welfare, nonprofit leadership, and social policy encourage students to think and work across disciplinary lines and cultures as well as across national and international boundaries. The pursuit of social change leadership is at the heart of the School's knowledge-building activities. Its innovative educational and research programs reinforce its vision of students' active engagement in their own learning as well as that of social agencies and larger social entities organized at the local, national, and international levels.

## Vision

The University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) is the only graduate program in the world addressing the continuum of critical elements of social change. Entering its second century of leadership in social work theory and practice, SP2 has expanded its programs to ensure engagement in the areas of government and non-government policy development and resource delivery systems. SP2 seeks to further its contributions as one of the nation's leading centers of knowledge development, knowledge transfer, and knowledge application in the human services. This vision is integral to, and reflected in, all aspects of the School's educational and research programs as well as in its work on the University of Pennsylvania campus, in the Philadelphia community, and in its social change efforts nationally and internationally.

# Message From The Dean

Greetings from Locust Walk! We began this academic year with a ribbon cutting for the Caster Building's new main entrance. Now, for the first time in 50 years, we literally have a door onto the University of Pennsylvania's main thoroughfare.



I also am pleased to positively report on the State of the School. This year has been characterized by growth and change, the results of which situate SP2 in a position of eminence more so than ever before.

Last October marked SP2's inaugural trip to China. Mary Mazzola, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management, Ling Wang (MSW '10) and I made the trip to Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong in order to better understand the condition of social work and policy education in China's burgeoning market economy. This trip established a firm foundation for our future partnerships in China.

The highlight of the academic year was Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. speaking at SP2's commencement. A longtime champion of social justice legislation, Biden assumed two important roles while at graduation: that of Commencement speaker and of proud father, as his daughter Ashley Biden received her MSW degree in May.

Admissions experienced a banner year with a 51% increase in applications. Each Masters level program is welcoming its largest class in years. The caliber of these new SP2 students is impressive; hailing from 31 states and 15 countries.

On a bittersweet note, two longtime faculty members have retired after many dedicated years of teaching, scholarship, and service. Effective June 30, Dr. Richard Estes and Dr. Carol Spigner ended their respective tenures at the School. The SP2 community is anchored by faculty who are leaders in their fields -- both Richard and Carol have left lasting imprints on SP2.

Last year, Dr. Dennis Culhane received a \$1.4 million, multi-year grant from the Catherine T. and John D. MacArthur Foundation to establish Intelligence for Social Policy (ISP). The principal aim of ISP is to improve the quality of education, health and human service agencies' policies and practices through the use of integrated data systems. Additionally, Professor Phyllis Solomon was among the inaugural group inducted into the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

Our Center for High Impact Philanthropy (CHIP) issued a widely read report on how philanthropists can make an important and effective impact in helping Haiti recover from the January earthquake. Last but not least, SP2 passed the 67% level in its \$33 million "Campaign for Social Change Leadership/Penn's Making History Campaign."

We embark on the approaching year with exciting ventures on the horizon and the same steadfast commitment to education, engagement and research for the advancement for social change. The result of our collaborative effort is a diaspora of accomplished graduates serving as clinicians, agency leaders and policy makers.

## Richard J. Gelles, PhD

Dean

Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare & Family Violence

# The Business of Social Change

From the Editorial Director

In some ways, businesses and nonprofits are worlds apart. This mostly is due to differences in their core missions, goals and ideologies. Traditionally, businesses have focused on maximum financial return, while nonprofits' priorities have been rooted in societal progress. Yet, more and more, this gap is closing as both recognize the benefits of partnering to build upon each others' strengths.

This book's title, "The Business of Social Change," was inspired by a little known fact sent to me by Sr. Associate Dean Dr. Ram Cnaan. While reviewing an article, he learned that the term "social work" was coined by Simon Nelson Patten, an economist and professor at Wharton in the 1800s. Patten delivered several lectures at the New York School of Social Work and believed that with the new technology, the earth's resources were adequate to provide an economy of abundance for the Western world. What was lacking, he said, was group social action to achieve these desired goals.

Ironically, at a time when faculty and students from Social Work and Wharton may have shunned the most remote association, Patten grasped the importance of blending both worlds. Yet, "The Business of Social Change" goes beyond a simple connection between business and social policy and practice. In fact, it shines a light on the diverse spectrum and wide scope of work in which SP2 graduates participate. They are authors, attorneys, clinical therapists, educators, and entrepreneurs. They are program officers, policy makers, and private practice owners. Whatever their chosen profession, SP2 alumni are busy about the "business of social change," actively engaged and fully committed to helping to better the world.

The 2010 SP2 Review highlights some of these accomplishments, along with other recent School events. Many great things have happened, from relocating the main entrance to erecting the Centennial Wall to launching a new gerontology certificate program. Additionally, there has been a staff change in the Development and Alumni Relations office. After five years, former Associate Director and SP2 Review Editor Emily Brueckner Schulz now serves in the newly created position of Associate Director, Academic Affairs.

Special thanks to Emily for her past and excellent execution of the SP2 Review. Building upon this positive momentum, effective immediately we are aligning publication of the SP2 Review with the School's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Doing so will allow us to capture the entire academic year, while reporting on other School activities closer to real-time. Additionally, we are pleased to introduce a contemporary, more reader-friendly design. We used local talent BAJ Design and Candice diCarlo Photography to obtain this fresh new look.

Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in our School. As always, we would love to hear from you. Enjoy the SP2 Review!

## Nadina R. Deigh

Associate Dean, Development and Alumni Relations



Simon Patten, an economist and professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance coined the term "Social Work."

- Austin, D.M. (1986). *A History of Social Work Education.*

“Two years of inspiring & exhilarating learning and living. This is what Penn’s MSW program was for me. It wasn’t just a series of classes; it was a lifestyle. Instilled in me are many core values necessary for social justice advocacy.”

- Shameeka, MSW '05





# Academic Programs

*SP2, one school with many programs:*

The Master of Social Work, Master of Science in Nonprofit/Non-governmental Organization Leadership, Master of Science in Social Policy, PhD in Social Welfare, and Doctorate in Clinical Social Work. Each contributes to SP2's goal of producing social change leaders.

# Master of Social Work

Director Joretha Bourjolly, PhD, MSW Website [www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/msw](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/msw)

Today the demand for trained social workers is greater than ever before. Challenges such as a struggling economy, natural disasters, and increased unemployment require compassionate and skilled social workers to address these societal ills. With a well-established reputation for providing excellent social work education, the School of Social Policy & Practice is uniquely positioned to meet this need. According to Director Dr. Jerri Bourjolly, “We continually review the courses that we offer to consider student preferences, while keeping our pulse on trends in the profession to ensure that we best prepare our students for the field.”

One example of how SP2’s MSW curriculum addresses real-time, current events is the newly created, Penn Aging Concentration (PAC) program. By the year 2020, there will be an estimated 70 million Americans age 65 and older, who will comprise roughly 21 percent of the U.S. population.

It is questionable whether social workers will be prepared for this demographic shift, and ready to handle the increased need for services to older persons. SP2’s social workers, however, will be ready for this challenge due to the PAC program.

Dr. Zvi Gellis and Dr. Joan Davitt, SP2’s gerontology social work faculty scholars, are ensuring that the school plays a vital role in educating social workers for the field of aging. With support from the John A. Hartford Foundation, they developed the PAC program as a specialized focus within the MSW program that is open to both clinical- and macro-concentration students. According to Dr. Gellis, “There is a serious shortage of professional social workers with adequate training to meet the health and mental health needs of older adults and their caregivers.” Partly because of this, job opportunities are often readily available for those skilled in this field, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics agrees: “job prospects may be best for those social workers with a background in gerontology...”

PAC students will focus their graduate education in the burgeoning field of aging and long-term care via specialized and enhanced field placements; multi-disciplinary, multi-agency rotating field seminars; and specialized electives in aging policy and practice taught by gerontology-based experts. The PAC program also will help transition students into gerontology-based positions after graduation; in addition to the special academic and field experiences described above, numerous networking activities and interactions with experienced gerontology professionals are designed to help jumpstart students’ careers.

Finally, PAC students will be eligible to participate as a *MetLife Foundation Fellow in Aging at Penn*. This prestigious fellowship program recently was established with funds from the MetLife Foundation to provide financial support for students of merit in PAC.

One important, additional MSW program highlight is its recent reaccreditation. In June 2009, the Council on Social Work Education’s Council on Accreditation voted to reaffirm the MSW Program’s accreditation for eight years. This accomplishment was a reflection of the work and support of the entire SP2 community, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and field instructors, and has positioned the School to continue its legacy of providing excellence in social work education.

“There is a serious shortage of professional social workers with adequate training to meet the health and mental health needs of older adults and their caregivers.”

Student Highlight Laura Guggenheimer, MSW '10

## Social Work for Social Welfare

“I have received unlimited support from the faculty. To be able to work with a group of such innovative and progressive thinkers is a huge asset.”

Before New Yorker Laura Guggenheimer began her Masters of Social Work at Penn, she worked in the NY District Attorney’s Office and spent a year teaching kindergarten. While both of those experiences were gratifying, she found that what she enjoyed most about each job was working directly with an individual to help them improve some aspect of their lives. It was this insight that peaked her interest in social work.

After thoroughly researching potential programs, she chose SP2’s program because of the school’s commitment to an all-inclusive approach to social work. “I believe that policy and practice inform and sustain one another,” she says. “The program at Penn provides a firm foundation in each.”

This year, Guggenheimer had the opportunity to experience first-hand the interdependence of clinical practice and policy when she served as part of a multi-disciplinary student leadership team at the United Community Clinic (UCC), a Penn student-run free health care clinic operating out of the First African Presbyterian church in West Philadelphia. In this capacity, she collaborated with leadership from several medical disciplines to chart an expansion of the clinic in a way that honored both its mission and the needs of the community. She also checked in frequently with community members to better understand how the clinic could most effectively meet their needs.

Among her priorities was increasing access to health care for residents. To that end, Guggenheimer worked with the church to set up computers at the clinic so patients could fill out Medical Assistance applications on the spot.

She also sought to augment the role of social work in the clinic. “In the past, social workers were primarily responsible for intake,” she said. “While intake is a critical function, I knew that social work could have a greater impact on the clinic and the community at large.” By increasing the number of social workers available at the site at any given time, she enabled her team to provide counseling to patients as well as intake.

In part because of her dedication to the clinic and to the social work profession, Guggenheimer was selected by faculty to receive the *Rosa Wessel* award, which is presented to a meritorious graduating student on the basis of academic exemplary student leadership, innovative activities in the field practicum, and exceptional community service.

While she was flattered to receive the honor, she says the most rewarding aspect of her work in the clinic was the response of leadership from the other medical professions. “I think we were truly able to convey the importance of social work and its significant contribution to the overall health and well being of patients.”



# Master of Science in Nonprofit/ Nongovernmental Organization Leadership

Director **Kenwyn Smith, PhD** Website [www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/npl](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/npl)

For students who are passionate about working for social change, SP2's Master of Science in Nonprofit/Non-Governmental Organization Leadership (NPL Program) offers a wealth of opportunities to develop the organizational and leadership skills necessary to respond effectively to societal challenges in the 21st Century. The comprehensive program includes both core classes and electives and exposes students to the critical elements that support individual growth toward transformational leadership. Classroom experience is bolstered by experiential learning during an 18-20 week Leadership Practicum that allows NPL students to observe leadership in action at local nonprofit organizations and foundations.

To be considered for the program, applicants must have a minimum of two to three years of post undergraduate work experience, which could include a traditional job, military service, the Peace Corps, Teach for America or even an internship. "We look for a diverse cadre of individuals who are deeply committed to social transformation, social justice and social impact," says Associate Director Eric Ashton, J.D.

This year's students represent a unique mix of professional backgrounds, interests, ethnicities and nationalities, including students from Taiwan, India, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, Brazil and Russia as well those who are life-long Philadelphians. This diversity ensures that students benefit from a broad range of perspectives and ideas, which is central to the program's design. "We believe our students should be co-educators in their collective education and we expect them to share their wide range of knowledge, experience and expertise," says Ashton. "Unlike the traditional competitive graduate school model, where students excel by doing better than their peers, our students look out for one another and help each other succeed. As a result, their learning is more cohesive and collaborative."

Established in 2005, the NPL Program was initially offered solely on a full-time basis and required students to complete 10 courses within an academic calendar year. However this year, the program welcomed its first cohort of six part-time students, evenly split between men and women.

"The part-time option makes the concept of a Penn degree accessible and affordable to a wider group of local individuals," says Ashton. Part of our mission is to inspire and empower local talent to make a radical difference in the surrounding community and facilitate the development of local leaders to be a conduit for social change."

