SP2.0

A Penn Red & Blueprint for Impact

2017 SP2 REVIEW

Annual Publication of the University of Pennsylvania
School of Social Policy & Practice
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## 2017 SP2 REVIEW

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A Message from the Dean

JOHN L. JACKSON, JR., Ph.D.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “SOCIAL IMPACT,” AND WHAT DOES THAT IMPACT LOOK LIKE?

From where I sit as Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2), “Penn’s social justice school,” it looks a lot like starting the first online degree program in the history of the University of Pennsylvania.

It means partnering with Penn’s Graduate School of Education and School of Nursing on The Penn Futures Project, an unprecedented University initiative that focuses on inter-professional education for students and interdisciplinary research among faculty from all three schools—guided by a simple goal of improving the welfare and well-being of young people and their families.

It entails mounting a school-wide Massive Open Online Course and publishing an edited volume, Social Policy & Social Justice, with the University of Pennsylvania Press, highlighting the breadth and depth of our faculty’s outstanding scholarship.

It involves engaging students from each of SP2’s five degree programs with our multimodal and multidisciplinary “SP2 Penn Top 10” project, an examination of social policy and social justice issues in the context of contemporary electoral politics and raging policy debates.

It materializes in partnerships with Penn’s Institute for Urban Research on a non-residential fellowship for former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter as he works with faculty and students to eradicate deep poverty in urban America.

It finds us on the verge of piloting a new MSW/MFA dual degree with Penn Design and in consultation/collaboration with the Slought Foundation and Penn’s Institute for Contemporary Art.

It encompasses a “Data Analytics” certificate for students interested in data science in the context of public and social policy—and with an emphasis on the complicated ethics of big data.

It demands collaborating with our important school-based centers on issues of child welfare, social art, violence, philanthropy and social innovation itself.

And all of that is just the tip of the institutional iceberg. Social impact at SP2 consists of everything listed above and so much more that our talented and committed faculty, students, alumni, staff, and community partners embody on a daily basis. This magazine provides a brief snapshot of some of SP2’s impact makers, and I hope you read their diverse stories with an eye towards thinking about what social impact and social justice look like to you.
This is what social impact looks like.
Diminishing the Divide

EXPLORING CO-EXISTENCE AND SHARED SOCIETY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Ram A. Cnaan, Ph.D., professor since 1986, program director for Religion and Social Policy Research and faculty director of the Goldring Reentry Initiative at SP2 is considered an international expert in the areas of faith-based social care, volunteering, prisoners’ reentry and social policy. Growing up in Israel, Ram peacefully co-existed with Jewish, Muslim and Christian friends. Together, they played, enjoyed meals and celebrated milestones in each other’s homes. As he got older, though, Ram found himself growing concerned with the direction Israel was headed. He found that the Israeli government’s policies and mindsets were becoming more militant and less tolerant of Arab and Palestinian citizens and his friends.

Because he lectures and teaches regularly in four countries, Ram was a natural choice to strengthen SP2’s commitment to students examining complex social problems through a global lens. Though Ram was not interested in merely chaperoning SP2 students on a summer vacation, he was intrigued by a Hebrew University colleague who suggested they launch a class together to foster a better understanding of the challenges and complexities of coexistence in Israel, Muslims and Christians among their students. The course focused on activities carried out by nonprofit organizations operating within the Israeli civil society, dealing with issues related to cohabitation and to the protection and advancement of the civil and social rights of different populations, with special emphasis on the Arab-Palestinian population in Israel. Not only were the course components carefully curated, it was created with a certain type of student in mind – an SP2 student. These students are curious about the world around them, focused on the importance of understanding and respecting cultural norms and engaging with global problems through a multicultural lens. These students are the world’s future leaders of social change.
It's important, Ram believes, for his students to experience a warm, festive and hospitable meal to counter the Jewish settlement negativity...

Now in its third year, the class has evolved to integrate more background information for SP2 students. Students now have the opportunity to go sightseeing through a tour company that specializes in sites of geopolitical importance. They travel to Masada and explore Qasr El Yahud, a small place on the Jordan River where it is said Jesus was baptized. They dine in restaurants owned by Arabs, Jews and, even one, by an Arab-Israeli couple. Ram has also incorporated an evening meal hosted by a dear friend who lives in a Jewish settlement. It is important, Ram believes, for his students to experience a warm, festive and hospitable meal to counter the Jewish settlement negativity that will soon take center stage during the upcoming lectures.

The course itself includes a series of lectures, reading materials, trips and meetings with civil society activists, leaders of nonprofit organizations and communities.
The important thing to Ram is that SP2 students understand conflict in a multi-dimensional way.

government officials and professional experts. This multi-dimensional approach allows students to gain exposure to a wide variety of social initiatives, communities, people, narratives and perspectives on civil society activities in the field of co-existence and on the complexities involved in the work towards achieving that goal. One field trip is to Neve Shalom (Oasis of Peace), a city that is purposefully 50 percent Jewish and 50 percent Muslim, Christian and Arab. Neve Shalom fully shows the realities and complications of co-existing in a tight knit community.

During classroom time, Ram found that the Israeli students have a harder time hearing their government is not perfect and learning about the current power imbalance in Israel. The American students have a much easier time hearing it, because it is not their government the class is discussing, criticizing and dissecting. Both set of students can understand injustice and discrimination, but cannot hear it when it related to their own government. The important thing to Ram is that SP2 students understand conflict in a multi-dimensional way and realize there is no right or wrong. The class being taught in Israel allows SP2 students to objectively see issues of prejudice, discrimination and what it means to be a minority in one’s own birth country.
Protecting

Debra Schilling Wolfe

Sarah Wasch

Stopping Traffic in its Tracks
Practitioners will be the first to admit that sometimes the child welfare system fails to protect the children it is charged with protecting. The system is not doing enough to prepare young people for the world they will enter as young adults. Many young people “age out” of the system at 18 (or sometimes 21 years old) and need to find employment, locate housing, and navigate the world without any support. These young people, sadly, become easy prey for sex traffickers. The full extent of this problem was not known until the Field Center for Children’s Policy Practice & Research partnered with Covenant House to undertake the largest study to date to research the prevalence of trafficking among homeless youth by interviewing 1,000 homeless youth across 13 cities.

The Field Center at SP2 has become a leader in child welfare system reform by utilizing an interdisciplinary approach to research-informed policy and practice innovation. The Field Center convenes a biennial national conference bringing together experts and service providers from a variety of fields, all of whom are all involved in the lives of children to identify critical child welfare issues that need to be addressed. Debra Schilling Wolfe, the Center’s executive director, emphasizes that the diversity in attendees is the conference’s strength, because “kids do not live in the disciplinary silos created for funding and legislation and working across disciplines is the best way to serve children.”

During the 2015 conference, there was a “Child Welfare to Child Trafficking Pipeline” plenary session that featured experts across disciplines as well as a survivor of sex trafficking. After this session, it became very clear that more data was needed and the Covenant House, the largest, primarily privately-funded charity in the Americas offering housing, outreach, and support services to homeless youth, asked the Field Center to join as a research partner. Fast forward two years; the Field Center, Covenant House and other partners presented their findings at the 2017 conference.

Covenant House engaged the Field Center to conduct research on the incidence of trafficking among homeless youth in Philadelphia, PA; Phoenix, Arizona; and Washington, DC. Given this opportunity, Debra, SP2 Assistant Professor Johanna Green,
Ph.D., and Field Center faculty and staff developed a secondary measure to determine the history of child maltreatment and out-of-home placement as well as protective factors to better understand who is most at risk with an eye towards developing interventions to prevent victimization.

Overall, the researchers found that 19.4 percent of the interviewed youth were victims of human trafficking, with 15 percent having been trafficked for sex, 7.4 percent trafficked for labor, and 3 percent trafficked for both. Drilling down further, and analyzing the secondary measure, the Field Center found that 95 percent of those who were sex trafficked reported a history of child abuse and 49 percent reported a history of childhood sexual abuse. While these are sobering statistics, Debra and her Field Center colleagues also found that youth who reported having the presence of a supportive adult in their lives and those who completed high school were less likely to be sex trafficked. So, what does this mean? To Debra this indicates that we are beginning to understand what factors place young people at risk of being victimized and what may help

At the Field Center, we wanted to understand what in the background and experiences of youth would place them at risk for becoming victims of sex trafficking and what might make a difference.
to protect them. “This work can shape national policy and create effective interventions, thereby stemming the pipeline to predators and ultimately reducing the number of victims,” said Debra.

When one reads the full report, the data presents a depressing picture of what some of our most vulnerable youth were subjected to at the hands of predators. However, Sarah Wasch, who conducted the 300 interviews, would be the first one to highlight the positive. Sarah, Field Center program manager and proud MSW ’06 grad, spent hundreds of hours interviewing the youth in the three cities. It was her “most meaningful professional experience” to date and Sarah is infinitely optimistic about these young people. She found these young people “incredibly resilient” and one caseworker relayed a conversation she had with an interviewee to Sarah. When asked by his caseworker how his interview went with Sarah, the interviewee responded, “I was having a really bad week, but then two things changed my mindset. One, I got to meet with Sarah, the researcher, and share my story about what happened to me when I was a child and that took a huge weight off of my chest. And the second thing was that I met my favorite celebrity (not Sarah).”

The issue is complex and needs to be addressed on a number of fronts. The findings, groundbreaking in the area of child trafficking, are being widely shared with anyone interested in creating policy and developing programs and resources. “The next step is to work with local and national government agencies, non-profits, advocates and legislators to support the efforts to implement these findings into new policy and practice,” said Debra. For example, 44% of victims of sex trafficking reported that they had been featured in an online ad, half of those were on backpage.com, an enabler for trafficking that advocates are currently educating the legal system on based on this new research.

Long-term, the Field Center has several priorities. As this is the first information of its kind, further research is needed to better understand the complexities of this issue. The Field Center stresses the importance of utilizing its findings to shape emerging policy and practice in the field. There is now evidence to identify who is at greatest risk for being sex trafficked and have the opportunity to prevent victimization. One thing is certain, the Field Center will continue staying true to its mission of “impact(ing) one child at a time by advocating for all.”
Won’t You Be My Neighbor?

SP2 GRAD HONORS HER PAST BY ADVOCATING FOR OTHERS’ FUTURE

Prior coming to SP2, Rachel Townzen, MSW ’17, interned with the Refugee & Asylee Program at Lutheran Family Services in Denver Colorado. As the granddaughter of Armenian immigrants from an area of the Ottoman Empire that now lies in central Turkey, she knew she wanted to pursue working with forcibly displaced populations – refugees.

During the fall of 2015, Rachel secured her SP2 field placement at Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Pennsylvania, a refugee resettlement and immigration legal service agency in Philadelphia, working with asylees. Rachel said that when she started at SP2, she felt like the student with an eccentric interest, working on refugee issues. People understood the social issue, but it was not the most popular one at SP2. That was not the case when she graduated two years later.

According to Rachel, the world fell apart on two separate occasions and she identifies these events as significantly changing the climate of her work with, and people’s awareness of, refugees and immigrants. The first was the Paris attacks in November 2015 and the second was President Donald Trump’s travel ban executive order in January 2017. In November 2015, the Paris attacks were carried out by the Islamic State terrorist organization killing 130 people and injuring 389. Almost immediately, Governors across the US were saying that they didn’t want to take in refugees, Syrians in particular, and a backlash began.

After a summer working for United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in Jordan, Rachel spent some time traveling and the tenor of her conversations with fellow travelers changed leading up to the presidential campaign. Rachel, for the first time, would be consistently peppered with questions such as, “Why do Americans hate us? Who is this Trump guy? Are refugees going to be sent back? Will they be stripped of their asylum? Don’t they know what is going on in these war torn countries?”

Rachel returned to SP2 and HIAS Pennsylvania in the fall of 2016 to continue advocating for immigrants, this time in a project supporting undocumented immigrant victims of crime. The fallout from the Paris attacks was subsiding and she was again settling into her work. Then President Trump was elected and he issued his travel ban within a week of his inauguration, which kept refugees from entering the country for 120 days and immigrants from seven (now six) predominantly Muslim nations, out for three months. Once again, chaos ensued.
Rachel describes the days after the travel ban as “universal panic.” The HIAS Pennsylvania staff was furiously trying to figure out exactly what the travel ban meant, while more and more people were seeking out HIAS Pennsylvania’s services. She and her colleagues at HIAS Pennsylvania were encouraged by the spontaneous airport protests and the eventual suspension of the order, but the needs of immigrants and asylum-seekers near and far increased. Right after the travel ban was signed, Rachel recalls SP2 students and faculty showing up for an event to make postcards expressing solidarity and gratitude for agencies’ hard work on behalf of refugees/immigrants. She was inspired by “how incredible the SP2 community rallied not just for refugees, but also for those of us who work at resettlement and immigration agencies right here in Philly.”

Rachel said she and her colleagues knew that their work was going to be challenging post-election, but she “did not anticipate it getting so dire so quickly.” Across the board, everyone in her world was impacted, not only including the majority of her clients, the undocumented immigrants, but the families that are seeking asylum or other forms of immigration relief, receiving resettlement services or applying for citizenship. But this field is not without rewards and Rachel is encouraged by the small victories. In the past, present or future, whenever Rachel helps a refugee family move into a new apartment, learns about a client who got their green card or celebrates the naturalization of a former refugee when they finally become an American citizen, she knows her work is making a difference.

What does this current environment mean for the work that Rachel does? Personifying true grit and resilience (the SP2 way), Rachel is more committed than ever. In May 2017, she started a full-time position at HIAS Pennsylvania and is the new coordinator for their “Immigrant Victims of Crime” program. She is also interested in new issues in humanitarian work, mainly the intersection among big data, technology and human rights. Rest assured, wherever Rachel ends up, one can be confident that she will always be working in the human rights field and advocating for better understanding and protection of refugee rights.

Why do Americans hate us?  
Will I be stripped of my asylum?  
Who is this Trump guy?  
Are we going to be sent back?
Philadelphia Stands
#WithRefugees

REFUGEES WELCOME

Above: Rachel Townzen, MSW '17 (Top) and a World Refugee Day participant shows his support. (Bottom)
Smartphones to Permanent Homes

STREETCHANGE IS REVOLUTIONIZING THE WAY PHILADELPHIANS DONATE

According to Project H.O.M.E., a Philadelphia advocacy organization committed to ending poverty and homelessness, on a single night in January 2016, there were almost 550,000 people experiencing homelessness in the United States; 68 percent sheltered, 32 percent unsheltered and 22 percent were children under the age of 18. In 2015, in Philadelphia, homeless outreach organizations engaged over 6,500 individuals living on the street, in cars, abandoned buildings, train/bus stations, and other places not meant for human habitation. Additionally, about 15,000 people (including families) access shelter in Philadelphia each year and, sadly, numerous individuals are turned away from shelter due to capacity.

These statistics are heartbreaking, but out of every crisis comes opportunity and there are some creative minds tackling this problem through innovative measures. Enter StreetChange, a mobile crowdfunding application that allows anyone with a smartphone to donate necessities requested by Streetchange clients.
While advancing their progress toward better employment, healthcare and permanent housing, SP2’s Dan Treglia, Ph.B. ’16, works collaboratively with the Mental Health Partnerships (previously named the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania) and outreach workers who recruit and engage people experiencing street homelessness. Collaboratively they build an online profile, including a small bio and photo (if agreed to by the client) and register for up to five short-term necessities, like socks, shoes, or a jacket. Donors view the online profiles and donate to a certain item requested by a specific client. When an item is purchased, StreetChange notifies the person, who picks it up from a MHP Recovery Learning Center where they can begin to discuss long-term services. These “soft touches” are key to building trust and facilitating conversations about strategies to achieve stable housing, healthcare and job training.

In 2012, Dan entered Penn’s School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) after stints in Boston for school (Master’s in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard) and New York City as the deputy director of research at the New York City Department of Homeless Services, to pursue his doctorate in Social Welfare. It was during his year as a SP2 Senior Research Fellow that Dan started to envision how his homeless research could be translated into direct service for clients. As luck would have it, Dan was introduced to Dr. Andrew Siegel from Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine.

As a donor you can contribute to someone’s immediate need and, at the same time, your small donation is connected to long-term services that could create lasting stability.
Andrew was looking into applying behavioral economics to mental health and homeless services policy, specifically to address the dilemma he felt when approached by panhandlers asking for money. He wanted to help, but was not sure where the money would go and was worried that his donation could cause more harm than good. Bringing the initial program idea to Dan and Mental Health Partnerships, all involved yearned to make more people feel comfortable helping those experiencing homelessness and connecting those individuals with short-term supplies and long-term assistance. Together they began to fine tune StreetChange.

Conceived in mid-2015 and launched in the winter of 2016, StreetChange’s first phase resulted in 35 clients signing on and raising $6,000, with the average donation being $10. There have also been some important tweaks. Originally, the idea was that if you encountered a person living on the street, you could check the app and see if they were registered and donate to their wish list. However, it greatly limited the donor base. Once the location aspect was removed and anyone anywhere could contribute, the StreetChange app was downloaded more than 5,000 times. Ultimately, though, the goal is to engage those for whom the existing service system isn’t working by building a stronger relationship to facilitate transitions into better healthcare and permanent housing.

Dan explains that “someone can come in one day to pick up their items and it creates a conversation. And one conversation leads to another conversation and then you have developed a relationship.” And, indeed, there is clear evidence that StreetChange is making a difference. The initial pilot resulted in more than 300 items donated to those in need, and many of these people are making tangible steps toward their own long-term stability through each meeting to pick up a donated item. The next phase is to ramp up recruitment, ensure that StreetChange enrollees receive their goods in a timely fashion and create more service provider partnerships to extend beyond Center City.

In addition to expanding StreetChange, Dan wants to continue his quest for better integration of policy and practice. He envisions creating a space where research on social issues is available to practitioners in the field, academic institutions and the general public. Who knows what social practice remedies will emerge from such collaboration? After all, StreetChange started with a small donation for a street homeless citizen, which led to a new pair of socks and may, in the future, result in permanent housing and full-time employment.
Examining

Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins

Black Health Matters
Black Health Matters

CELEBRITY HEALTH PROJECT WILL CHANGE THE LANDSCAPE OF BLACK WELLNESS

Today there are multiple ways to measure fame and celebrity, including social media followers, income earned and media mentions. A celebrity endorsement can translate into profits for certain brands, which is why so many companies employ famous spokespeople. But what if doctors and health professionals used celebrities to “sell” preventative health care and routine check-ups? Would it save lives? One man thinks it will and is using his platform at Penn to fix the inequity in black healthcare in America in the process.

Dr. Kevin Ahmad Jenkins, Ph.D., chose SP2 in 2016, for his post-doctoral work on exploring the interplay among mental health, race and racism in chronic kidney disease because of the accessibility to world-renowned experts and facilities. Recently awarded Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Connections grant and the Veteran Administration’s Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion grant, Kevin’s health disparity research explores how race impacts health care by researching the link between depression and psychosocial (taking into account social and psychological factors) stress to increased risks of elevated blood pressure, obesity and heart disease. These outcomes are specifically dangerous if uncontrolled in chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients.