While increased interest in the NPL Program has led to growth—the part-time cohort is expected to double next year—Ashton says the faculty is committed to maintaining the integrity and cohesiveness of this small individualized learning program. "Leadership for social change is an idea that sounds good in theory but can be hard to conceptualize. With a small group of highly motivated students, we have the ability to really grapple with this concept and its many implications both for organizations and society as a whole."

"Leadership for social change is an idea that sounds good in theory but can be hard to conceptualize."

Student Highlight **Gabriela Ruhman Mifano, NPL '10**

## Blending Business and Social Change

"...barriers between the non-profit and business sectors are blurring."

A wide selection of interesting courses taught by exceptional faculty are only part of what makes the NPL program a dynamic learning environment. The other part of the equation is the students themselves, who represent a rich diversity of backgrounds and experiences. Gabriela R. Mifano, a Brazilian with a business background, is one such student who brings a unique perspective to the program.

Before coming to Penn, Mifano worked at the Brazilian financial market with credit analysis and equity research. When she and her boyfriend (who is now her husband) first contemplated post graduate education in the United States, Mifano assumed she'd apply for an MBA program.

"I had always dreamt about working for social change, but I thought it was something I would do later in life," she explained. However, when she saw how significantly her life was already changing by giving up her job and coming to the States, she realized that this was the time to pursue her dream.

Mifano first learned about the NPL program on the Internet and after talking with NPL Associate Program Director, Eric Ashton, she knew it would be a good fit. "I like the fact that the program focuses on leadership and that it helps you to develop a mix of practical and theoretical skills," she says. "For example, we learned strategic planning and accounting but we also learned about group dynamics and cross-sector collaboration."

She also appreciated being able to personalize the program based on her interests. NPL students can take three electives anywhere at Penn, and Mifano chose to use that opportunity to bolster her business acumen by taking classes at Wharton.

Now, Mifano plans to merge what she learned in the program with her financial background. "One of the things the program really emphasizes is that the barriers between the non-profit and business sectors are blurring," she says. "There are so many emerging opportunities for cross-sector work such as social enterprises, corporate social responsibility and social investing."

Mifano experienced the intersection of the corporate and non-profit sector first hand when she returned to Brazil in the summer to work at an organization making low interest loans to non-profits and businesses with a social mission. She also participated in the Wharton International Volunteer Program, a non-profit, student-run organization that uses its members' business skills to benefit those in need throughout the world. Through the program, which sends teams of students overseas to work on development projects in emerging economies, Mifano spent two weeks in Singapore consulting with Impact Investment Exchange Asia, a new stock exchange for social enterprises.

Mifano and her husband will return to Philadelphia in the fall so he can complete his MBA. While her long-term plans are still uncertain, she feels the program has well prepared her for a wealth of possibilities. "The program really opened my mind. It planted seeds that will help me to continue to grow throughout my life."



# Master of Science in Social Policy

Director **Roberta Rehner Iversen, MSS, PhD** Website [www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/mssp](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/mssp)

Established in 2006, the Master of Science in Social Policy (MSSP) was designed for students who are interested in shaping, analyzing and evaluating policy at the local, national and international level. The 11-month program spans three semesters of study and includes seven core courses, three electives and an internship. It also includes the two-semester Capstone Seminar, which helps students integrate theory and practice of social policy analysis; formulate a plan for conducting a graduate-level analysis of a social policy issue; and facilitate preparation of a policy analysis thesis.

To further expose students to policy making in action, this year a field trip to Washington, D.C. was incorporated into the Capstone Seminar. The trip included several opportunities to engage with professionals from across the spectrum of the policy arena. In the morning, students attended a legislative panel discussion with a staff member from Senator Jay Rockefeller's office as well as staff from the Finance, Ways and Means, and Minority Committees. The afternoon featured a panel of advocates including representatives from the Center for the Study of Social Policy; Mental Health and Child Welfare of the Children's Defense Fund; The Rebecca Project for Human Rights; the American Public Human Services Association; and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. The day concluded with a dinner with MSSP alumni working in various aspects of policy in think tanks, nonprofits and on Capitol Hill.

In addition to coursework, students have the opportunity to practice their policy analysis skills and gain work experience through a 6-8 week summer internship. This year's students will be working at a range of organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union, the Pennsylvania Prison Society and FELS research and consulting group.

According to Associate Director Caroline Wong, a key goal of the program is promoting more humane and equitable responses to the needs of historically vulnerable population groups. Thus the program strives to develop leaders who have the analytical skills to affect policy at a systemic level. "We tell our students it is important to recognize the global impact of policy as opposed to how it affects an immediate group," she says. "Unless you can see the bigger picture, you run the risk of making policy that may benefit certain groups but disenfranchise others."

"Unless you can see the bigger picture, you run the risk of making policy that may benefit certain groups but disenfranchise others."



Student Highlight **Kalen Flynn, MSW '09, MSSP Candidate**

## Promoting Positive Policies

"What I learned about social work theory and the underpinnings of the profession, as well as the hands on experience I gained in my field placement, are invaluable for legislative work."

After receiving her undergraduate degree from St. Joseph's University, Philadelphian Kalen Flynn planned to enter law school but decided instead to volunteer for a year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Oakland, California. Her work as a case manager for youth in gangs who were aging out of foster care was challenging, her lack of social work training left her feeling unprepared. She was also frustrated by bureaucratic policies that impeded her ability to meet the needs of the young people she served. Rather than accept the status quo, she established an organizing group to help the youth advocate for themselves at the state level.

Flynn then accepted a job teaching high school in Boston but was again disheartened by the way bureaucracy and red tape affected student outcomes. For example, although many students had behavioral issues, there were no social workers at the school to help them.

These firsthand experiences with the tangible effects of poor policy on practice led Flynn to consider a career in social work with a concentration in policy. She chose Penn in part because she was intrigued by the school's Center on American Racism. "Every system is riddled with institutional racism and it is critical that all policy makers consider the profound implications of that racism on both policy and practice," she says.

Flynn decided to pursue a dual MSW/MSSP degree because while her primary focus is policy, she felt it was important to have a strong foundation in social work. "What I learned about social work theory and the underpinnings of the profession, as well as the hands on experience I gained in my field placement, are invaluable for legislative work," she says.

Having wrapped up her coursework, Flynn is preparing for her internship, which will build on work she began during her MSW field placement at the Juvenile Law Center (JLC). For that project she helped write a model policy for diversion of youth with mental health issues.

"In 2007 the JLC surveyed every county in the commonwealth and found that a majority had no formal diversion policies for youth with mental health or substance abuse issues," she explains. As a result, many enter the juvenile justice system—despite the fact that they don't belong there—because it is the only way they can get services."

The policy Flynn helped write aims to ensure that diversion is uniformly available to all eligible youth. In the summer of 2010, Flynn returned to the JLC in an effort to implement the policy in two counties and worked with district attorneys, public defenders, judges and probation officers to help them better understand what an effective diversion program might look like.



Flynn is particularly interested in researching the impact of policy. Last summer, she took part in an eight-week internship with Africare in Rwanda helping to evaluate a USAID program. The program, which provided food to women with HIV in a district consisting of 50 villages, required women to learn farming techniques and to learn about nutrition. It also helped them establish a microbusiness selling the food they grew. Flynn's work involved conducting interviews with residents of the villages to determine if they would be able to sustain themselves after the program ended. She discovered that the women had become so self sufficient that they were able to sell the USAID donations, because they had grown enough of their own food.

For Flynn, who is fascinated by how growing economies address issues of sustainability, the internship provided an extraordinary opportunity. Upon completing her Masters, she hopes to continue to be involved in evaluating international programs and believes the analytical skills and hands-on experience she has gained at Penn will help her achieve her goals.

# Doctorate in Clinical Social Work

Director Lina Hartocollis, PhD Website [www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/dsw](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/dsw)



Three years ago, SP2 broke new ground by offering the first and only professional practice degree in the country. Geared toward working professionals, the Clinical Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) was designed to fill the gap between the research-oriented PhD and the needs of the social work practice and teaching worlds.

According to Director Lina Hartocollis PhD, the idea behind the DSW was to offer a practical doctorate for clinicians that is different in its intent and design than the traditional PhD. The result is an intensive, accelerated program in which students are expected to complete their coursework and dissertation in three years.

Because all of the students continue to practice while pursuing their degrees, the program is designed somewhat like an executive education model. During the first year, students attend one afternoon/evening a week. By the second year, they are on-site only one long weekend a month, at which time they participate in intensive

modules from Thursday evening through Saturday. In the interim, they complete reading and projects on-line.

“Initially, there was some concern as to whether the students would be able to juggle the competing demands of practice, family responsibilities, long commutes and dissertation work in order to complete the program within the three year timeframe,” says Hartocollis. “But these students surpassed our expectations.”

Not only did the first cohort successfully complete their coursework and dissertations to graduate on time, they took on even greater challenges along the way including the conception and publication of a high-quality Clinical DSW newsletter. In addition, the group has produced articles and dissertations that are garnering attention from Penn Faculty as well as academics and practitioners nationwide.

According to Hartocollis, the graduates’ dissertations focus on timely topics that are extremely relevant for clinicians and make an immediate contribution to the practice field. For example, one graduate worked at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, examining the unmet needs of the families of patients in intensive care from a social work perspective. As result of her work, the facility has already changed some of its policies to allow families to be more involved in the care of their loved ones.

While one graduate has obtained a full-time position on the standing faculty at a local university, Hartocollis says the intent of the DSW is not to prepare students

for typical academic careers. Most of the students plan to combine part-time teaching while maintaining clinical positions.

With the success of its first graduating cohort, Hartocollis and her team are now in the process of developing a proposal for a combined MSW/DSW program. The new program would allow students to begin the first year of their DSW while simultaneously completing the second year of their MSW. They would then complete two years of supervised work experience in the field, after which they would finish the final two years of the DSW.

A distance learning model of the program, expected to launch in the fall of 2012, is also in the pipeline. According to Hartocollis, the unique nature of the DSW and its exemplary faculty are attracting exceptionally strong applicants from as far away as Maine and Florida. With distance learning, the majority of work will be completed online, with occasional on-site modules, enabling students from throughout the country to take advantage of this one-of-a-kind program.

“The idea behind the DSW was to offer a practical doctorate for clinicians that is different in its intent and design than the traditional PhD.”

Student Highlight Eric Stein, DSW '10

## Distinguished DSW

“I wanted to be able to highlight the importance of organizational context issues and how they affect services.”

Eric Stein, this year’s recipient of the Dr. Ram Cnaan Award for Distinguished DSW Student, personifies the hybrid clinician/teacher/scholar for which the DSW was designed. A licensed social worker who is currently employed as a therapist at a mental health clinic, Eric has over ten years experience working in human services in both clinical and administrative capacities.

Since completing his MSW at Penn in 2003, Stein has worked as a clinical therapist in a community mental health clinic where he has experienced firsthand many of the challenges faced by social service agencies. He was particularly struck by a recurring phenomenon called the dilution of family process in public agencies, an issue he had first begun to ponder while working on his Masters.

“Frequently, when families who are experiencing chaos become involved with public agencies, their situation becomes more chaotic, and the agency takes on functions that the family could be handling themselves,” he explains. “Often the frontline worker is not even aware this is occurring, but as a result, rather than helping clients become more self sufficient, they are creating greater dependency.”

Stein, who worked for several years in administration at community-based agencies, had a strong interest in organizational theory. He decided to pursue a DSW in part because he wanted to better understand this phenomenon from an organizational standpoint. “I wanted to be able to highlight the importance of organizational context issues and how they affect services,” he says.

The flexible design of the DSW was a perfect fit for Stein who wanted to continue to work while pursuing his doctorate. He has also been impressed with the quality of the faculty involved in his program and appreciates the opportunity to learn from seasoned clinicians, such as Sandra Bloom, who share his interest in organizational context. In fact, it was Bloom’s work that provided greater clarity on the issue of dilution of family process.

“Sandra Bloom talks about organizational parallel process, in which conflict occurring in one location has a tendency to show up elsewhere,” he says. “For example, if fragmentation is occurring at upper levels of an organization, it can have a corresponding effect on frontline workers without their conscious recognition that this is happening. By the same token, issues experienced by clients and communities can impact agencies in unseen ways, as well.”

For his dissertation, Stein is interview-



ing clients at community mental health organizations to better understand their experience and how they perceive the services they receive. His research builds on work begun by the Center for Psychotherapy Research, which has collected a great deal of data from community mental health organizations. He hopes that the dissertation will help public agencies recognize, and therefore avoid, organizational triggers that can negatively impact services.