Kidneys, along with other biological systems, are the filter for stress in the body. If you are diagnosed with CKD, then your ability to deal with stress is disrupted. And for those who are exposed to heightened levels of psychosocial stress, kidney disease advances that much faster. By studying the continuum of care for CKD patients, Kevin found racial health care disparities and differences in physicians’ treatment of black patients vs white patients. Kevin’s next goal is to translate this data into better healthcare experiences for millions of black Americans. “Improved healthcare in black America will only be achieved by fixing the systemic inequities in care and individuals taking personal responsibility by eating right and exercising regularly,” said Kevin. This is a lofty academic goal, but SP2 is not just about publishing research. Kevin, like so many at SP2, plans to go a step further to find a workable solution to a complex problem.

Kevin’s hope is that by engaging celebrity spokespeople to publicly discuss their personal health challenges, regular folks will start to talk about, and take an interest in, their own physical and mental well-being. Kevin comes to this conclusion naturally. His mother, who ate healthy and exercised regularly, suddenly came down with strep throat.

△ Above: Chubb Rock, performer and longtime advocate of social justice, meets with Dean Jackson and Kevin to discuss future collaboration.

△ Right: Kevin addressing members of the Interpreting Attitudes towards Minorities in Medicine (IAM) research group.
BLACK HEALTH MATTERS
and contracted a virus that shut down her kidneys due to infection. Kevin noticed that after his mom’s experience (she is fine now), he started watching Alonzo Mourning and the Miami Heat. Kevin was drawn to Mourning because he had undergone, like his mom, a kidney transplant and returned to play basketball for an additional four years. It was Mourning’s willingness to publicly talk about his health experiences that caught Kevin’s attention and was the beginning of the “Celebrity Health Project,” which Kevin is now pursuing.

Kevin believes that, in an ideal world, we should place as much value on one’s health care decisions as we do on an athlete’s talent on the field or an entertainer’s presence on the stage. According to Kevin, we can make great strides in preventative medicine for everyday Americans if people read about their favorite celebrity getting a diabetes test, undergoing preventative health screenings and maintaining regular check-ups.

Kevin believes that these health care conversations will encourage others to do the same and change the landscape of black health in America. Talking openly about these taboo subjects can lead to better medical care and healthier living. Kevin is confident that when celebrities start publicly speaking about their health challenges and treatments, both medical and lifestyle, then others will follow resulting in healthier communities overall.

RIGHT: Kevin addressing members of the Interpreting Attitudes towards Minorities in Medicine (IAM) research group.

BELOW: Chubb Rock meets the IAM research group.
Faith for Social Change

MSW GRAD AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS STONELEIGH EMERGING LEADER FELLOWSHIP TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 16- TO 24-YEAR-OLDS

Amber Wool’s passion is mentoring youth. Whether she is leading services trip for fellow church members or advocating for a quality education for every student, she is committed to making sure every young person has the tools they need to succeed. Being a first generation college graduate, she vowed to give others the same opportunity she was granted. For her field placement as a social worker undergrad at the University of Georgia, she was assigned to Project SAFE, a nonprofit working to end domestic violence. Through that field placement, she discovered an interest for macro (big picture policy and system changes) social work. Before graduate school, though, she decided that she needed some “real world experience” and got a job at the UGA Wesley Foundation, the largest Methodist Campus Ministry in the United States.

At the Wesley Foundation, Amber worked with their college mentoring program and ran their philanthropic service trips. During these trips, she started to understand that there is something important to be learned from every religion and culture. She became passionate about embracing differences in perspective and assisted in creating a cultural competency curriculum around that idea. At the same time, she realized how formative the late teen and early college years are for youth and she decided this was the area she would focus on. It was time to go back to grad school.

SP2 was immediately on her radar and first choice, since she knew of SP2’s reputation and excellent macro social work degree program. Amber wanted to be where she would be exposed to a diversity of people and ideas—a place where she could “stretch her mind.” She also knew that an SP2 degree would open many professional doors for her. Since she earned a social work undergrad degree, Amber was admitted into the advanced standing program and arrived on campus in the fall of 2016.

Amber knew that she wanted to work with youth and was paired with Episcopal Community Services (ECS) for her field placement. It was serendipitous that during Amber’s interview, they told her they were launching a mentor program, which was exactly what she had been doing at Wesley. During the year, she developed their policy and procedures manual, assisted with launching the program, paired mentors with youth and helped with curriculum development. It was a match made in heaven.

Since earning her Masters in Social Work in May 2017, Amber has embarked on her next chapter as part of the Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellowship program, which provides “hands-on
“Many voices and different perspectives are what will make this world a better place.”

experience for young professionals committed to addressing the needs of Greater Philadelphia’s most vulnerable youth through policy analysis, research, or advocacy.” She is working with the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) to “advance policy and practice reforms designed to increase postsecondary access for Philadelphia’s opportunity youth (16-24 year-olds who are neither in school nor working).” After her two years are complete, Amber hopes to return to school and pursue her Ph.D. Ultimately, she wants to focus on research and policy advocacy on issues surrounding youth and hopes to settle in Philadelphia to contribute to the city’s youth.

Amber believes that her faith has led her to Philadelphia and the social work field. Her faith calls on her to serve others and her social work background has instilled within her the importance of listening. She does not believe that she is here “to impose her voice, but, rather, help others amplify their own and advocate on their behalf.”

△ ABOVE: Amber Wool, Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow, during a day at the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN).
New Hybrid Model for Nonprofit Leaders and Social Impact Professionals

“We can allow for greater access, improve program impact, and meet the much needed demand for innovative forms of learning.”

University of Pennsylvania’s School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) recently launched a hybrid online version of the School’s Nonprofit Leadership (NPL) master’s program. Now accepting its first cohort, the NPL’s new hybrid model boasts a world-class education and network of social impact leaders that allows for learners and working professionals to simultaneously develop their careers anywhere in the country.

“With this new format, we can allow for greater access, improve program impact, and meet the much needed demand for innovative forms of learning,” said NPL Associate Director Adam Roth-Saks. “Our program has always allowed students to build a foundation for their professional and civic journeys as collaborative agents of impact — and now they can do so no matter where they are.”

The NPL Hybrid program combines on-campus and online elements in an 11-month masters that enables...
students to address social impact challenges and the opportunity to acquire expertise from internationally recognized faculty and instructors.

"By making our best faculty and curriculum available in this new format, we think this program will radically increase access and broaden the range of professionals who can complete our master’s program," said NPL Director Peter Frankin. "We look forward to using distance education in partnership with campus learning to build a powerful new learning community committed to making social impact."

The NPL curriculum prepares students and future thought leaders to advance nonprofits and social impact organizations via a series of courses on volunteer management, nonprofit governance and management, social entrepreneurship, finance, as well as ethics, fundraising, branding, evaluation, and more.

"Penn continues to seek innovative approaches to addressing long-term questions related to social impact and inclusion, and this is one more curricular way of answering some of those questions. By enhancing NPL program access, we will cultivate even more bright and passionate individuals across disciplines," said SP2 Dean John L. Jackson, Jr. "And it is these individuals who will skillfully take action and transform social enterprises, international NGOs, advocacy organizations, educational systems, social service agencies, art and cultural institutions - and society as a whole - for the better."
A true Trailblazer

Mamie Todd

The Importance of Social Work Then and Now
The Importance of Social Work Then and Now

Social work is invaluable. It’s indispensable. Some might even say it’s good for your health. Just ask SP2 alum Mamie Bland Todd, who turned 100 in 2016.

An undeniable trailblazer in the field of social work, last year, Mamie sat down with fellow SP2 alum and Associate Dean of Enrollment and Global Affairs Mary Mazzola MSW, Ed.D. to share stories and words of wisdom. Among other things, Mamie recalled the significance of her time at SP2 as well as her inspirational career well-spent on the front lines of social justice for the marginalized and underserved.

She fought for those whose voices were inaudible, which, as Mamie knows first-hand, was especially difficult to do during a time when the repression of women was rampant and racism seemed normal. It wasn’t easy, Mamie would probably tell you, but it was necessary.

For decades, she advocated for child abuse reporting and was instrumental in helping bachelor level social workers aid in child abuse investigations. Even before her time as a social worker, she was a teacher lobbying for a quality education for students in Virginia. She actually had to resign when she got married; according to Mamie, only single women were allowed to be teachers.

Over time, key words like “humility,” “special,” “devoted” have been oft used when people have described Todd - and with just cause.

“I was just so impressed by her,” Mary said of her recent visit. “It was a different time back then, and yet she has been so incredibly influential. It was absolutely a privilege to hear how much she has been able to do.”

To many, Mamie, who graduated from SP2 (when it was known as Penn’s School of Social Work) in 1953, has been known for spearheading efforts to pass Maryland’s Child Abuse Law after having realized the inadequacy of child protective service policies at the time.

“I wanted every jurisdiction in Maryland to have a special unit for child protection because that was the biggest problem that I could see,” Mamie said, explaining her observations as a casework supervisor in Baltimore.

“Parents didn’t know how to deal with the children and teachers and other people abused children. And if a teacher knew a child was being abused, they were afraid to do anything about it, because they couldn’t prove it. But we had to do something to make sure people would report suspected child abuse.”

“We believed a central registry was needed to accept reports of suspected child abuse and that all social service departments needed a structure in place to invest reports of suspected child abuse and that qualified social workers needed to conduct the investigations, she said.

Why? Well, as Mamie wrote in an article decades ago, “Today’s abusing parents are believed by many child experts to be yesterday’s abused children.”

Mamie has since been recognized several times for being an outstanding citizen and model social worker. She has been a pioneer of social justice and is a known civil rights activist. And, after all these years and countless steps in the direction of progress, Mamie would be one of the first to tell you that “social work is one of the most needed professions today.” It wasn’t easy, but it has been - and still is - necessary.
The Caster Building, built in 1965, serves as the home to the School of Social Policy & Practice. Before a newer entrance and porch fronting Locust Walk was installed, student, staff and faculty used to come in through a courtyard entrance.
Harvey Finkle
The Man Behind the Lens
It's been said that a picture paints a thousand words. If that is true, then Harvey Finkle is the Picasso of Philadelphia's social justice movement. Words like "social justice", "politics" and "advocacy" have informed Harvey's photos for the past 40 years. His photos tell the often-ignored stories about important social and cultural issues, such as mental illness among veterans, child well-being and gerontology. Harvey's training as a social worker activist informs his artistic expressions of these critical areas. A self-described advocate, he says, "This is my work."

Like his life, Harvey's path to photography was unconventional. When his children were born, they were deaf - just one of the many reasons that Harvey wanted to be sure he had dedicated time to spend with them. Among his favorite activities, Harvey enjoyed walking through the streets of Philadelphia with just his kids and a camera. This led to him eventually becoming a full-time photographer.

"As a social worker, I had the opportunity to help people. And as a photographer, I have the opportunity to help them by documenting their struggles, hopes and dreams," Harvey said. When he became a full-time photographer, his contacts within the social work world allowed him to win grants and contracts that provided him with the income necessary to continue and plenty of subjects to photograph.

A proud 1961 grad of Penn's School of Social Work, now SP2, Harvey initially was not much of a student. He only ended up graduating from Temple University because the army discharged soldiers three months early if they enrolled in school. That degree from Temple is what got him hired by the Department of Public Assistance and launched his social work career. And Harvey found that he really enjoyed going into the field and working with people. To him, "social work is a lot like photography. You have to build trust immediately and listen." After graduating from Penn, he worked at the Society to Protect Children from Cruelty working with Families that had been reported for alleged
child abuse and for an experimental preschool. Both positions required him, as an outsider, to gain the trust of the families he was working to help.

In 1982, through the Nationalities Service Center, Harvey started documenting the resettlement of the Indochinese, Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians in South Philadelphia and considers this exhibit to be his “breakthrough photography.” This was incredibly exciting to him, because the images were incredibly rich and foreign and so unlike the American culture he knew. From there, his work consistently revolved around the social issues of the time. “I realized that I liked to relate my work to the political social situations of the times,” said Harvey. From the 1980s through the 2000s, Harvey was on the frontline documenting every progressive happening in Philadelphia, including, among many others, the sanctuary movement, rights of people with disabilities, anti-death penalty, and homeless advocacy.

△ ABOVE: Harvey in his natural element, the darkroom, checking out his latest photos.
In 2010, Harvey returned to South Philadelphia to document the “Immigrant Transformation.” The changing immigration landscape in South Philadelphia, from shrinking populations of Jews and Italians to increasing populations of Cambodians, Nepalese, Burmese and Indonesians, enabled the neighborhood to be relevant and stay vibrant. His social work background was able to translate that newly arrived citizens were all searching for a safe place to live, a good job to earn a living wage, and a quality education for their children into a visual story that everyone, regardless of nationality or language barrier, could understand.

When asked how social work and photography intersect, Harvey recounted a story from his days at Penn. In 1959, Barry Goldwater was a rising star in the Republican Party and he was in class listening to a woman extolling the values of Goldwater. At the time, he thought “what is this woman doing in this field?” To Harvey, Goldwater had none of the social work values they were learning about in class. His professor, noticing his sudden lack of classroom participation, told Harvey something that still resonates with him to this day. His professor said, “The values of social work are what you bring to it, not what is there.” To this day, that is what guides him as Philadelphia’s social justice photographer.
Eradicating AIDS

FACULTY MEMBER’S APPROACH IS CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF HIV TREATMENT

HIV prevention and education is usually treated in the public health arena and such interventions are applied through that lens. However, what if HIV prevention was approached by addressing its social factors? What would those interventions look like and could it make a difference in HIV suppression and decreasing disease transmission? Toorjo Ghose, Ph.D., Associate Professor at SP2, has spent the last 25 years approaching the HIV epidemic in that exact way and is seeing impressive results here and abroad.

Short of an outright cure, the best way to reduce the number of new HIV infections is ensuring that those who carry the HIV virus do not transmit it, according to TJ. New and readily available medication is intended to achieve “viral suppression,” which means the levels of HIV in the blood are low enough to stop transmission to others. Through years of community-based work focused on some of our most vulnerable populations, TJ’s work is centered on some key approaches. He is creating programs and strategies to ensure people are taking their HIV medication dutifully to prevent the transmittal of the disease by focusing on the social drivers that become barriers to medication adherence.

Though fascinating, the methods TJ and his partners have been employing are not complicated. First and foremost, TJ contends that collaboration with, and listening to, the local community is critical for success. Partnerships are crucial for defining the main social factor in that target population and for the successful implementation of what he refers to as the GAINS model - the utilization of Groups, Advocacy and an Integrated Network of Services. “Groups” refer to people being supported by peers through group therapy, counseling and motivational sessions. “Advocacy” ensures that elected officials are formulating
informed and effective HIV policies. The “Integrated Network of Services” is critical for providing people living with HIV the interventions they need to take their medicine. Here is how it works on a micro level.

TJ’s work began when he was pursuing his doctorate at UCLA years before he came to Penn. Funded with a small graduate student grant, he started looking at innovative ways to combat the spread of HIV in his native India. Operating within one of the most vulnerable populations, sex workers, he and colleagues embarked on a collaborative community-led structural intervention. Partnering with the collective, it became apparent that the risk of HIV was a work condition, not a health issue, and just one among many including client violence, trafficking, and police brutality. According to TJ, the “radical reconfiguring of HIV risk to be a work condition, rather than a health one, is exactly why the program has been so successful in stopping the spread of HIV and AIDS.” From that approach, TJ and colleagues helped and documented the process through which the collective of sex workers, now known as Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), became a union with 70,000 members. While membership numbers are impressive, the HIV statistics are staggering. The HIV rate in sex worker communities in the US and around the world is generally in the 60-70 percent zone.

“The AIDS epidemic resides in our most vulnerable communities right now. The only way to stop the epidemic is to get people to adhere to medication.”
The HIV rate for DMSC members in Kolkata's red light district is less than 1 percent. Soon after, TJ was ready to focus on HIV reduction in the United States and was connected to Housing Works by SP2 Professor Dr. Dennis Culhane, Ph.D.

Based in New York City, Housing Works is committed to eradicating HIV by serving one of the city's most neglected populations: the tens of thousands of homeless men, women and children. Just as unionizing sex workers in India around work conditions was the social driver to decrease HIV risk, Housing Works believes that stable housing is the key to preventing the virus from proliferating in New York City.

In addition to supporting new AIDS research, HIV interventions and making sure government is investing in medical research and technology to stop the spread of HIV, Housing Works focuses on providing essential supportive services, like housing, nutrition and employment. This multi-pronged approach is focused on ensuring that those who are HIV-negative remain that way and those who are HIV-positive get into care early and stay there. Ensuring that people take their medication can be as easy as paying someone a small stipend to more rigorous interventions, like persuading people to attend weekly behavior group therapy sessions. Though the work is intensive, it is not without reward. And Housing Works, buoyed by their early results, has a stated goal to end (that's right, end) AIDS in New York City by 2020!

TJ is now focused on Philadelphia and using the GAIN's model, and the common elements of which worked in India and New York, to make a difference. Mass incarceration is the key social driver for HIV risk in Philadelphia and in 2016, TJ founded the Center for Carceral Communities in partnership with local community groups. The Center is focusing on the intersection of mass incarceration, substance abuse, homelessness and HIV. According to TJ's research, substance use is the most significant risk factor for incarceration, and episodic periods of imprisonment cause unstable housing and homelessness. In turn, unstable housing and homelessness are closely correlated with substance use and recidivism, creating an all-too-common cycle of substance use, prison time and homelessness.

Conversely, stable housing significantly reduces the rate of dangerous habits such as hard drug use, needle sharing and engaging in sex for exchange and unprotected sex. The Center for Carceral Communities is out to reverse those trends and in just two years in, with almost 100 clients, there has been a 0 percent recidivism rate. "Some of our clients have now gone on to enroll in college degree programs. We are also partnering with businesses to have Center folks realize their entrepreneurial skills."

Three diverse cities, three unique populations, one goal—eradicate the spread of HIV.
There is a transition happening in the City of Philadelphia's Office of LGBT Affairs. A relatively new city agency, the office is charged with fostering equal working and living conditions for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people and to advocate for LGBTQ issues in all areas of city government. The former directors of the office, grassroots activists and a former assistant district attorney, served as policy advisers to the mayor on LGBTQ affairs. However, in the last year, major issues around racial discrimination and economic inequity have exploded in the community and a new director, and approach, was desperately needed to make sure all were fairly represented. It should be no surprise then that Amber Hikes, a SP2 MSW '08 grad whose personal motto is “my existence is resistance,” was selected.

Growing up around the world as a “military brat,” Amber was always taught about the importance of education. “No one can ever take your degree from you,” as her mother instilled in her and Amber combined her passions of access to higher education and working with low-income high school students by accepting a position at Upward Bound at Penn upon graduating from SP2. For the next seven years, she was responsible for “increasing the rate at which low-income, first-generation-to-college students enroll in and graduate from a college or university with a bachelor’s degree.” And then she got the call from Mayor Kenney asking her to take the helm of the office. Amber listened to the mayor describe how the “Office of LGBT Affairs needed to be outward facing rooted in the community to address issues around racism, discrimination, economic justice and safety and equality for all.” For a woman whose career “is about social innovation, impact and justice through active civic engagement,” it was a no brainer and she became the fourth executive director in March 2017.
“Social justice is who I am as a person and how I move through the world. It is rooted in my identity. Being at City Hall focusing on racial and economic justice for our disenfranchised members of the LGBTQ community and coming up with socially innovative ways to approach the work is a dream come true.”
Amber hit the ground running and within her first month, Philadelphia was simultaneously celebrating City Council’s resolution declaring March 31st as Transgender Day of Visibility while organizing a “Pop-Up Love Rally” to counter a conservative group-sponsored, anti-transgender bus traveling around the country. To Amber, “organizing the community collaborative effort was critical to show our Trans community that they are loved and recognized and the City of Philadelphia will always stand by them. Discrimination, specifically transphobia, has no place in Philadelphia.” While these celebratory events are important, and largely symbolic, the real work of the office is centered on combating racial discrimination in the “gayborhood.”