In 2009, Stein also began teaching Human Behavior in the Social Environment, which he has enjoyed immensely. Teaching is something I had wanted to try for a long time and after some initial jitters, I really embraced it,” he says. “It is something I hope to continue to do in the future.”



# PhD in Social Welfare

Director Susan B. Sorenson, PhD Website [www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/phd](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/phd)

SP2's Doctoral Program in Social Welfare (PhD) is one of the world's most esteemed, interdisciplinary programs that prepares students to be scholars, researchers, and leaders in the field. The program has an excellent reputation and emphasizes the development of an individualized educational plan that builds on areas of faculty expertise and student interest, and advances the knowledge development needs of the field. The goal of the program is to train scholars, and it is geared for people interested in the pursuit of intellectual and scientific inquiry.

The end of the 2009 academic year also marked the end of an era for the PhD program. After six great years, Ram Cnaan, MSW, PhD and Associate Dean for Research, concluded his term as Chair. During his term, Dr. Cnaan provided the program with direction, guidance and support. His door was always open and students knew that they could turn to him for anything, whether academic or personal. Susan B. Sorenson, PhD, is assuming the Chair position in the fall. Dr. Sorenson also is a professor of Social Policy & Practice, a professor of Health & Societies, a Senior Fellow in Public Health, Director of the Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence, and Chairperson of the Student Policy & Procedures Committee.

Congratulations are due to the following, recent graduates:

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL WELFARE

**May 17, 2010**

Jason C. Matejkowski

*"Differential Treatment" of Persons with Severe Mental Illness in Parole Release Decisions?*

**August 14, 2009**

Tae Kuen Kim

*Impact of Income Transfers on Poverty Reduction Among the Working Poor in Korea*

**December 22, 2009**

Brian Coleman

*Post-Conversion Experiences of African-American Male Sunni Muslims: Community Integration and Masculinity In Twenty-First Century Philadelphia*

Karen Ann Zurlo

*The Mediating Effects of the Sense of Control on the Financial Well-Being of Older Adults*

"I consider myself quite fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of the intellectually dynamic and enriching environment that exists at SP2" - Thomas, current PhD student

Student Highlight Maayan Schori, MSW, PhD Candidate

## A FamilyAffair

"My mentor and the entire faculty at SP2 have been extremely accessible and helpful. I never run into a closed door when I need anything."

For Israeli Maayan Schori, social work runs in the family. Both of her parents, her aunt and her husband are all practicing social workers. In fact, 20 years ago, her father brought his family to the U.S. to complete his PhD at what was then called the Penn School of Social Work. Thus, when Schori began to consider coming to the U.S. with her young family for a PhD program, it seemed only natural for her to choose Penn's School of Social Policy & Practice.

Like her father, Schori's focus is addiction and before she left Israel, the two frequently worked together. Now she has begun research for a dissertation on factors that affect how substance abuse treatment programs adopt new practices. More specifically, she is examining harm reduction—a set of practical strategies that reduce negative consequences of drug use by addressing the conditions of use along with the use itself—through the lens of organizational theory.

"For a long time, the U.S. has operated under either a moral model that insists substance abuse is bad and must be punished or a medical model that views substance abuse as a disease that must be cured," she says. Harm reduction takes a non-judgmental stance. It meets substance abusers where they are while aiming to minimize the harmful effects their drug use.

According to Schori, many countries have recognized the benefits of harm reduction, in large part because strategies such as needle exchange proved to be successful in reducing HIV infection among intravenous drug users. Yet the U.S. has been slow to adopt the harm reduction model. One reason, of course, is lack of resources. Despite evidence of effectiveness, for many years, the federal government denied funding to harm reduction programs because it was felt that these programs condoned illegal drug use. Schori also notes that it is much more difficult for agencies to get licensing and accreditation for harm reduction programs.

But there are other reasons the model has not been adopted, including lack of awareness. As part of her research, Schori interviewed directors of substance abuse treatment centers throughout Philadelphia and found many did not even know what harm reduction is. "Many organizations have a limited view," she says. "For example, it is not uncommon for staff at substance abuse treatment facilities to be former substance users who have been helped by the recovery model. These individuals tend to believe recovery is the only model that can be effective."



While Schori does not dispute that recovery is a viable and extremely effective model for some people, she believes it should be part of a larger continuum that includes a host of strategies from recovery, to managed use, to needle exchange. She hopes that in addition to providing a new lens from which to view organizational factors affecting substance abuse treatment programming, her dissertation will contribute to a growing body of research that advocates for expansion of the harm reduction model.

# International Programs

Director Irene Wong, PhD Website [www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/international](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/programs/international)

For SP2 students seeking to broaden their own world view, international programs provide an opportunity to learn about the global dimensions of social work and social welfare issues, problems and practices. The school offers a variety of Study Abroad programs with colleges and universities around the world, as well as an international exchange program, which allows students to develop customized, independent research projects.

In the past two years, the SP2 International Exchange Program has sent four students abroad to undertake independent field research projects of their own design. All four students received partial travel grants from the Student International Travel Fund established by SP2 in 2007.

Huiqan (Mary) Zhou (PhD '12) traveled to both Coastal and Western China to prepare a formal case study of the emergence of an exemplary nongovernmental organization in the People's Republic.

Patience Ajoff (NPL '09) traveled to the East Africa to examine the roles of women in the development of Cameroon and Liberia, particularly their leadership positions in non-government organizations (NGOs).

Melanie Ficke (MSW '10) undertook a comparative analysis of interpersonal and domestic violence toward women in the United States and Ghana. In 2007, Ghana passed a law, which for the first time not only defined domestic violence, but made it illegal. Ficke sought to determine whether the law was being enforced and what, if any, affect it had on the lives of Ghanaian women.

Rachel John (MSW '10) joined with students from the University of North Carolina on a three-week study tour of South Africa with a special focus on the HIV/AIDS pandemic effecting children and adults in that country. This project enabled her to investigate social services provided in post apartheid South Africa and to learn about the people, culture and rich history of this diverse nation.

In addition to providing a wide range of travel opportunities, SP2 seeks to expose students at home to a rich array of cultures and customs by hosting international scholars. During the past year, as part of a professorial exchange, Prof. Kang Chul Hee of Yonsei University and Hans Uwe-Otto of the University of Bielefeld served as SP2 visiting professors. Professors from SP2 also taught courses at Yonsei University, as well as Kyung Hee University as part of that University's summer Global Collaborative (GC). Kyung Hee University's collaborative brings together more than 500 faculty members and students from throughout the world to focus on a wide range of development issues related to East Asia.

In coming years, SP2 will further expand its international activities. Among other initiatives, the School will augment its outreach efforts within the North American and Caribbean regions as well as in Asia and Africa. Additionally, more students are expected to participate in both formal and informal programs of educational and research exchange while faculty members will continue to forge relationships with their international colleagues through conferences, collaborative teaching and joint research projects.

“In addition to the indisputable professional benefits of studying and working abroad, the personal benefits are nothing short of life changing. Thanks to my experiences living abroad, I have learned to respect people's differences and to reserve judgement.”

-Renee, MSW, '08

# Penn SP2 Launches Penn-China Civil Society Initiative

Dean Richard Gelles and Tianxue Qiu, 2009 graduate of Penn SP2's Nonprofit/NGO Leadership Program, visited China in summer 2010 to launch the Penn-China Civil Society Initiative. Tianxue and a group of her fellow students had the idea to position Penn SP2 as a key advisor and participant in the developing non-governmental (NGO) sector in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Via a generous grant from the prestigious Henry Luce Foundation, this idea has become a reality.

In the PRC, development of NGOs lags significantly behind rapid economic development. This is an historic moment for the nonprofit, civil society sector in China. As a result of the 2008 earthquake and the Olympic Games in Beijing, the country has experienced unprecedented and public philanthropic activity. Consequently, the Chinese government has a growing interest in the civil society sector and its importance. Officials are anxious to begin setting up sound policies, administrative procedures, guidelines for implementation, and regulations to help the sector grow. Regulations and policies relating to this sector will be under consideration by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Legal Office of State Council, with a goal to create a body of civil society laws, along with appropriate administrative structure and regulations by 2013.

The Penn-China Civil Society Initiative will be implemented over an 18-month period, with seminars in the US and China. Penn's contribution will draw from expertise in Wharton, Law and Medicine, as well as from SP2.

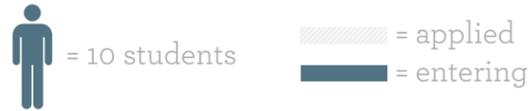
Tianxue will be the project's co-coordinator in the US, housed at Penn SP2. Tianxue graduated in May 2009. She also earned her MBA at the Thunderbird International Management School. She has over 10 years experience in both profit and non-profit sectors, and worked as Advocacy Director at Save the Children in China before she came to Penn SP2.

Shang Lifu, the Associate Director at Philanthropic Research Center in the Social Development and Public Policy School at Beijing Normal University, will be the co-coordinator in China.

With the Penn-China Civil Society Initiative, SP2 has embraced the values of integrating knowledge among the University's disciplines to extend its reach globally. SP2 also will add to Penn's knowledge base as the School learns from the pioneers in this extraordinary development of the non-profit sector in China.

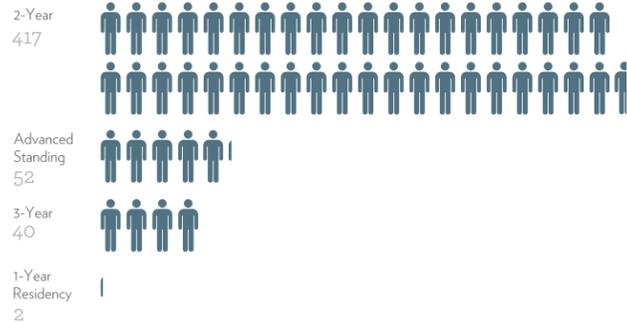


## 2009/2010 Student Data

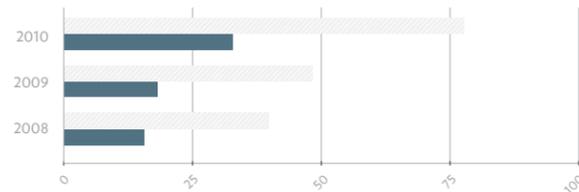


### MSW Applicants

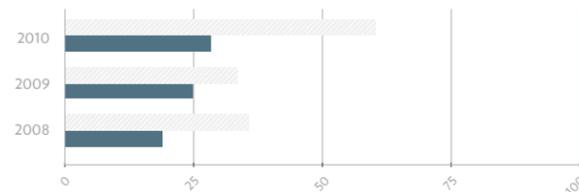
Academic Year (2010/2011)



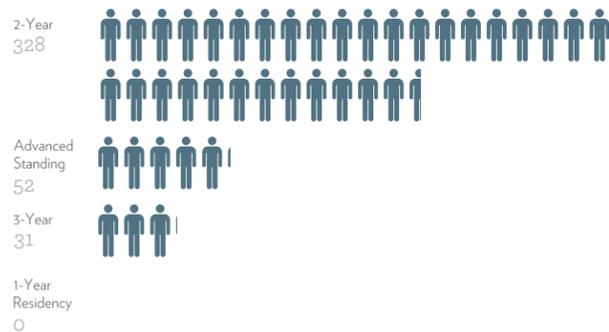
### MSSP 3-Year Admissions Trends



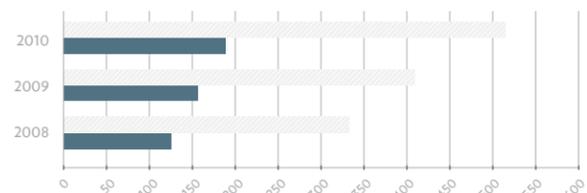
### NPL 3-Year Admissions Trends



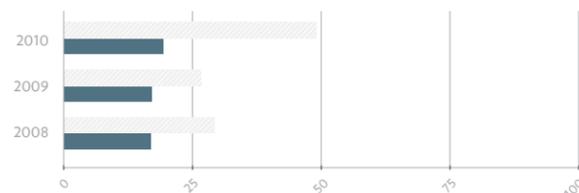
Academic Year (2009/2010)



### MSW 3-Year Admissions Trends



### DSW 3-Year Admissions Trends



Centennial Point No. 3

*By February 1934 the Trustees of the Pennsylvania School had agreed upon “a basis for negotiation with the University of Pennsylvania for the affiliation of the School with the University.”*

*The enrollment for 1934-35 was as follows:*

<i>First year</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>Second year</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Advanced curriculum</i>	<i>34</i>



# Student Life

Students enjoy the best of both worlds at SP2 – the comforts and advantages of a small, nurturing community and the treasure trove of activities and resources of a larger University. SP2’s students are its “heart beat,” and play a vital role in shaping the School’s culture, policies, and future.