Racism in the LGBTQ community is not a new issue, there was even a gayborhood racism report commissioned under Mayor W. Wilson Goode in 1986, but the current administration is dealing with it in a new way. Working in partnership with the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR), the office will focus on monitoring progress under the new bill that empowers PCHR to close a business if it has multiple violations of the fair practices ordinance and is not being cooperative in remedying the behavior. And on June 8th, in support of racial diversity, equality and inclusion, the office unveiled a new pride flag to include black and brown stripes.

Amber is also tasked with working with the newly created Mayor’s Commission on LGBT Affairs and its nine subcommittees. Amber thinks of the commission as her “octopus” arms and it is there to keep her, and the office, honest and transparent. She “hopes that the commission will allow her to keep her finger on the pulse to know what is going on and the needs of the community, responding to those needs quickly and appropriately and anticipate those needs before they become serious concerns. And serving the people in the best way possible by flipping the old government model on its head and not tell people what they need, but to learn from them how we can best serve them.”

Amber is very clear that a social worker, and one prepared by SP2, is the best person to lead the Office of LGBT Affairs. “Every bit of this work is managing personalities, meeting people where they are and being able to have difficult conversations from a place of compassion and deeper understanding. A social worker is not the most traditional choice for this role, but in many ways, it is obvious that a social worker is the only one who can lead this office at this time. After all, social workers approach, dissect, and, ultimately, heal the world differently than other professionals.”

BELOW: Amber addressing a rally introducing Philadelphia’s new official pride flag, which gives the rainbow an inclusive update by adding black and brown stripes.
Access Through an App

Johanna Greeson

Trailblazing
Access Through an App

YOUTH MATTERS: PHILLY

The internet is not just used for shopping and social media. Fortunately, it is also being utilized to make the world a little less scary for those who may feel alone and isolated. This is especially important for our most marginalized and vulnerable youth, like those who have aged out of foster care and may be in desperate need of resources, like something to eat, a safe place to sleep or crisis services. A new app, Youth Matters: Philly, is putting a comprehensive database of resources directly in one’s hand, allowing individuals to access critical services 24/7.

The idea behind Youth Matters: Philly is simple: streamline, and provide instant access to resources, so youth can find what they need immediately. Collaboratively designed by Johanna Greeson, Ph.D., from SP2, tech incubator Hack4Impact, undergraduate students from the Penn School of Engineering and Applied Science and Philadelphia’s Juvenile Law Center, the impetus was the desire to leverage the power of technology for “doing good” as well as finding a better way to reach youth in need than the outdated pamphlets that often litter tables at social service agencies. Coinciding with the start of National Foster Care Month, Youth Matters: Philly was launched on May 1, 2017 and debuted with more than 350 resources and services aimed at youth from ages 14 to 26, including the hours, contact information, and locations for each listing.

Here is how it works. The Youth Matters: Philly app allows youth to easily navigate a complex web of providers and relevant services in a format that is most accessible to them. Services can be located through a map function that allows youth to find out which resources are available and nearby. The app lets users text details about a resource to themselves or others.
Access through App

can be viewed on multiple platforms and includes advanced search features for further customization. For example, young people can seek resources for education opportunities or find out where to get health insurance. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA) youth can find safe and judgment-free places to talk or discover housing opportunities targeted to them. “When saved to a mobile phone, the app becomes a vital and immediate information portal to a webpage with maps and an array of important information for accessing resources. If a young person is experiencing homelessness, he or she can use the app to find the name and number of a nearby shelter,” Johanna said.

“Youth Matters: Philly is important because there are lot of homeless youth in the city of Philadelphia, and we do often have access to technology,” said Anthony Simpson, who knows firsthand the importance of technology. Anthony participated in the focus groups during the development process for the app and is a current employee and advocate of Youth Fostering Change at Juvenile Law center. He is also a formerly homeless youth. “Why not be able to use technology to locate things we need, like actual resources and programs? For one youth, it could be a matter of life and death. How great would it be for a youth with limited access to food and shelter to be able to easily locate a shelter or a food bank in their area. It would be amazing.”

△ ABOVE: Johanna Greason and Juvenile Law Center staff members Dominique Mikell and Marcia Hopkins.

Why not be able to use technology to locate things we need, like actual resources and programs?
Johanna believes that Youth Matters: Philly aligns beautifully with SP2's vision, because it taps all three of its areas: social innovation, impact and justice. "It also is an example of contributing to the advancement of more effective, efficient and humane human services. Our app is a prime example of how we must be working together, across sectors, to address the pressing social issues of our time," she said. "We brought together academia, tech, community partners, local government, and the youth themselves to develop a solution that has the potential to improve the lives of the marginalized and vulnerable youth of Philadelphia."

Our app is a prime example of how we must be working together, across sectors, to develop solutions to, potentially, improve the lives of the marginalized and vulnerable youth of Philadelphia.

Now that the app is launched, the outreach has begun in earnest. SEPTA is currently advertising it on the subway and select bus routes and the Juvenile Law Center staff trained youth service providers on how the app works. According to Johanna, the next phase is to complete a preliminary evaluation study of the app and continue to discuss sustainability. In the next 5 years, we want the app to be fully sustainable, make sure it is updated regularly and replicate it in other Pennsylvania counties."
Strengthening
SexGen Policy Lab
NEW CENTER DEVELOPING “RESEARCH WITH TEETH” AT SP2

Where would you go if you wanted to access Ivy League research on policy, the market economy, sexuality, and gender? Where can you find academics committed to tying research directly into improving their surrounding community? At SP2, students can pursue a Master of Science in Social Policy Program (MSSP), which is an eleven-month, ten-course program that prepares professionals with knowledge and skills to use policy to increase equality, promote equity, and forge social change. Better yet, last year, SP2 launched the SexGen Policy Lab so students, professors and community members can conduct and access gender and sexuality research anchored in community partnerships, “research that has teeth,” and has long-term impact.

In September 2016, Dr. Amy Castro Baker, Ph.D., who serves on MSSP’s governance committee and teaches in the program, had not even set up her office when students began contacting her for assistance with housing, gender and sexuality research. Though planning started in January 2016, Amy CB thought the actual launch would take far longer than nine months. However, a few important factors immediately launched the lab. One, Penn contained ready-made allies who were persistently working on these issues for years. Penn partners such as the Penn’s LGBTQ Center, the Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality, groundwork done by the Penn’s Women’s Center, and grad students all across campus were leading the charge before Amy CB arrived on campus. Second, SP2’s Dean John L. Jackson, Ph.D. was already training SP2 staff on gender and sexuality issues and was way ahead than any other Dean on campus. Third, while at the City University of New York, Amy CB worked with Dr. Deb Tolman who aims to create a network of SexGen social science labs. Lastly, Dr. Amy Hillier, Ph.D. and Director of the MSSP program, was actively involved in research and policy projects that fit perfectly within the Lab’s mission. (In order to keep track of each “Amy,” Amy Castro Baker will be referred to as Amy CB and Amy Hillier will be referred to Amy H.)

What is the SexGen Policy Lab? In short, the Lab was created to generate research on the intersection of gender, sexuality, and the market economy; provide focused mentorship to Penn students; and create strong, and equal, community-based partnerships. It is for academics, community partners and practitioners who are interested in critical theory, willing to interrogate their own assumptions, and take science seriously.

The Lab began with expanding Amy CB’s research on the housing risks women experience in lending markets along with a new project focused on understanding housing insecurity among LGBTQ youth. An agency approached the Lab seeking new ways to anchor their research methods with youth in a strengths-based model that Amy CB describes as “being at risk, but not defined by it.” Kel Krochle, an SP2 alum, and Hemisha Patel, an MSW ’17 Macro grad, worked as research assistants on the project, which was driven by two questions: “How do LGBTQ youth experience housing precarity after foster care?” and “Are there differences between those self-identifying as LGB and those who describe themselves as gender expansive?”

Community partners and the Lab knew that many of the systems intended to help at-risk youth can retraumatize them if their experiences in social services mimic the trauma they’re fleeing. Hemisha explained that youth who are seeking relief from the harassment and violence they experience based on their identity often find the same circumstances amplified in social services and housing placements. For many, it is “going from the frying pan into the fire.” For example, many of the nonprofit’s target youth population was living in, by any objective definition, unsafe and uninhabitable conditions on the street. However, these youth also described somehow feeling safe there, which spoke volumes to how unsafe their past
living conditions and housing placements actually were. To these youth, being on the street felt safer and the data demonstrated that despite extreme housing insecurity, they showed remarkable resiliency, strength, sense of self, and hope for the future.

But there was one remaining gap. Based on practice experience, the team knew that those self-identifying as gender-expansive were present and experiencing housing differently, but they were completely absent from the dataset. So, they tried piloting a new method prioritizing what Amy CB calls “speaking back to the instrument.” The team noticed that surveys which seemed unusable because youth crossed out pre-set answers, wrote in the margins, checked conflicting answers, or did not comply with the research instrument, were the same youth who identified as gender-expansive. The methods widely considered to be scientifically sound were actually removing gender-expansive youth from the very research designed to include them.

Rather than ignoring the seemingly conflicting information, the team interpreted everything the youth did as data, which dramatically shifted their findings. When they followed traditional research methods, only 12 percent of the youth aged out of foster care into homelessness, but the pilot method showed that the number was actually 38 percent. The team found that by making simple tweaks on gender to their research methods they increased the inclusion of gender expansive youth in the sample and captured their presence when they were otherwise “ignored as data noise or an outlier.” More importantly, this new method allows intake workers in the community to collect information in a healing way for youth who are seeking refuge by “making the invisible visible.”
The idea behind the Sex Gen Policy Lab is to provide faculty mentorship and critical theory opportunities for students to make a difference in the communities they care about.

Meanwhile, Lab co-founder Amy H was working collaboratively with staff and youth from the Attic, Philadelphia’s LGBTQ youth center, and the School District of Philadelphia to develop a policy affirming the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming students. The District’s Policy 252 ensures the “safety, equity, and justice for all students regardless of gender identity or gender expression so that they can reach their fullest human and intellectual potential.” As a mother of a trans elementary school student, she was looking at the importance of peer support for parents of trans students. Likewise, Amy H and her team are developing K-12 curriculum, including a board game, to model how to talk about gender, gender identity and sexuality in the classroom. Lastly, she was supervising a participatory action research study that trained youth to conduct interviews with other transgender and gender nonconforming youth about their high school experiences.

After a short nine months, the SexGen Policy Lab is now fully functional with more than 20 research assistants from Penn and the community. More importantly, the lab is creating a space that takes gender and gender identity seriously on an empirical policy level. In the future, Amy CB and Amy H hope the Lab’s work will change the narrative about gender when researching social issues and make gender as essential as race and class in studies. And there is no better home for the Lab than at SP2, whose vision and mission include the right values to lead that charge.

Below: Amy CB and Hemisha discussing neighborhood changes with a South Philadelphia community member.

Left: Amy H. and Penn students review the board game.

Right: Chris showcases their handmade self-affirmation cards.
ABOVE: SexGen Policy Lab engages with students and community on projects to change the narrative around gender.
Student Organizations

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS

The Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) is comprised of people of African ancestry and is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research within the Penn student body and the community. ABSW also embodies the values of the National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. which works to create a world in which people of African ancestry will live free from racial domination, economic exploitation, and cultural oppression.

Contact: upennabsw@gmail.com

COLLECTIVIST: AN SP2 JOURNAL

Collectivist is a journal comprised of thoughts, reflections, case studies, and other academic work intended to express SP2’s collective consciousness.

Contact: sp2journal@gmail.com

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BLOC

Criminal Justice Bloc (CJB) at SP2 seeks to facilitate students’ exploration of various criminal justice issues. CJB also supports students in working with clients affected by the criminal justice system. CJB encourages a discourse among groups and disciplines both on and off Penn’s campus that do not traditionally interact, creating a platform for innovative responses to criminal justice issues in Philadelphia. CJB also aims to inspire social justice advocacy amongst individuals affected by the criminal justice system. Through regular meetings and events, CJB increases awareness and promotes action around the numerous intersecting issues that relate to the criminal justice system.

Contact: cjb.upenn@gmail.com

HISPANIC/LATINO ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE & EQUITY

The mission of the Hispanic/Latino Alliance for Change and Equity (HACE) is to educate and engage the Penn community about issues that affect the Hispanic and Latino community in Philadelphia, nationally, and globally. Through programming and advocacy efforts, the group strives to build social awareness through issues related to Latinos, and addresses the role that social work practice and policy can serve towards the needs of the fastest growing minority group in the United States.

Contact: HACEsp2@gmail.com
QSP2
QSP2 is a group created to represent gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) social work students and their allies at SP2. The group’s purpose is to offer social activities, advocate for LGBTQ rights and services and to serve as a group within the University-wide network of LGBTQ organizations at Penn. QSP2 has been instrumental in infusing LGBTQ content into the social work curricula, building coalitions with other organizations, increasing visibility of Penn’s LGBTQ social workers and providing emotional and social support to the Penn’s LGBTQ community.

Contact: contactqsp2@gmail.com

SOCIAL WORK ADVOCATES FOR IMMIGRANT & INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS
Social Work Advocates for Immigrant and International Rights (SWAIR) is a community working together to build up our community, locally and globally. SWAIR is an advocacy and support group that is committed to raising awareness and inspiring involvement around immigration and international issues, while exploring the role of social work in the global practice. Their focus is to utilize students, faculty, and the wider Philadelphia community to explore a wide range of global issues. They invest their time in the local community, supporting organizations through system change advocacy and relationships.

Contact: swair.sp2@gmail.com

SP2 QUAKER PEER RECOVERY
Quaker Peer Recovery is a student group that provides a safe space and empowering environment where students living in, or seeking, long-term recovery from substance use disorders, mental health illness, and other quality of life concerns can successfully realize their goals of academic success and an improved quality of life. A collegiate atmosphere where all students in or seeking long-term recovery reach their maximum potential academically, emotionally, and professionally. SP2 Quaker Peer Recovery places value on peer accountability, honesty, acceptance, empowerment, and trust.

Contact: bfield@upenn.edu

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
The SP2 Student Government is the student governance organization for the School of Social Policy & Practice.

Contact: sp2gov@gmail.com

UNITED COMMUNITY CLINIC
The United Community Clinic (UCC) is a free treatment and assessment clinic for the East Parkside Community of West Philadelphia. UCC is organized and run through a collaborative effort of Penn’s medical, nursing, dental and social work students and their schools. The clinic provides a wide range of services as well as community events and outreach that draw directly from the expertise of the diverse body of students and their respective Schools that staff the clinic.

Contact: ucc.socialwork@gmail.com

WOMEN IN SOCIAL POLICY (WISP)
Women in Social Policy (WISP) promote the work and careers of women in social policy and advance understanding of issues at the intersection of gender and social policy.

Contact: hmankin@cas.upenn.edu
291 ENTRING STUDENTS
2017-2018

251 UNITED STATES

188 MSW
45 MSSP
31 NPL
23 DSW PhD

13 CA
23 NY
24 NJ
15 MD
113 PA
Degree Programs

MSW
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
SP2’s Master of Social Work (MSW) Program is designed to prepare social workers for leadership roles in developing and providing services to individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations in the local, national, and global arenas. With a recently redesigned curriculum, the MSW degree melds cutting-edge innovation with a rich educational tradition rooted in social justice and social change.

MSSP
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL POLICY
The Master of Science in Social Policy Program (MSSP) is an eleven-month, ten-course program that prepares professionals with knowledge and skills to use policy to increase equality, promote equity, and forge social change. MSSP graduates are prepared for policy leadership positions in government, philanthropic foundations, research institutes, nonprofit and non-governmental organizations, and related settings.

NPL
MS IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP
SP2 offers a master’s degree in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL). The NPL program welcomes individuals who are bright, passionate, and energized to be transformative thought leaders, social entrepreneurs, and innovators for social impact. There are both full-time and part-time options available for completing the program. In 2018, the NPL will launch an online program.

Ph.D.
PHD IN SOCIAL WELFARE
SP2’s Ph.D. program in Social Welfare is designed to develop leaders in academia and research to identify both problems and potential solutions. Most of our graduates go on to faculty posts in Schools of Social Work and Social Welfare. The Ph.D. program in Social Welfare educates a new generation of researchers, teachers, and leaders.

DSW
DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK
SP2’s Doctorate in Clinical Social Work (DSW) is the first social work practice doctorate. This online program offers all the advantages of a world class learning community in a highly interactive, relational, accessible and convenient format. Balancing the rigor of doctoral education with the practical considerations of busy working professionals, students complete the coursework and dissertation simultaneously, earning the degree in three years without career disruption.

DSW 10TH ANNIVERSARY
This year marks the 10th Anniversary of SP2’s distinguished DSW Program. Program Director Dr. Lisa Hartocollis and SP2 Dean John L. Jackson, Jr. joined DSW students, alumni and other members of the SP2 community in Dallas, TX (during the recent Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting) to kick off the anniversary celebration. Guests enjoyed a delectable full-course dinner, as well as networking and fun. Other anniversary activities will include a speaker and dedicated recognition during the School’s Alumni Weekend in May 2018. SP2 also is creating a special 10th Anniversary DSW Scholarship.

To learn more, contact Bart Wiltenberger, Associate Director of Institutional Advancement at 215-373-5624 or nillitenber@upenn.edu

Dual Degree Programs

MSW DUAL
The MSW dual degree options offer exciting interdisciplinary opportunities for social work students in the full-time, two-year program. Students work closely with their academic advisors in both degree programs to determine their individual courses of study. Within most dual degrees, students may choose either the clinical or macro concentration. In all situations, separate applications are required for each degree program.

MSW/JURIS DOCTOR (JD)
MSW/MASTER IN LAW (ML)
MSW/MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA)
MSW/MASTER OF BIOETHICS (MBE)
MSW/MASTER OF CITY PLANNING (MCP)
MSW/MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)
MSW/MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)
MSW/MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINOLOGY (MSC)
MSW/MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION (MSED)
MSW/MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP (MSL)
MSW/MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL POLICY (MSSP)
MSW/PHD IN SOCIAL WELFARE (PHD)

MSSP DUAL
The MSSP dual degree options offer exciting interdisciplinary opportunities for social policy students in the full-time program. Students work closely with their academic advisors in both degree programs to determine their individual courses of study. In all situations, separate applications are required for each degree program.

MSSP/MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)
MSSP/JURIS DOCTOR (JD)
MSSP/MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)
MSSP/MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

NPL DUAL
The NPL dual degree options offer exciting interdisciplinary opportunities for nonprofit leadership students. Students work closely with their academic advisors in both degree programs to determine their individual courses of study. In all situations, separate applications are required for each degree program.