## Graduation 2010



Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the 47th Vice President of the United States, was SP2's 2010 Commencement Speaker. When Biden addressed the family and friends who attended SP2's ceremony, he spoke with passion about the challenges facing the newly minted graduates, and predicted with characteristic optimism that they would be up to the task. His daughter Ashley joined him briefly on stage to receive her master's of social work degree.

"What drew you to Penn is totally consistent with the mission statement of the prestigious graduate school: that is the pursuit of social justice. For social justice to reign, there must be a mechanism to restrain the abuse of power. Equally there must be opportunities for the most disadvantaged among us to be empowered with the tools and confidence to be able to meet their potential, to have a fighting chance to live an independent and meaningful life."

Speaking to the graduating students he added, "Having gotten to know some of the you already, the thing I love about all of you is that you believe in possibilities. The possibility that you can make things better. That's the fuel that has ignited all progressive social change in this country's history."

"My guess is that most if not all of you will never lose that optimism. You know how it feels to empower someone. You've seen inmates in the prison system, and helped them prepare for days when they have paid society's debt. You've worked to make the homeless more self-reliant. You've provided needed services for veterans returning home from combat, broken."

Looking back at his own life of political service, Biden recalled how, as a young public defender in 1968, he would go down

to the train station in Wilmington, Del., "where the National Guard was stationed with drawn bayonets on every corner because my city was in flames." Fast-forward to January 17, 2009 when Biden stood on that same platform waiting to travel to Washington and be sworn in as Vice President.

"I waited to be picked up by a black man, who 40 years ago would not have been able to stand at that platform in that environment." In a voice charged with emotion, he added: "So ladies and gentlemen: don't tell me there's not change."

"I'm optimistic, because the history of this country warrants being optimistic," he added. "I'm optimistic because I know you. Because the thread that runs between my generation and your is an understanding of this truth: we have the power to change as long as we're able to empower the people."

Biden concluded by quoting his mother, who passed away last year. "If she were standing here today she'd say 'You're about to do God's work.' So go do it, and do it well. Keep your optimism, continue to believe in the possibilities. Because there is nothing that is beyond your capacity to change. Nothing."

*Portions of article reprinted with permission of The Pennsylvania Gazette.*

## Graduation Awards 2009 - 2010

### DR. RAM CNAAN AWARD

**Kielty Turner (2009)**

**Eric Stein (2010)**

This award is presented to a meritorious student in the clinical Doctorate in Social Work program who has successfully completed preliminary examinations.

### HAL LEVIN AWARD

**Sungkyu Lee, Maayan Schori (2009)**

**Julie Tennille (2010)**

This award is presented to a meritorious student in the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare program who is continuing the process of completing course work.

### DEAN'S AWARD FOR SOCIAL POLICY EXCELLENCE

**Sara Ansell (2009)**

**Kalen Flynn (2010)**

This award is presented to a graduating student in the Master of Science in Social Policy program who has demonstrated excellence and a commitment to scholarship, policy advocacy and social change, citizenship, and the shaping of social policy locally, nationally, and/or globally.

### EMERGING LEADER AWARD

**Kathleen Malliarakis (2009)**

**Amber Cameron (2010)**

This award is presented to a graduating student in the Nonprofit/NGO Leadership Program who has demonstrated excellence in the areas of collaboration, motivation, community building, integrity, innovation and leadership, while exhibiting significant growth and maturity as a student at the School of Social Policy & Practice.

### ROSA WESSEL AWARD

**Elizabeth Dailey, Laurent Willner (2009)**

**Laura Guggenheimer (2010)**

This award is presented to a meritorious graduating student who is selected on the basis of academic performance and one or more of the following: exemplary student leadership, innovative activities in the field practicum, and exceptional community service.

### RICHARD J. ESTES GLOBAL

**CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

**Mikaela Levons (2010)**

This award is presented to a graduating student in the Nonprofit/NGO Leadership Program who embodies the best of her generation: a vibrant mind, an inclusive heart, and a soaring spirit. She places collective well-being above self-interest, strives to make adversaries into allies, seeks to unlock the untapped capacities latent in all things, and recognizes that every moment is pregnant with transformative possibility.

### DR. RUTH SMALLEY AWARD IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE

**Esther Reyes (2009)**

**Melanie Ficke (2010)**

This award is presented to the member of the graduating class who, through their writing, participation in class discussions, and experience, has demonstrated an interest in, and a working knowledge of, the international and cultural dimensions of social work practice, and the application of practice to research.

### NICOLE GANT ALUMNI COUNCIL LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Annie Funke (2009)**

**Kelly Winters (2010)**

This award is given to a graduating student who, through their participation in School activities and support of the School's mission, has been a leader in the SP2 community and contributed to the advancement of the School of Social Policy & Practice during their time as a student.

### EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS IN THE MSW PROGRAM

*Standing Faculty*

**Roberta Rehner Iversen (2009)**

**Damon Freeman (2010)**

*Part-time Faculty*

**David Wohlsifer (2009)**

**Kerry Dunn (2010)**

The Excellence in Teaching Award in the

MSW Program is presented to both a standing faculty member and a part-time faculty member in recognition by the MSW student body of excellence in teaching.

### JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN COMBATING AMERICAN RACISM AWARDS PRESENTED BY BLACK MEN AT PENN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, INC.

**(2009)**

**Kevin Douglas**

**Nahla Eltantawy**

**Kalen Flynn**

**Michelle Isaac-Doherty**

**Hannah Jones**

**Lynn McGregor**

**Noel Ramirez**

**Stefanie Rubin**

**George Werner**

**(2010)**

**Anastasia Barron**

**Ashley Biden**

**Jeanette Bowles**

**Karen Bush**

**Kalene DeHaut**

**Christine Kim**

**Lauren McLaughlin**

**Katherine Miller**

**Alisha Nash**

**Jamee Roberts**

**Robin Young**

**Lauren Woodfork**

The John Hope Franklin Combating American Racism Awards are given to students who have demonstrated an understanding of American racism and a commitment to fight against racism and other forms of discrimination.

*Vice President Joseph Biden, Jr. with Dr. Amy Gutman, PhD, President, University of Pennsylvania*



## Classes Contribute to Caster

### 2009 and 2010 Class Gifts

For the classes of 2009 and 2010, the class gift campaign was a way to acknowledge how SP2 has helped shape both their personal and professional development. Following in the tradition of previous class gift campaigns, which made the student lounge and the Caster basement renovations possible, the classes of 2009 and 2010's efforts will enhance the School for future generations of students.

The Class of 2009 dedicated the use of their gift for the creation of a student study space in the Caster building. The space includes soft lighting, a long study table, comfortable seating, magazines such as "Social Work Today," office supplies, and a white board. In addition to offering a room in which to meet and study with fellow students, the space provides an alternative to the bustling and busy 2nd floor lodge.

The Class of 2010's gift will leave a lasting first impression. This class chose to complement the School's recently erected donor recognition and historical memento—the Centennial Wall—by mounting letters beside it that say "School of Social Policy & Practice." The pewter, raised letters will enhance the newly renovated lobby's contemporary look.

The last two class gift campaigns collectively have raised over \$11,000 toward improvements for the Caster Building. Equally as important is the tradition of giving that the students have established to recognize the impact that their SP2 education has, and will continue to make throughout their alumni careers.

## Pauline Shaw Holsaert Research Colloquium Series

This year SP2 launched the Pauline Shaw Holsaert Research Colloquium Series, which provided a forum for faculty and students to learn and exchange ideas about new and cutting-edge social work and social welfare research. In its first year, the series featured a diverse range of topics presented by leading scholars from SP2, the Penn community, and other institutions throughout the US and internationally, including:

**Statistical Security for Social Security**, presented by Samir Soneji, University of Pennsylvania Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar

**Is There a Psychiatric Bed Crisis?: A Study Of Psychiatric Capacity In Pennsylvania**, presented by Aileen Rothbard, SP2, Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research

**The Role of Race in Forecasts of Violent Crime**, presented by Richard Berk, University of Pennsylvania, Departments of Statistics & Criminology

**Does Money Buy Happiness?**, presented by Arthur Brooks, American Enterprise Institute

**Evidence-Based Practice: Modernizing the Knowledge Base of Social Work?**, presented by Hans-Uwe Otto, Bielefeld University, Germany, Center for Education & Capability Research

**A Prevention-Centered Approach to Homelessness: A Paradigm Shift? The conceptual framework underlying the Obama Administration's new homelessness prevention initiative**, presented by Dennis Culhane, SP2

**Evaluating Peer Networking Meetings and Participant Outcomes in Out-Of-School Time: Overview And Findings**, presented by Nancy Peter and Lisa Colby, SP2, Out-of-School Time Resource Center

**The World Social Situation: Dilemmas in Development At The Outset Of A New Century**, presented by Richard Estes and Mary Zhou, SP2

**Canada's Health Care System: Fact and Fiction**, presented by Ernie Lightman, University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work

**Context Matters: The Impact of CIT on Outcomes in Chicago**, presented by Amy Watson, University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams College of Social Work

**The Third Lie: Why Government Programs Don't Work**, presented by Richard Gelles, Dean, School of Social Policy & Practice

**High Impact Philanthropy in the Downturn: Focus on Housing, Health & Hunger**, presented by Katherina Rosqueta & Carol McLaughlin, SP2, Center for High Impact Philanthropy



# Research Centers

SP2 helps advance more effective and efficient human services through its cutting edge research centers. The pursuit of social justice is at the heart of research in areas such as child welfare and family violence, while other research focuses on defining the efficient frontier of philanthropy or supporting staff who support children and youth.

# Defining the Efficient Frontier of Philanthropy

Program Center for High Impact Philanthropy

Over the past two years, the nation has faced a devastating economic crisis. Thousands have been unemployed, struggling to keep their homes, feed their families, and more. Fortunately, some philanthropists have stepped up to offer help for those who are suffering. However, many need information in order to transform their good intentions into meaningful impact.

Enter the Center for High Impact Philanthropy (CHIP). Housed at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice, CHIP was established by alumni of the Wharton School, who were frustrated by the difficulty of measuring and maximizing the impact of their charitable gifts.

“Philanthropists can be a part of the solution by supporting programs that are known to be effective.”

To help fill this void, CHIP provides information and decision-making tools that help donors understand where their funds can have the greatest social impact. By focusing on what is both actionable & evidence-based, the Center aims to define the efficient frontier of philanthropy, where nonprofit financing is not input-driven, or client-driven, but impact-driven.

CHIP's comprehensive guides provide timely information that address current events. For example, in November 2009, CHIP released “High Impact Philanthropy in the Downturn: Focus on Housing, Health, and Hunger (A Guide for Donors).” The guide targeted three opportunities where donor investments can translate into significant impact; preventing foreclosures, sustaining primary and preventative health care programs, and ensuring access to food.

More recently in response to the earthquake in Haiti, CHIP released its latest investment guide, “Haiti: How Can I Help? Models for Donors Seeking Long-Term Impact.” The guide focuses on health, livelihoods and education, and points to solutions where charitable dollars could make the biggest difference.

“Haiti: How Can I Help?” illustrates sustainable, high-impact models for donors to fund, all of which have been operating on the ground in Haiti, and it provides cost-per-impact estimates for each philanthropic opportunity.

“For \$25 per person, there are health systems that dramatically decrease child death rates,” Katherina Rosqueta, the Center's executive director, said. “For \$90 a year, there are agriculture models that produce more food and increase a farmer's income while regenerating Haiti's deforested soil. These are the kind of high-impact opportunities we found can have a lasting effect after the headlines have faded.”

To help potential donors understand where high-impact opportunities exist, the Center's multi-disciplinary team researched effective models and compiled background information to provide independent, objective and practical advice for donors who wish to move from simply having good intentions to actually making an impact. They found that although Haiti's poverty existed long before the Jan. 12 earthquake, the nation's problems can be addressed.

“Philanthropists can be a part of the solution by supporting programs that are known to be effective. The guide outlines ways donors can help Haitians develop the capacity they need to build a brighter future,” Carol McLaughlin, the project leader for the Center's Haiti efforts, said. “By involving affected communities in their own recovery and rebuilding, the models profiled in the guide produce sustained results, positive change that lasts long after you have made a donation.”

Executive Director Katherina M. Rosqueta, MBA  
Website [www.impact.upenn.edu](http://www.impact.upenn.edu)

# Protecting Children - Preserving Dreams

Program The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research

Last year, when the Field Center celebrated its fifth anniversary at the Please Touch Children's Museum, the crowd was enthralled. Not only were they surrounded by the museum's whimsical architecture, they also were impressed by the Center's past accomplishments and excited for its future.