NPL/JURIS DOCTOR (JD)
NPL/MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)
NPL/MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)
Certificate Programs & Specializations

SUB MATRICULATION FOR PENN UNDERGRADUATES

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)/MSSP

Submatriculation into the Master of Science in Social Policy Program is an exciting option available to committed, exceptional students in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania who want to undertake policy studies toward an MSSP, starting in the senior year of their undergraduate program. Completion of the MSSP degree requires only one semester beyond the BA degree.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)/MSW

This sub-matriculation program is an exciting opportunity for committed, exceptional students in the School of Arts and Sciences who want to work directly with clients or with community-based social service organizations as they earn a BA and MSW in five years of study.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)/NPL

The Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership is an innovative degree option available to students in Penn’s College of Arts and Sciences who embrace the challenge of transforming and leading in the nonprofit sector. Highly qualified students complete this accelerated program in one semester beyond their BA degree.

MSSP CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

MSSP + CERTIFICATE IN DATA ANALYTICS

The MSSP + BA curriculum also provides students with core training and skills in the conceptual foundations of data analytics, programming of data structures, applications of machine learning and predictive analytics, spatial analytics, and the data processing techniques for web scraping and data visualization for a broader public audience.

GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATE

Penn’s Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Studies in Global Human Rights is designed to provide enriched perspectives on human rights. Through this certificate, students will gain a working knowledge of the core international human rights documents, treaties, and mechanisms.

MSW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS & SPECIALIZATIONS

GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORK SPECIALIZATION

Through the Penn Aging Certificate (PAC) Program, students can become leaders in the field of gerontological social work.

CHILD WELNESS & CHILD WELFARE SPECIALIZATION

The Child Wellness and Child Welfare Specialization (CWW) educates students to provide clinical and macro social work services in a culturally competent manner to produce positive outcomes for children and families while also ensuring child safety, permanency, and well-being.

COHEN VETERANS NETWORK SCHOLARS PROGRAM

SP2 currently addresses one of the nation’s most prominent behavioral health issues—a shortage of critical mental health services for veterans and their families who may be experiencing PTSD, depression, and suicidality via a collaboration with the Cohen Veterans Network.

GOLDRING REENTRY INITIATIVE (GRI)

The Goldring Reentry Initiative (GRI) was established in 2011 to address the growing epidemic of mass incarceration and barriers individuals incarcerated in the Philadelphia Prison System (PPS) face upon release.

SOCIAL WORK IN HEALTH CARE SPECIALIZATION

SP2’s Social Work in Health Care Specialization (SWHCS) aims to prepare students for successful careers across healthcare-relevant practice settings with diverse populations and health conditions.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SPECIALIZATION

The Criminal Justice Specialization educates master of social work students to provide culturally competent clinical and macro social work services to people involved with, and impacted by, the criminal justice system by understanding historic and contemporary context of mass incarceration, criminal justice, and reentry.

GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS CERTIFICATE

Penn’s Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Studies in Global Human Rights is designed to provide enriched perspectives on human rights. Through this certificate, students will gain a working knowledge of the core international human rights documents, treaties, and mechanisms.

NPL/CERTIFICATE IN JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE

The Masters in Social Work (MSW) Certificate in Jewish Communal Service is a unique program designed to prepare students for careers in Jewish communal service. Students enrolled in the certificate program can earn both a Master of Social Work degree from Penn and a Certificate in Jewish Communal Services from Gratz College.

NPL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

NPL/MA IN JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE

The Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL)/MA in Jewish Communal Service is a unique program designed to prepare students for careers in Jewish communal service.

NPL/CERTIFICATE IN JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE

Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL) students are able to pursue a Graduate Certificate in Jewish Communal Service at Gratz College.

NPL/MASTERS IN ARTS IN HEBREW LETTERS

The Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL)/MA in Hebrew Letters with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College prepares students to lead Jewish social impact organizations including synagogues, community organizations, and nonprofits.

NPL/MASTERS IN SOCIAL WELFARE

The Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL)/MA in Social Welfare with Yonsei University School of Social Welfare combines social welfare research skills with practical social change leadership skills to ready students for impactful careers.
FIELD CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S POLICY, PRACTICE & RESEARCH

Guided by the Schools of Social Policy & Practice, Law, Medicine, and Nursing, and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, the Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research brings together Penn’s resources to enhance and assure the well-being of abused and neglected children and those at risk of maltreatment. By moving beyond traditional approaches, the Field Center utilizes an interdisciplinary model to integrate clinical care, research and education, inform local and national policy, and prepare the nation’s future leaders, for the benefit of children and their families.

fieldcenteratpenn.org

EVELYN JACOBS ORTNER CENTER ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center serves as a vital resource for policy makers, agency directors, line staff, researchers, and educators as they search for ways to reduce domestic violence. The Center focuses on protecting the rights, safety, and well-being of victims of abuse and neglect in all of its many forms. Interdisciplinary collaboration across Penn’s campus is a cornerstone of this unique Center.

ortnercenter.org

CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING

The Center for Mental Health & Aging (CMHA) is a national leader in the aging field shaping solutions to promote effective integrated service delivery models in partnership with health and social service agencies. CMHA conducts research, demonstration projects, and clinical training across the nation to address the health/mental health needs of older adults, family caregivers, and communities.

spil.upenn.edu/research-centers/research-centers/cmha/

CENTER FOR SOCIAL IMPACT STRATEGY

The Center for Social Impact Strategy (CSIS) is a new research and action center based in the School of Social Policy & Practice that leverages the University of Pennsylvania’s extensive resources to help support the most innovative approaches to public problem solving. The Center’s work is guided by the overarching objective of developing a deeper understanding of the distinctive strategies adopted by changemakers as they seek to innovate and generate social impact.

socialimpactstrategy.org

CENTER FOR CARCERAL COMMUNITIES

The Center for Carceral Communities (CCC), an initiative of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice, is a collective of service providers and people with a history of incarceration. CCC focuses on reducing recidivism, improving mental health, and facilitating community re-engagement and collaborates with West Philadelphia neighborhoods to help people who have been released from incarceration. The center, which has been operating for about a year, provides free, evidence-based psychosocial services that also address education, housing, advocacy and primary care challenges.

NATIONAL CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

The National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (NCHAV) works to promote recovery-oriented care for Veterans who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness by developing and disseminating evidence-based policies, programs, and best practices. Established in 2009, the Center supports the implementation of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans. Work is integrated and organized around the core activities of policy analysis; model development and implementation; education and dissemination; and research and methodology.

va.gov/hospitals/nchav/index.asp
Special Projects

ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE FOR SOCIAL POLICY

Actionable Intelligence For Social Policy (AISP) is an initiative funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation through a grant to University of Pennsylvania Professors Dennis Culhane, School of Social Policy and Practice, and John Fantuzzo, Graduate School of Education. The principal aim of AISP 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 for the people they serve.

aisp.upenn.edu

CENTER FOR CURIOUSITY

Center for Curiosity at SPI2 seeks to conduct rigorous transdisciplinary research into the concept of "curiosity" with the intention to apply these research findings towards diverse learning environments. Key questions include: 1) What are current scholarly understandings of curiosity? 2) How has curiosity been measured in these studies? How might these change if we consider an interdisciplinary approach? 3) How might curiosity provide alternative opportunities for learning in the university? In schools? Elsewhere? 4) What potential does curiosity have for addressing broader social and educational inequalities?

centerforcuriosity.com

SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE ARTS PROJECT

Social Impact of the Arts Project (SIAP) is a research group at Penn School of Social Policy & Practice founded in 1994 by Mark J. Stern, Kenneth L. M. Pray Professor of Social Policy and History. SIAP conceptualizes the arts, culture, and humanities as integral to urban vitality and social wellbeing and develops ways to measure the impact of this sector on community life. Cultural opportunities represent an important dimension of social inclusion and community wellbeing. The arts provide a resource that people can use to make sense of the world as it is and to imagine the future.

criticalpolicystudies.com/

PENN RESTORATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Penn Restorative Entrepreneurship Program (PREP) offers a small group of previously incarcerated people 10 weeks of intensive training on how to start and run a small business. This intensive curriculum training is included as part of a Special Topics course (SWRK 708) entitled "The Social Entrepreneurial Approach to Community Reintegration." Participants are chosen based on survey and interview results and are taught by select students from various schools at Penn who are enrolled in the course.

PENN PALS

Penn Pals are a group of current students who assist the Admissions Office throughout the year. Prospective students often want to speak with current students about their experiences at SPI2, and Admissions relies on current student volunteers to provide this type of interaction. Throughout the year, Penn Pals attend information sessions and open houses to share their experiences as well as speak individually with accepted students through email or phone. In addition, this year, Penn Pals provided some content for SPI2's social media and helped moderate a Facebook group for prospective students.

PROGRAM FOR RELIGION & SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH

The Program for Religion and Social Policy Practice is a research, education, and policy program dedicated to understanding the nexus between organized religion and the provision of social services. They aim to 1) contribute new knowledge on the scope, nature, and practice methods of religious-based social services, 2) develop methods for studying congregations and religious-based organizations, and 3) equip future cadre of social service practitioners and researchers in the integration of social work and religion.

sp2.upenn.edu/prsr

COLLECTIVE FOR ADVANCING MULTIMODAL RESEARCH ARTS

Collective For Advancing Multimodal Research Arts (CAMRA) fosters interdisciplinary collaborations amongst scholars, sensory anthropologists, artists, and educators within and beyond the University of Pennsylvania to explore, practice, evaluate, and teach about multimedia research and representation. We ask questions about the affordances, challenges, and possibilities of multimodal scholarship in teaching, learning, redesigning, and knowledge production.

camrapro.org

PIPELINE FOR PROMISE

Pipeline For Promise, which is run by the School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2), reaches out to minority students from community colleges in the area, offering free courses at the school during the summer months. The students learn about social work as a profession, time management, fiscal responsibility, and other life skills that extend beyond the classroom.
Our Faculty

SP2’s renowned faculty work locally and globally to educate future leaders who will tackle societal challenges in a time of diminishing resources, provide leadership to nonprofit organizations, as well as research and facilitate practical solutions and actions that foster meaningful societal change.

JORETHA N. BOURJOLLY, MSW, Ph.D.
Associate Professor/Clinician Educator Chronic Illness, Racial and Economic Factors in Health Care Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Director MSW Program

JACQUELINE CORCORAN, Ph.D.
Professor Clinical Education and Social Work Practice

AMY CASTRO BAKER, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor Economic, Housing, and Gender Policy Co-Founder Sexgen Policy Lab

DENNIS P. CULHANE, Ph.D.
Professor Homelessness, Housing Policy, Analysis Research Methods Dana and Andrew Stone Chair Social Policy Co-Principal Investigator Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy Director of Research National Center for Homelessness Among Veterans

RAM CNAAN, MSW, Ph.D.
Professor Social Work Research Methods, Faith-based Social Services Program Director Program for Religion and Social Policy Research Faculty Director Goldring Reentry Initiative

EZEKIEL DIXON-ROMÁN, Ph.D.
Associate Professor Cultural Studies, Quantification, Social Policy Chair Data Analytics for Social Policy Certificate Program
MALITTA ENGSTROM, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Problematic Substance Use, Criminal Justice Intersections

RICHARD J. GELLES, Ph.D.
Professor
Child Welfare, Family Violence, Child Abuse
Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair
Child Welfare and Family Violence

JOHANNA K.P. GREESON, Ph.D., MSS, MLSP
Assistant Professor
Child Welfare System, Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
Co-Director Child Well-Being & Child Welfare Specialization (CW2)

PETER FRUMKIN, Ph.D.
Professor
Philanthropy, Nonprofit Management, Social Entrepreneurship
Mindy and Andrew Meyer Chair Social Policy
Faculty Director Center for Social Impact Strategy
Director Nonprofit Leadership Program

ZVI D. GELLIS, Ph.D.
Professor
Geriatrics, Gerontology, Evidence-Based Depression and Anxiety
Director Center for Mental Health & Aging Research
Director Cohen Veterans Network MSW Scholars Program
Director Ann Nolan Reese Endowed Penn Aging Certificate Program

CHAO GUO, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Nonprofit Management
Editor-in-Chief Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly

ANTONIO GARCIA, MSW, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Child Welfare and Services Research
Co-Director Child Well-Being & Child Welfare Specialization (CW2)
Chair Racial Sequence

TOORJO GHOSE, MSW, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Substance Use, HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries
Affiliated Investigator
National Center for Homelessness Among Veterans
CEO & Founder
Center for Carceral Communities

FEMIDA HANDY, BSc, MA, MES, Ph.D.
Professor/Director
Ph.D. in Social Work Program
AMY HILLIER, Ph.D.
Director MS in Social Policy Program
Co-founder SexGen Policy Lab
SP2 & Penn Design Associate Professor
Housing, Food Access, Youth Gender Identity, Public Health

KATE LEDWITH, DSW, LCSW
Senior Lecturer
Social Work and Mental Health

AILEEN B. ROTHBARD, ScD
Research Professor
Mental Health Services and Mental Health Policy

ROBERTA REINER IVERSEN, Ph.D., MSS
Associate Professor Low-income Families, Welfare and Workforce Development, Economic Mobility

STEVEN C. MARCUS, Ph.D.
Research Associate Professor
Epidemiologist, Statistician, Computer Scientist and Mental Health Services

JENNIFER PRAH RUGER, Ph.D.
Amartya Sen Professor Health Equity, Economics, and Policy
Associate Dean Global Studies
Faculty Chair Center for High Impact Philanthropy (CHIP)

JOHN L. JACKSON, JR., Ph.D.
Dean SP2
Richard Perry University Professor
Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) Professor

IOANA E. MARINESCU, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Applied Economic Work in Labor and Health Policy
Faculty Research Fellow
National Bureau of Economic Research

KENWYN SMITH, Ph.D.
Professor Organizational Behavior, Intergroup Dynamics
PHYLLIS SOLOMON, Ph.D.
Professor Social Work Research Methods, Mental Health Policy, Mentally Disabled Persons
Associate Dean for Research
Faculty Fellow The Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center

ALLISON WERNER-LIN, Ph.D., AM, EDM, LCSW
Director Social Work in Health Care Specialization
Chair Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice
Assistant Professor Psychosocial Oncology, Genetics and Genomics, Assisted Reproductive Technology, and Medical Family Therapy

SUSAN B. SORENSON, Ph.D.
Professor Social Policy
Professor Health & Societies
Senior Fellow Public Health
Director The Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence

IRENE WONG, Ph.D.
Associate Professor Social Policy, Poverty and Homelessness Prevention
Associate Professor Psychology in Psychiatry

MARK J. STERN, Ph.D.
Professor
Kenneth L.M. Pray Professor Social Policy and History
Co-Director Urban Studies Program, Principal Investigator
Social Impact of the Arts Project
## 2017

### Board of Overseers

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<td>Mooresville, NJ</td>
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<td>Bill A. Meyer, Esq., W'71</td>
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<td>Rye, NY</td>
<td>West Palm Beach, FL</td>
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<td>James Miller, W'83</td>
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<td>New York, NY</td>
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<td>Julie Mhinds Franklin, C'87</td>
<td>Cindy S. Moclis, Esq., W'82</td>
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<td>Coral Gables, FL</td>
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<td>Vicki Panzler Gross, W'87</td>
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<td>Nisha Hurst, W'96</td>
<td>Mark S. Ostroff, W'79</td>
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<td>Greenwich, CT</td>
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<td>Barry A. Porter, W'79</td>
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<td>Chevy Chase, MD</td>
<td>Beverly Hills, CA</td>
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<td>Elisabeth LaMotte, C'90, SW'95</td>
<td>Juan Pujadas, EAS'83, W'83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Mamaroneck, NY</td>
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Planning For a Better Future.

Carole cares about the future of social work... so she made a plan.

As a long-time social worker, Carole Okun, MSW '95, believes in the importance of social work in our society. By honoring her mentor, and former dean, Dr. Louise Shoemaker, Carole has created her own Penn legacy.

Carole’s current gift established the Shoemaker Term Scholarship Fund, making an education at Penn’s School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) immediately accessible for financially struggling students. With some thoughtful planning, Carole has furthered her support by structuring a gift through her estate. Her bequest will create an endowed scholarship in Dr. Shoemaker’s name.

These special gifts demonstrate a lifelong commitment to SP2 and to Carole’s profession—continuing to promote social justice and social change for those who need it most.

To read more about Carole’s commitment to social work, visit www.sp2.upenn.edu/carole-okun-story.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE MANY CREATIVE WAYS TO MAKE A PLANNED GIFT AT SP2, CONTACT:
Robert Vosburgh, JD | Director of Gift Planning
215.898.6171 | vosburgh@upenn.edu | www.giving.upenn.edu/giftplanning
Bart Miltenberger | Associate Director of SP2 Institutional Advancement
215.573.5624 | miltenbe@upenn.edu
Moving the World Forward with SP2

NADINA R. DEIGH ASSOCIATE DEAN, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Since I arrived at SP2 several years ago, there has been constant change. In 2004, the School of Social Work became the School of Social Policy & Practice (affectionately coined SP2), to better reflect its expanding pedagogy. Soon thereafter, faculty added two new degree programs—a Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership (NPL) and also Social Policy (MSSP)—to the flagship Masters of Social Work (MSW) and Ph.D in Social Welfare. SP2’s Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) - the first clinical doctorate and Penn’s first online program—quickly followed suit. Just a few months into my tenure, it became crystal clear—SP2 was on the move!

In those early years, I dove hungrily into my role as Director of Development and Alumni Relations, trying to keep pace with a School that was bursting at the seams. With continual change came much adjustment. My growing team and I gallantly worked to reconnect alumni, including those who felt alienated by the name change. SP2’s cutting-edge curriculum and research also required more and more funds to grow. The main Emlen building, erected decades ago, was in dire need of a face lift. Fortunately, we were able to address many of these challenges via the Campaign for Social Change Leadership: SP2’s first-ever, multimillion-dollar fundraising effort.

With so much to do, no wonder it feels like the years have passed in a flash! Today, the action continues, and SP2 is more vibrant and relevant than ever. For example, we recently launched a brand new initiative, ActionSP2, a logical next chapter for our signature “SP2 Penn Top 10” project.

SP2’s core mission is to conduct research and educate students to address some of the most pressing and intractable local, national and international social issues. Our work is not just academic: it creates real-world, ripple effects and change.

Via a multimodal approach (e.g. practitioner residencies, a documentary film project and faculty research colloquia), ActionSP2 will engage students, faculty, alumni, and other life-long learners by highlighting individuals and organizations that work toward and epitomize successful action and advocacy. Our ultimate goal is to help SP2’s diverse community members bridge education and research into tangible, positive, actions of impact.

SP2 also will publicly launch its second major capital campaign in April of 2018. Given the success of the last Campaign, SP2 is well positioned to continue this positive momentum and raise funds in support of such core priorities as financial aid, faculty recruitment, and robust research and practice. Each of these priorities translate into solutions: solutions that help solve some of society’s toughest problems. Please stay tuned to learn more about SP2’s Campaign in the coming months, as well as how you can play a part in its success.

In the meantime, I welcome you to connect with SP2; however is best for you. There are many ways to be involved, and I invite you to explore these. Twelve years later, SP2 is still on the move, and I’m still enjoying the ride. Buckle up and join us as we move toward an even brighter future!

With gratitude,

Nadina R. Deigh