Since then, the Field Center has continued its pioneering efforts to improve the lives of children. For example, in order to promote best practices for using technology to improve child welfare outcomes, the Field Center is hosting a conference on “Confidentiality in Cross-System Information Sharing in Child Welfare.” With renewed support from the New York-based Hite Foundation, in memory of Sybil E. Hite, the conference will convene academic experts, governmental leaders, child/family-serving system representatives, and technology experts to develop national standards of practice.

The Field Center also remains a valued intellectual resource for local, regional, and national organizations. Closest to home, the Philadelphia Department of Human Services has awarded the Center a contract to provide training to its entire 130+ supervisory staff.

In other unique programming, with generous support from Penn alumna Nancy Glickenhau, the Field Center has launched “Project PENN” at the Philadelphia Family

Court. Developed out of Field Center student's research on families awaiting child abuse and neglect proceedings, the goal of Project PENN is to provide families in the courthouse waiting room with access to critical services that address problems that often overwhelm them and place children at risk for harm. SP2 Social Work students provide outreach to parents and offer information and referrals that can address immediate challenges, such as housing, utility assistance, health care, and employment, with the support of an 80-page resource directory developed by the students themselves. If interested, families/individuals can be referred to a particular resource on the spot at Project PENN's office in the court waiting room. Lauded by Philadelphia Family Court leadership, Project PENN tangibly responds to families' needs, while promoting productive use of their time as they wait to be called for their court cases.

“Project PENN is a great example of how the Field Center changes lives through innovate systemic reform,” says Executive Director Debra Schilling Wolfe. “Grounded in research, Project PENN joins Penn students and alumni with the court and child welfare systems to establish a new model of practice that makes a real difference in the lives of families.”

Project PENN is a shining example of the Field Center's outreach into the

community for the benefit of children and families. The Field Center also is expanding its reach via social networking efforts such as Facebook and Twitter. Find the Field Center at [www.facebook.com/fieldcenter](http://www.facebook.com/fieldcenter) (select “like” to follow it!) and follow it on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/fieldcenter](http://www.twitter.com/fieldcenter). The Center posts both updates and critical information of interest to those who care about the welfare of children.

Executive Director  
Debra Schilling Wolfe, MEd

Founding Benefactors  
Marie Field & Joseph Field, C'52

Website  
[www.fieldcenteratpenn.org](http://www.fieldcenteratpenn.org)

# Bridging Family Violence Research to Policy and Practice

Program The Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence

Over the last two decades, the once unspoken issue of family violence has gained visibility and public awareness. But when it comes to addressing this devastating problem, our approach often is based on untested assumptions.

Susan Sorenson, PhD, Director of the Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence, believes that victims of intimate partner violence are better served when our policies and practices are predicated on research. Thus, the Ortner Center helps advocates, service organizations, law enforcement and policy makers utilize data to make informed decisions.

This year, Sorenson and her team of doctoral students were involved in numerous efforts to help these various stakeholders better understand and respond to the issue of domestic violence. Among these efforts is a study by doctoral candidate Manisha Joshi examining the prevalence and effects of strangulation among battered women.

For this study, Joshi conducted interviews and focus groups with 17 women at Philadelphia's sole battered women's shelter, which is operated by Women Against Abuse. Her initial plan was to compare women who had been strangled with a control group of women at the shelter who hadn't been strangled, but of the 22 women who initially agreed to participate in the study, only one had not been strangled. "There simply weren't enough women who hadn't experienced strangulation to form a comparison group, which in itself is a compelling statement on the severity of the problem," says Joshi.

Joshi's work supports previous studies that have challenged several commonly held beliefs about strangulation. For example, many people assume that strangulation always leaves a mark on a woman's neck, but Joshi learned that in close to 50 percent of the assaults, no mark is present. This lack of physical evidence means that many strangulation cases may be less likely to be pursued seriously by the police and that many perpetrators are not prosecuted.

In an effort to help prosecutors better understand the prevalence of strangulation and improve the way family violence cases are prosecuted, Joshi is teaming up with Christopher Mallios, former Chief of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Family Violence & Sexual Assault Unit, to present her research in an upcoming training for prosecutors.

At the same time, another Ortner Center project has helped enhance the way officers collect evidence at domestic violence scenes. To inform the project, Sorenson rode along with police officers responding to domestic violence calls and solicited input from the officers and from battered women. Based on what she learned, the Center developed a checklist that facilitates quick and organized collection of information despite the often chaotic

environment at the crime scene. Moreover, the Philadelphia Police Department is now considering revisions to the domestic violence incident report forms that have been the standard since the 1970's.

This year, the Center also tackled attitudes about who is responsible for sexual assault by sponsoring an art exhibit called *This Is Not An Invitation To Rape Me*. "Throughout the world, women are held responsible for their victimization," says Sorenson. "There is a persistent belief that if a woman is sexually abused she must have done something to encourage it. *This Is Not an Invitation to Rape Me* was designed to challenge that assumption."

Created by Charles Hall, the exhibit featured the work of artists from around the globe, and presented a wide range of images that not only served to shatter misperceptions about the perpetrators of sexual violence, but also broadened understanding about the victims. Now the Center is conducting a systematic evaluation of the exhibit.

Sorenson stresses that students are involved in every aspect of the Center's work. One example is Kristie Thomas, a PhD candidate, who is serving as Assistant Director of the Ortner Center. In this capacity, Thomas has gained hands-on-administrative experience making day-to-day management decisions, planning events, and sorting through priorities.

She also promotes the Center's visibility by speaking about the topic of intimate partner violence and the Center's work at numerous community and University meetings. For example, she spoke at Penn's 2009 "Take Back the Night Event" and presented testimony prepared by Dr. Sorenson on the importance of expert testimony in sexual assault cases before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Majority Policy Committee. For Thomas, who previously worked as a case manager at domestic violence agencies, this opportunity to stay connected to the community is particularly gratifying.

"Since I entered the PhD program, my focus has been on research and writing. Serving as an assistant director has allowed me to keep my finger on the pulse of the domestic violence community and the work on the front lines. It also informs my research, especially the types of questions I want to explore," she says.

Thomas has also been inspired by observing Sorenson network among a cross-section of academic professions including medicine, nursing and sociology. "Her ability to build bridges and make interdisciplinary connections not only enables me to view issues from a broad range of perspectives and but also encourages a more coordinated and intentional response to this complex issue."

Executive Director Susan B. Sorenson, PhD  
 Founding Benefactors Evelyn J. Ortner and Robert Ortner, W'49  
 Website [www.sp2.upenn.edu/ortner](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/ortner)

"When it comes to addressing this devastating problem, our approach often is based on untested assumptions ... victims of intimate partner violence are better served when our policies and practices are predicated on research."

# Supporting Staff who Support Children and Youth

*Program* Out of School Time Resource Center (OSTRC)

Out-of-school time (OST) programs are considered an essential component in Philadelphia's strategy to improve the life chances and outcomes for children and youth. These programs enable young people to develop a myriad of important skills. Evidence also suggests a correlation between frequent attendance in OST activities and increases in academic achievement, school attendance, time spent on homework and extracurricular activities, enjoyment and effort in school, work readiness and avoidance of risky behaviors. However, the value of any OST program depends largely on the quality of the staff and leaders.

SP2's Out-of-School-Time Resource Center (OSTRC) was founded to help ensure that OST program staff throughout Philadelphia have the necessary resources, skills, and competencies to provide high quality programming. It provides staff support and professional development (PD), identifies and coordinates resources, conducts research and evaluation, and recommends changes in practice and policy.

This year, the OSTRC was awarded a contract from the City of Philadelphia Office of Health and Opportunity and overseen by the Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), to strategically coordinate, align, and expand PD opportunities for Philadelphia's OST system. In collaboration with the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania's Center for Youth Development (CYD), the OST PD Project is building a

comprehensive professional development strategy that includes access, quality, collaboration, synchronization, variety, and evaluation.

According to OSTRC Director Nancy Peter, the goal of the OST PD Project is to provide a diverse range of opportunities through which OST staff can advance their skills in working with youth. It includes a coordinated effort to facilitate shared mapping of resources, expertise and need. The project is also providing tangible, low-risk opportunities for local organizations to collaborate, developing "efficiencies of scale" and increasing reciprocal arrangements for resources and services. It is cultivating PD quality improvement by suggesting core staff competencies, providing access to promising practices in PD, and helping organizations evaluate their own staff development. Finally, the OST PD Project is promoting and fostering opportunities for national OST leaders and funders to explore and invest in Philadelphia's OST landscape.

To ensure the program is responsive to the needs of the diverse range of OST program types available in Philadelphia, the OSTRC has assembled a work-group comprised of over 50 organizations to help guide and direct project activities. The workgroup includes representatives from a wide variety of fields including youth development, parks and recreation, fine arts, science and math, museum education, youth sports, and environmental education.

Among the primary objectives of the project, and of the OSTRC in general, is to share access to promising practices in professional development. To that end, it recently launched an online document library containing hundreds of documents sorted into multiple categories and content areas reflecting Philadelphia's draft OST Staff Competencies. In addition, the OSTRC has developed a pilot reciprocal observation program, which enables program staff to visit and observe each other's programs. It also sponsors monthly Peer Networking Meetings, featuring discussions on a range of topics and providing opportunities for OST staff to share resources and develop professional relationships.

In the coming year, the OSTRC will help coordinate a reciprocal training initiative aimed at expanding the range of professional development opportunities available throughout the city by allowing staff from various programs to attend each other's trainings. The Center will also assist with taking the new pilot observation program to scale; refining the set of Draft Staff Competencies in the hope that they will be adopted by the City for use in hiring, training and assessing staff, and enhancing the value of professional development offerings through credentialing and credits.

*Director* Nancy Peter, MEd  
*Website* [www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/ostrc)

# Research on Religion

*Program* Program for Religion and Social Policy Research

The Program for Religion and Social Policy Research (PRSPR) is a research, education, and policy program dedicated to understanding the nexus between organized religion and the provision of social services.

The good works that religious congregations provide in the community are well documented, but less studied is the actual economic value of this work. Yet as federal, state and local governments consider ways of raising revenue, the financial impact of a congregation within a community has increasing relevance.

In 2008, using conceptual valuation methods, PRSPR determined that Philadelphia's 2,120 congregations contribute approximately \$400,000 to the local economy. A paper authored by PRSPR Director Ram Cnaan, PhD, and published in *Public Management Review*, described the work that led to that conclusion. As a result, PRSPR recently received a grant from the William Penn Foundation and Partners for Sacred Places to conduct an empirical study in which data collected from 15 congregations will be analyzed in an effort to translate the value of their good work into financial terms. Cnaan and his team will consider a wide range of factors including whether: neighboring real estate values are rising; area crime rates are falling; the congregation provides education that reduces the burden on public schools; offers food programs; and/or has parks and recreational spaces on its grounds.

According to Cnaan, information about the financial value of congregations will be essential for funders and for government officials considering changes in tax policy. "Many politicians have challenged the tax exempt status of congregations," he says. "However, we need to take into account the value of these congregations to their communities and what might be lost if they leave."

The first phase of this rigorous project—the development of a survey instrument—is already underway. In the summer of 2010, with the help of a MSW student, PRSPR began data collection efforts with the congregations.

Another new PRSPR initiative is a study of the scope and nature of volunteering in the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS), which is known to have the highest level of volunteering in America. The study will investigate the amount and type of volunteer efforts that are occurring and how the Church has managed to sustain such a high level of commitment from members when other religious denominations have not.

Cnaan is working with a former NPL student and a PhD candidate to analyze Mormon congregations in both Philadelphia and Salt Lake City where the Church is located. Having received approval for the study from LDS leadership, they have already begun the first phase of the project, which involves interviews with key members, bishops and other church leadership. Cnaan is currently seeking funding for the next phase, which will more closely examine the volunteer efforts of members.

*Director* Ram Cnaan, PhD  
*Website* [www.sp2.upenn.edu/prspr](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/prspr)

"... we need to take into account the value of these congregations to their communities and what might be lost if they leave."



# Special Projects

Excellent education and personal edification are major tenets of SP2's special projects. Diverse, dynamic educational and research programs reinforce SP2's mission to promote individual learning and well-being.

# Mentoring of Men

## Program Black Men at Penn

Founded in 2002, Black Men at Penn School of Social Work, Inc. (BMAP) was created to be a conduit between the African American community and Penn's School of Social Policy & Practice. The group's mission is to recruit African American males to the profession of social work, and provide a face and voice to the peculiar experiences that Black males face in American society. As the group has grown, that mission has expanded to include mentoring as well as group and individual therapy to youth. BMAP also provides outreach intervention in the areas of violence intervention/prevention, academic achievement, and anti-racism training for urban, suburban, and rural school systems throughout the country.

This year, in an effort to break the cycle of incarceration, which plagues many black and minority communities, Black Men at Penn launched an initiative aimed at providing mentors to youth whose parents are serving time. Working in partnership with FAMILY Inc. (Fostering, Adopting, and Mentoring to Improve the Lives of Youth), the group has matched and monitored mentors with 60 youth to date. The mentors represent a diversity of professions and backgrounds and include social workers, business executives, politicians and blue collar workers. Each has committed to spending at least one hour a week or four hours on a weekend with their mentees for one year participating in a variety of activities such as attending cultural and sporting events, educational campus tours or visiting zoos and museums.

In addition to its work with the youth themselves, BMAP conducts therapeutic groups to help the guardians of these young people address the pressures of their own situation. "Many of these youth are being raised by grandparents or other relatives who thought they were done raising children," says BMAP president, Chad Dion Lassiter. "Suddenly they must cope not only with the fact that their child is in prison, but with the responsibility of raising a grandchild. It can be a considerable mental and financial adjustment. To help ensure they have a support system in place, we provide parenting workshops as well as agency referral when needed."

BMAP also facilitates a weekend prevention group for youth who are already incarcerated to reduce their likelihood of returning to prison. The group, called Cradle to Prison Pipeline Therapeutic Intervention, takes place at the Prison Industrial Complex Center (PICC) and aims to help youth learn to make better choices and find more appropriate ways to deal with their anger and aggression through therapeutic discussion, counseling, and role play.

Promoting cultural understanding and working to reduce incidents of racially motivated violence are also key priorities for BMAP. The group conducts ongoing anti-racism trainings in churches, synagogues, community centers and libraries throughout the city and helps community members better understand the cause and effect of prejudice and cope with events such as police killings, school violence and intimidation that are frequently provoked by racism.



While most of its work is focused on the Philadelphia area, this year BMAP broadened its reach when Lassiter and group vice president, Darin Toliver, traveled to Haiti to provide humanitarian relief to earthquake victims. Working with project Medishare of the University of Miami, they provided trauma counseling, discharge planning, and group therapy sessions for medical professionals suffering from vicarious traumatization. While in Haiti, Lassiter and Toliver also collected ethnographic data in downtown Port au Prince that will enable Penn and the City of Philadelphia to examine best practices around disaster relief efforts.

*President* Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW

*Website* [www.blackmenatpenn.org](http://www.blackmenatpenn.org)

"BMAP's mission is to recruit African American males to the profession of social work, and provide a face and voice to the peculiar experiences that Black males face in American society."

# Arts & Culture as a Catalyst for Social Change

## Program Social Impact of the Arts Project

Since 1994 Social Impact of the Arts Project (SIAP) has conducted research exploring the structure of the creative sector, the dynamics of cultural participation, and the relationship of the arts to community well-being. SIAP leads the field in the development of empirical methods for studying links between cultural engagement, community-building, and neighborhood revitalization.

This year SIAP is focusing on two primary projects. The first builds on the Project's work around arts and culture in immigrant communities. In 2008, SIAP Director Susan Seifert, Professor Mark Stern, and Domenic Vitiello authored a policy brief, which explored whether culture can help engage new immigrants with other social institutions. The brief looks at the role of migrant cultural expression in urban neighborhoods, existing institutional barriers, and how migrants' adaptation to their social marginality is changing "mainstream" culture.

For the next phase of this project, a series of interviews have been conducted with arts providers and immigrant groups. In summer 2010, a group of undergraduates worked with SIAP and conducted mapping of cultural assets in immigrant neighborhoods.

The second project involves a collaboration between SIAP and Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC), a New York-based nonprofit focused on the work lives of artists and arts organizations. The project builds on SIAP's previous

work on "natural" cultural districts, neighborhoods that become unplanned hubs for cultural activities. It will involve the development of a set of case studies on the role of arts and culture in revitalizing urban neighborhoods and will focus on Philadelphia and two other urban centers as yet to be determined. The project is funded by the Ford, Surdna, and Kresge Foundations.

According to Stern, the arts are a force for social cohesion and civic engagement and individuals who participate in the arts are more likely to engage in other civic activities, leading to more stable neighborhoods. This civic engagement leads to secondary benefits including population growth, rising property values, reduction in racial harassment and improved public health indicators.

SIAP's work around the role of arts in urban revitalization has been widely recognized and was recently cited by the chair of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Rocco Landesman in his testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations and a speech to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Stern and Seifert are also participating in a forum about a new initiative, Our Town, which will provide funding in cities throughout the country tied to the role that arts play in economic revitalization and in creating livable sustainable communities. The program has the potential to help breath new life into cities throughout the country.

"Virtually all social impact studies find a consistent set of positive neighborhood effects associated with community arts and culture," says Stern. "Even small scale investments in arts and cultural resources generate significant spill-over effects that contribute to the quality of community life, which in turn can trigger long-term economic benefits."

*Director* Mark J. Stern, PhD

*Website* [www.sp2.upenn.edu/SIAP](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/SIAP)

"Even small scale investments in arts and cultural resources generate significant spill-over effects that contribute to the quality of community life, which in turn can trigger long-term economic benefits."

# Creating a Pipeline of Social Policy and Practice Workers

## Program Pipeline for Promise

In the summer of 2007, SP2 established the Pipeline for Promise Program (P4P) with ten students from the Community College of Philadelphia. The purpose of P4P is to encourage community college students to continue their education, particularly in the fields of social policy and practice, and to create a pipeline of committed social service professionals, who will serve within their own communities and beyond.

P4P is striving to meet this goal by peaking students' interest in the field of social work via courses in social welfare, which they attend free-of-charge on Penn's campus. Students are taught by long-time SP2 adjunct and Community College professor Dr. Anthony Bruno, who created the program and has served as its director since its inception. According to Dr. Bruno, "It is my goal to offer a transformative experience that opens the door to the various professions in the field of social work." In addition to a six-week, rich academic immersion, students enjoy guest speakers and field trips to such places as Philadelphia's Youth Study Center.

P4P is funded by a generous grant from Claire Lomax, C'84 (Penn Trustee and member of the SP2 Board of Overseers) and the Lomax Family Foundation. Today, the program accepts students from community colleges throughout the region. After hosting P4P for three years, Dr. Bruno conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the program. It was determined that

P4P should expand to better prepare participants to obtain their BA degrees after community college, and eventually a graduate degree, preferably in the field of social policy or practice. It also was suggested that helpful life skills training, such as financial literacy and wellness be included to build "social capital."

Therefore, in the summer of 2010, SP2 invited students from past P4P cohorts, along with some new students, to return to campus for a new, three-year commitment. The first year's course offered was "Intro to Social Work." In the summer of 2011, the course will be "Intro to Social Work Research," and in year three, "Intro to Social Policy." Next year, students also will enjoy sessions on financial literacy, public speaking, writing, stress management, time management, and conducting research.

In an effort to keep the students engaged throughout the year, Dr. Bruno and SP2 staff will stay in touch. The school has agreed to host a dedicated P4P event in the fall and also will invite P4P students to other relevant activities to facilitate their interaction with current SP2 students and alumni.

SP2 is pleased to welcome P4P students into the SP2 community. In his final essay to the class, one P4P student wrote: "Taking this course was exciting and assisted in my ongoing quest to gain knowledge, confidence and character... I feel my journey and purpose has just begun."

"It is my goal to offer a transformative experience that opens the door to the various professions in the field of social work."

# Intelligence for Social Policy (ISP)

Intelligence for Social Policy (ISP) is an initiative funded by the Catherine T. and John D. MacArthur Foundation in 2009 through a three-year grant to University of Pennsylvania Professors Dennis Culhane, School of Social Policy & Practice, and John Fantuzzo, Graduate School of Education. The principal aim of ISP is to improve the quality of education, health and human service agencies' policies and practices through the use of integrated data systems.

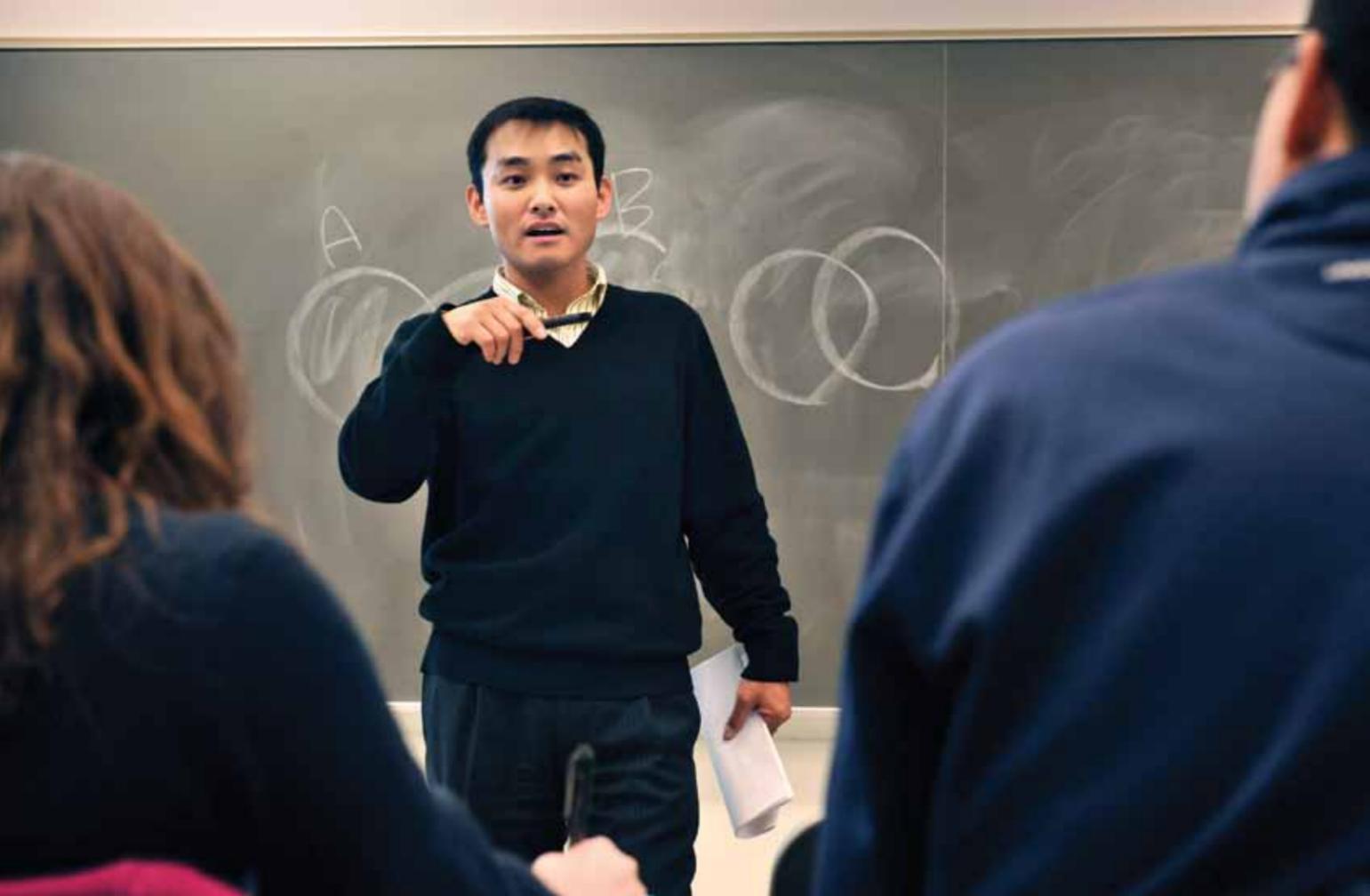
Quality integrated data systems are designed to help executive leaders in municipal, county and state government evaluate and establish effective programs and services for the people they serve.

Director Dennis P. Culhane, PhD

Website [www.ispc.upenn.edu](http://www.ispc.upenn.edu)

"While serving as a classroom teacher, I came to realize that much-needed education reform, reform that would truly benefit the students, would only come about if nonprofits, government, and the public worked together."

- Jill, NPL '08



# Faculty

SP2's faculty members are among the leaders in their fields, and the School has been consistently ranked as one of the top publishing social work education and social policy programs in the world. More importantly, SP2 faculty are readily available to students for advising, mentoring, and other professional matters.

## Standing Faculty List



Joretha Bourjolly, PhD  
Associate Professor + Associate Dean



Ram A. Cnaan, PhD  
Professor + Sr. Associate Dean



Dennis Culhane, PhD  
Professor



Joan K. Davitt, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Ezekiel Dixon-Román, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Andrea Doyle, MSW, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Jeffrey Draine, MSW, PhD  
Professor



Richard J. Estes, DSW  
Professor



Damon W. Freeman, JD, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Richard J. Gelles, PhD  
Professor and Dean



Zvi D. Gellis, PhD, LMSW  
Associate Professor



Toorjo TJ Ghose, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Femida Handy, PhD  
Professor



Roberta Rehner Iversen, PhD  
Associate Professor



Karin Rhodes, MD  
Assistant Professor



Roberta G. Sands, PhD  
Professor



Kenwyn K. Smith, PhD  
Professor



Phyllis Solomon, PhD  
Professor



Susan B. Sorenson, PhD  
Professor



Carol Wilson Spigner, DSW  
Associate Professor



Mark J. Stern, PhD  
Professor



Yin-Ling Irene Wong, PhD  
Associate Professor



*In 1942 Dean Kenneth L. Pray became the first Dean of the Pennsylvania School of Social Work. On January 20, 1948, Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas No. 7 approved the legal merger of the Pennsylvania School of Social Work with the University of Pennsylvania. The name of the School thereby became the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work.*

## Part-Time Faculty

### Summer 2009

Elisabeth Conston

Tae Kuen Kim

Kim Nieves

### Joint Appointments

### Fall 2009

Kevin Corcoran

Susan Kinnevy

Walter Palmer

Amy Hillier, PhD

### Spring 2010

Christine Courtois

Heather Klusaritz

Staci Perlman

Karin Rhodes, MD, MS

Leslie Alexander

Melissa Dichter

Lara Krawchuk

Lawrence Shulman

### Research Faculty

Jeffrey Applegate

Kerry Dunn

Andrew Lamas

William Silver

Steven Marcus, PhD  
Aileen Rothbard, ScD

Francis Barchi

Marc Felizzi

Kate Ledwith

Eric Stein

### Adjunct Faculty

Cassie Bevan

Laurene Finley

Sungkyu Lee

Howard Stevenson

Prof. Dr. h.c. Hans-Uwe Otto

Amy Blank

Rosemary Frasso

Jack B. Lewis

Thomas J. Tantillo

Faculty of Educational Science

Sandra Bloom

Richard Furman

Jonathan Lukens

Julie Tennille

Center of Social Service Studies

Danna Bodenheimer

Andrew Fussner

Margolies

Kristie Thomas

University of Bielefeld

Casey Bohrman

Lina Hartocollis

Mezvinsky

William Tietjen

Bielefeld, Germany

Bruce Boylston

Krista Heinlen

Jason Matejkowski

Carol Tosone

Dennis Brunn

Eileen Heismann

Mary Mazzola

Symme Trachtenberg

Anthony Bruno

Laura Hinds

Joseph McBride

Steven Wilmot

Arthur Caplan

Karen Hudson

Nancy McWilliams

David Wohlsifer

Robert Carter

Gudmund Iversen

Edward Monte

Caroline Wong

Cynthia Closs

Charles Johnson

Nancy A. Morrow

Martha Ann Zehner

Brian Coleman

Christina Kang-Yi

Lani Nelson-Zlupko

Huiquan Zhou

Standing Faculty Highlight **Phyllis Solomon, PhD**

## Mastering Matters of Mental Health

“A recent study found that the mental health population’s life span is 25 years shorter than the general population.”



Phyllis Solomon always knew she wanted to be involved in research that would affect people’s lives. She began her career as a sociologist but quickly gravitated to social work because she believed that the primary goal of research should be to help people.

After earning her PhD in Social Welfare from Case Western Reserve University, Solomon worked in the first state mental hospital to close in Ohio and began to question what happened to the patients who were discharged. Her concern for this population led her to embark on a career aimed at improving service systems that benefit adults with mental illness. Her work has addressed a range of issues including homelessness, criminal justice, HIV, family support and violence against caregivers. Today she is internationally known for her research on clinical services and service system issues related to adults with severe mental illness and their families.

A member of SP2’s standing faculty since 1994, Solomon teaches research to Masters, DSW, and PhD candidates. She particularly enjoys mentoring doctoral students and last year received the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching for her efforts in helping to shape the next generation of researchers. A prolific researcher in her own right, Solomon has served as a principle or co-investigator on 39 grants. Her work has been recognized by the American Association of Community Psychiatrists, U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, and Society for Social Work and Research.

Currently, Solomon is involved in a study on inoculation. The randomized control trial is examining the way a group of African American patients in a mental health center cope with the stressors of microaggression. The study is aimed at helping individuals with severe mental illness deal with discriminatory attitudes. She is also developing a proposal with Nancy Haheahan, PhD, an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, to adapt an advanced practice nursing intervention for use with individuals with severe mental illness who are being discharged from the hospital.

“One of the biggest issues for the severely mentally ill population is disparity in health care,” she explains. “In fact, a recent study found that this population’s life span is 25 years shorter than the general population.”

According to Solomon, many factors affect lack of access to health care for adults with severe mental illness. Financial issues, including a scarcity of practitioners who accept Medicaid, are primary barriers. In addition, the health concerns of the mentally ill are frequently dismissed or reinterpreted by practitioners as part of their mental illness. Lack of communication, insufficient knowledge, fear of hospitalization, and general disorganization also contribute to poorer health outcomes for this population.

“Our project would utilize nurses to work with individuals with mental illness prior to discharge and serve as a bridge to health and mental health care services,” she says.

Solomon has received a myriad of honors during the course of her career and most recently was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare for her distinguished accomplishments as a scholar and practitioner dedicated to achieving excellence in high-impact work that advances social good. This year she also received a Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and will be making her third trip to Japan to work on implementation and methods for evaluation of evidence-based practices, particularly for persons with mental illnesses.

Part-time Faculty Highlight **Joseph McBride, MSW**

## Decades of Dedicated Teaching

“Watching students become professional social workers and seeing their success after a few years is the greatest satisfaction of teaching in the SP2 program.”

Many of you will recognize the familiar face of Joseph McBride, MSW as a part-time lecturer in the School of Social Policy & Practice since 1998. After completing his bachelor’s degree from Trenton State College, now named The College of New Jersey, Joe earned his MSW from Rutgers University. His education has served him well and he has built a successful career helping others in both practice and leadership positions. Joe knew immediately that helping families was a top priority that would guide him throughout his professional life.

Joe also enjoyed using his organizational skills in management training and supervisory roles at the Child Guidance Center and the Diabetes Center for Children at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). As Director of Social Work Training at the Child Guidance Center, he had the opportunity to direct the training program for graduate social work students from area universities, all while teaching the clinical seminar, supervising students and continuous program development to meet the needs of the community and academic needs of the students. Joe explains, “It was an honor and privilege to run an in demand training program in one of the top family therapy clinics in the country.”

As a long-time adjunct member of the SP2 faculty, Joe brings his extensive background into the classroom. After teaching at Penn for 12 years, he looks back on all of the classes that he has taught: Foundations Practice, Practice with Children & Adolescents, Issues in Death, Dying & Bereavement and Brief Treatment & Crisis Intervention. “Watching students become professional social workers and seeing their success after a few years is the greatest satisfaction of teaching in the SP2 program.” This commitment to his students is why he was a two-time recipient of the “Excellence in Teaching Award” for part-time faculty.

Joe has maintained a private practice in Lawrenceville, NJ for almost 30 years. He currently provides family, individual and couple therapy specializing in bereavement, trauma, chronic illness and behavior problems for children. His publications include articles on grief therapy, funeral homes, and diabetes. One of his many honors that he has received throughout the years is a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with the families of the victims of Pan American Flight 103. With all of this going on in Joe’s life, he still makes time to serve on the Post Master Advisory Council for the Rutgers University School of Social Work, teaches continuing education classes, and



acts as a consultant to local agencies and schools. Joe explains, “I also keep busy by logging more than 5,000 miles each year on my bicycle and I recently retired after 25 years as a basketball referee.” Joe and his wife Judith have been married for 31 years and they have two adult children, a son and a daughter.



# Campaign for Social Change Leadership

SP2's Campaign for Social Change Leadership is a part of Penn's "Making History" campaign. The Campaign underscores the School's commitment to social work, social policy, and nonprofit leadership education, while affirming its mission to produce social change leaders that will truly make a difference in the world. All gifts given to SP2 since 2005 have been counted toward the Campaign, which ends in 2012.

## Tackling Society's Most Complex Problems (partial list of priorities)

Graduate Student Financial Aid - 80%  
Goal: \$6,000,000 Reached: \$4,815,779



Support for Issue-specific Research - 188%  
(e.g. homelessness)  
Goal: \$3,000,000 Reached: \$5,634,544



Endowed Chairs/ Faculty Development - 17%  
Goal: \$12,000,000 Reached: \$2,000,000



Program Support - 95%  
(Child welfare, family violence, gerontology, etc.)  
Goal: \$6,000,000 Reached: \$5,677,222



Capital Improvement/Renovation - 40%  
Goal: \$3,000,000 Reached: \$1,192,884



### Centennial Point No. 5

*At the September 1942 meeting of the School's Trustees, the University of Pennsylvania announced its intention to purchase the "Horn Memorial Building," at 2408-14 Pine Street, as a new home for the School and to rent it to the School for the nominal sum of \$1 per year. The "Centennial Wall," now mounted in the lobby of the Caster building, is an artistic interpretation of the original School of Social Work on Pine Street.*

Campaign Chair  
Ann Reese, CW'74

Overall Goal  
\$33,000,000

Achieved to Date  
\$22,000,000

Percent of  
Goal Achieved  
67%

### Campaign Priorities include:

Faculty & professional development

Endowed and term professorships

Graduate tuition assistance

Nonprofit/nongovernmental organization leadership

Child welfare, domestic violence, gerontology, and other programs

Research

Annual giving

## One Hundred Years of Excellence in Social Work Education

### SP2's Ribbon Cutting and Centennial Wall Unveiling

"Dedicated on October 7, 2009 in honor of 100 years of Social Work Education at Penn, the Centennial Wall is a tribute to the alumni, faculty, staff and friends of SP2, who have been an integral part of the School's success."

On October 7, 2009, SP2 dedicated the Caster Building's new entrance onto Locust Walk and unveiled the "Centennial Wall" in celebration of 100 years of social work education at Penn. The Wall serves as a recognition vehicle for alumni and donors, as well as a historical memento. SP2 commissioned Penn alumna Karen Singer, MFA '81, to create the Wall—a mosaic-tiled, 7 ft. by 8 ft., 700-pound artistic impression of the original School of Social Work building, which was located at 24th and Pine streets.

At the ribbon-cutting, Amy Gutmann, PhD, University of Pennsylvania President, commented on the new entrance and additional renovations to the Caster Building: "Clearly, SP2 is a key academic asset and partner in our efforts to break down intellectual barriers and integrate knowledge for the benefit of society. It is fitting that the School have a footprint along the main thoroughfare of the Penn campus, where faculty and students from all of our schools and centers mingle."

SP2 is also breaking down barriers inside the building where interior walls have been removed to create spaces that are more welcoming, functional, and conducive to collaboration. The classrooms have been renovated and a new student lounge has been added. Other improvements include new landscaping, a disability-compliant access ramp and a remodeled lobby.

Gutmann described the building as "a wonderful combination of steel and glass that symbolizes the strength, transparency, and visibility of a School that begins its second century poised to be a global leader in improving the human condition."

The president also recognized the inspiration and generosity of donors including the late Harold Caster, whose gift enabled the School to erect the building, as well as Andy Heyer, former SP2 Board of Overseer Chair, and his wife, Mindy Heyer, now Chair of



the Vet School Board. "Andy has given us a textbook case in high-impact leadership," she said. "When he became chair of the SP2 board, Andy called for opening the Caster Building to Locust Walk. As alumni of Wharton and the College, he and Mindy knew how important it was to increase SP2's visibility on the campus. And they delivered."

The festivities of the ribbon-cutting included hot apple cider for passersby and guests gathered on Locust Walk, as they enjoyed the Penn Glee Club. Following her comments, Dr. Gutmann used huge scissors to cut an over-sized ribbon with Andy Heyer, current SP2 Board Chair Ann Reese, and Dean Richard Gelles. The 200-strong crowd then filed into the newly renovated Caster Lobby, where a large red curtain was draped over the Centennial Wall. Ann Reese and artist Karen Singer unveiled the Wall to expressions of delight and applause. As donors and friends admired the Wall, delicious food was available throughout the first floor of the building. It was a wonderful day for the entire SP2 community!



# Alumni

SP2 graduates administer agencies and departments, deliver expert clinical services, and help forge local, state, national, and international social policies. They may be found in boardrooms of major corporations to basements of grass root organizations, with a wide range of global influence and expertise.

*The 1952 CSWE report on re-accreditation noted that the School's program produced an impressive outcome – “Graduates of the School of Social Work find positions in all phases of social work activity, local, state, national, and international. Many of them hold positions of leadership in the field.”*

## Active, Engaged Alumni

### SP2 Alumni Council

The Alumni Council at Penn's School of Social Policy & Practice represents the voice of the alumni; encourages alumni support of the School; and informs alumni about issues that advance the School's growth and development. The Alumni Council is proud to represent all members of our alumni community. Recent projects undertaken by the Council include:

#### Alumni Council/Student Happy Hour

An Alumni Council / Student Happy Hour was held at the New Deck Tavern. All students were invited to network with Council members.

#### Alumni Weekend

Now an SP2 tradition, every May on the Friday of Penn's Alumni Weekend, SP2 hosts an alumni reception for reunion-year graduates at the Philadelphia Union League. This year, in addition to celebrating reunion-year alumni, Dean Gelles recognized former winners of student and faculty awards.

Also on Sunday of Alumni Weekend, for the second year SP2 hosted “Second Century” Jazz Brunch, for SP2 alumni 55-years and older. This fun event is becoming more and more popular. This year, guests enjoyed a delicious brunch buffet and the soothing sounds of Leon Jordan, Jr. on trumpet, and took home his latest CD.

#### Virginia P. Robinson Publication Prize

Alumni Council members chose among the top student submissions for the Virginia P. Robinson Publication Prize and forwarded the finalist essays to Social Work Today for a final selection. The winning student, Lizza Robb '12, won a \$500 prize.

#### Nicole Gant Alumni Council Leadership Award

The Alumni Council took the lead in recognizing a graduating student, who has been a leader in the SP2 community and has contributed to the advancement of the School. The winning student, Kelly Winters'10, received a \$250 prize.

Coming soon ...

#### Welcome Breakfast and Alumni Signature Event

The Council will continue the tradition of welcoming new students to campus in the fall of each year. Additionally, Dean Gelles and the Office of Alumni Affairs has committed funds for the Alumni Council to host a signature event. Watch your mail for more information!

The Council welcomes ideas about how to better connect alumni with other graduates of the program and with the School. For more information and/or to get involved, contact Timothy Wortham, Development and Alumni Relations Officer at [worthamt@sp2.upenn.edu](mailto:worthamt@sp2.upenn.edu) or 215.898.5526.



#### 2010 SP2 Alumni Council Members

##### Chair

Steve Wilmot MSW'97

Maureen Bergey MSW'10

Olivette Burton MSW'04

David Dunbeck MSW '99

Leticia Egea-Hinton MSW'00

Halcyon Francis MSW' 03

Laurie Friedman MSW'03

Lisa Gottesman MSW'07

Chad Lassiter MSW'01

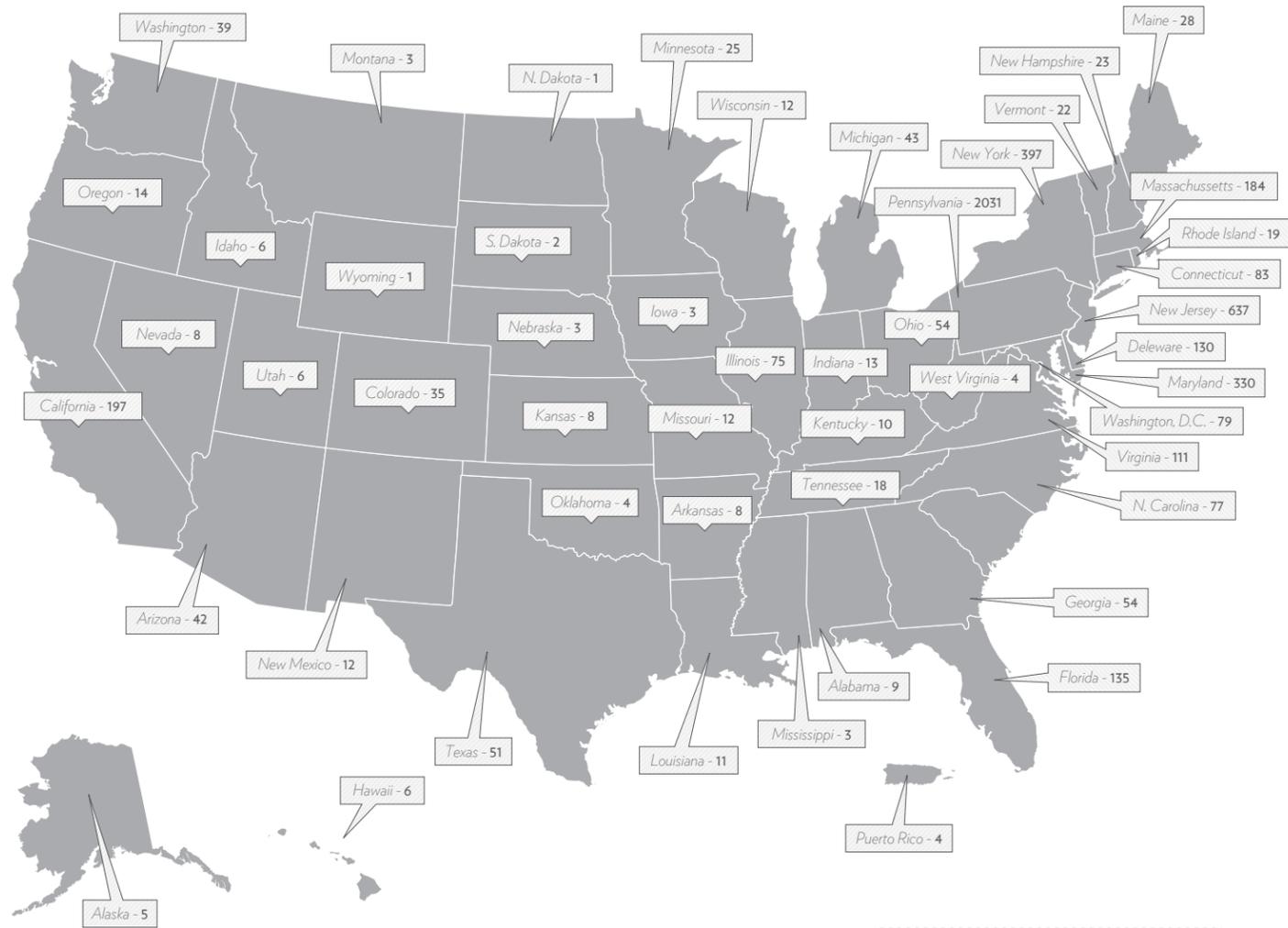
Suzanne Lyons MSW'05

Santo D. Marabella DSW'91

Bob Spena DSW'80

# Where Are Our Alumni?

## Alumni in the United States



“SP2 alumni span the globe in almost every U.S. state, 31 countries, and 5 continents.”

## International Alumni



“SP2 partners with institutions around the world to encourage more innovative, cross-disciplinary solutions to global problems.”

Centennial Point No. 7

*Beginning in 1958 and continuing through the first six months of 1959 Dean Ruth E. Smalley planned, organized, and carried out a magnificent celebration of the 50th anniversary of the School’s founding.*



# Board of Overseers

SP2's Board of Overseers is a vibrant, dynamic group of individuals, who are committed to both the School's mission and to supporting its ongoing growth and success in social work, social policy, social welfare, and nonprofit/NGO leadership.

# SP2's Board of Overseers

The School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) Board of Overseers serve as a bridge between SP2 and Penn, as well as the community beyond campus boundaries. Along with Penn's President, Provost and Trustees, SP2's Dean relies heavily on the Board to help inform the work of the School. As SP2 enters its second century of social work education at Penn, the Overseers continue to serve as a guiding force that help maintain a tradition of excellence for the entire SP2 community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

## Introducing Our New Board Chair

In June of 2009, Andrew R. Heyer, W'79, WG'79 stepped down as Chair of the School of Social Policy & Practice Board of Overseers. Mr. Heyer formed a strong and effective partnership with the Dean to effectively strengthen the School's financial base, while expanding its curriculum and enhancing its visibility in the Penn community and beyond. SP2 is grateful for Mr. Heyer's dedication, support and transformational leadership over the past six years.

SP2 officially welcomes Ann Reese, now Chair of the Board. Reese brings to the role a passion for SP2's mission, as well as expert experience in the business and corporate arena that will help to support its future strategic planning.

Reese is a member of the Trustees' Council of Penn Women. She also is a co-founder and executive director of the Center for Adoption Policy (CAP), whose goal is to remove legal, structural and policy barriers to adoption. Prior to CAP's formation in 2001, Ms. Reese spent over 25 years in a career in finance. Formerly the Chief Financial Officer of ITT, she also worked at Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Mobil Oil, Union Carbide, and Bankers Trust. Reese currently serves as a director of Jones Apparel Group, Merrill Lynch, Sears Holdings and Xerox. She has an MBA from New York University (1982) and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania (1974).

### Chair, Board of Overseers



**Ann Nolan Reese, CW'74**  
Rye, NY

### Board Members

**Debi Brooks**  
*Co-founder*  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for  
Parkinson's Research  
Greenville, DE

**Jungwon Han Chai, W'88**  
Rye, NY

**Donald J. Deutsch, W'79**  
*Chairman & CEO*  
Deutsch Inc.  
New York, NY

**David Ertel, W'87, WG'88**  
*Chairman & CEO*  
Bayview Financial, LP  
Coral Gables, FL

**Steven M. Feldman W'84**  
*Managing Director*  
Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.  
New York, NY

**Marie H. Field**  
Bala Cynwyd, PA

**Jay Goldman, W'79**  
*Partner*  
J Goldman & Co, LP  
New York, NY

**Vicki Panzier Gross, W'87**  
New York, NY

**Florence R. Hart, SW'65**  
Washington, D.C.



*In 1966, the School was moved to its current home in the Caster Building. Dean Smalley and the School's faculty, students, and alumni jointly sponsored a "housewarming" for the new facility.*

**Andrew R. Heyer, W'79, WG'79**  
*Chief Executive Officer and  
Managing Director*  
Mistral Equity Partners  
New York, NY

**Wendy Mann Hornick,  
CW'73, SW'75**  
*New York City American Cancer  
Society Advisory Board*  
New York, NY

**Betsy Schur Levy, PhD, C'80**  
*Behavioral Associates*  
New York, NY

**Claire Lomax, Esq. C'84**  
*General Counsel*  
The Lomax Companies  
Chalfont, PA

**William A. Meyer, Esq., W'71**  
*Chairman*  
Meyer Jabara Hotels  
West Palm Beach, FL

**Bruce L. Newberg, W'79, WG'80**  
*Private Investor*  
Davidow & Newberg  
Los Angeles, CA

**Mark Ostroff, W'79**  
*Managing Director*  
Lazard Wealth Management LLC  
New York, NY

**Marjorie Gordon Schaye, CW'75**  
*Fundraising Consultant*  
Hubbard Woods, IL

**Brian D. Schwartz, W'89**  
*Executive Managing Director*  
H.I.G. Capital, LLC  
Miami, FL

**Thomas M. Shapiro, W'88**  
*President*  
GoldenTree InSite Partners  
New York, NY

**Patricia Braun Silvers, CW'75**  
*Principal and Founder*  
Patricia Silvers Executive Search  
New York, NY

**Alan D. Simon, W'56**  
*Chairman & CEO*  
Omaha Steaks International, Inc.  
Omaha, NE

**Andrew Stone, W'79**  
PETRA Capital Management  
New York, NY

**Susan Molofsky Todres,  
CW'75, WG'77**  
*Consultant*  
New York, NY

**Joanne T. Welsh, CW'75**  
Haverford, PA

### Ex Officio

**Steven M. Wilmot, SW'97**  
*Practice Manager*  
The Children's Hospital of  
Philadelphia

 Centennial Point No. 9

*In 2001 Richard J. Gelles, PhD became interim Dean of the School of Social Work. He was officially appointed Dean in 2003.*

 Centennial Point No. 10

*From 2008 through 2010, Dean Gelles executed a two-year long centennial celebration, including a key note speaker, lectures, receptions and other events, culminating in a ribbon-cutting for a new entrance facing Locust Walk and the unveiling of the Centennial Wall.*

“We have the power to change as long as we’re able to empower other people. Keep your optimism, continue to believe in the possibilities. Because there is nothing that is beyond your capacity to change. Nothing.”

*From SP2’s 2010 commencement speech by Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.*

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“SP2 prides itself on the diversity of the faculty, staff, and student body. But diversity is not limited to the usual demographic considerations. The wide range of topics, methods, and ideas in SP2’s research and teaching make it a stimulating place to be.”



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