



# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

2018 – Year in Review



## Message from the Chair

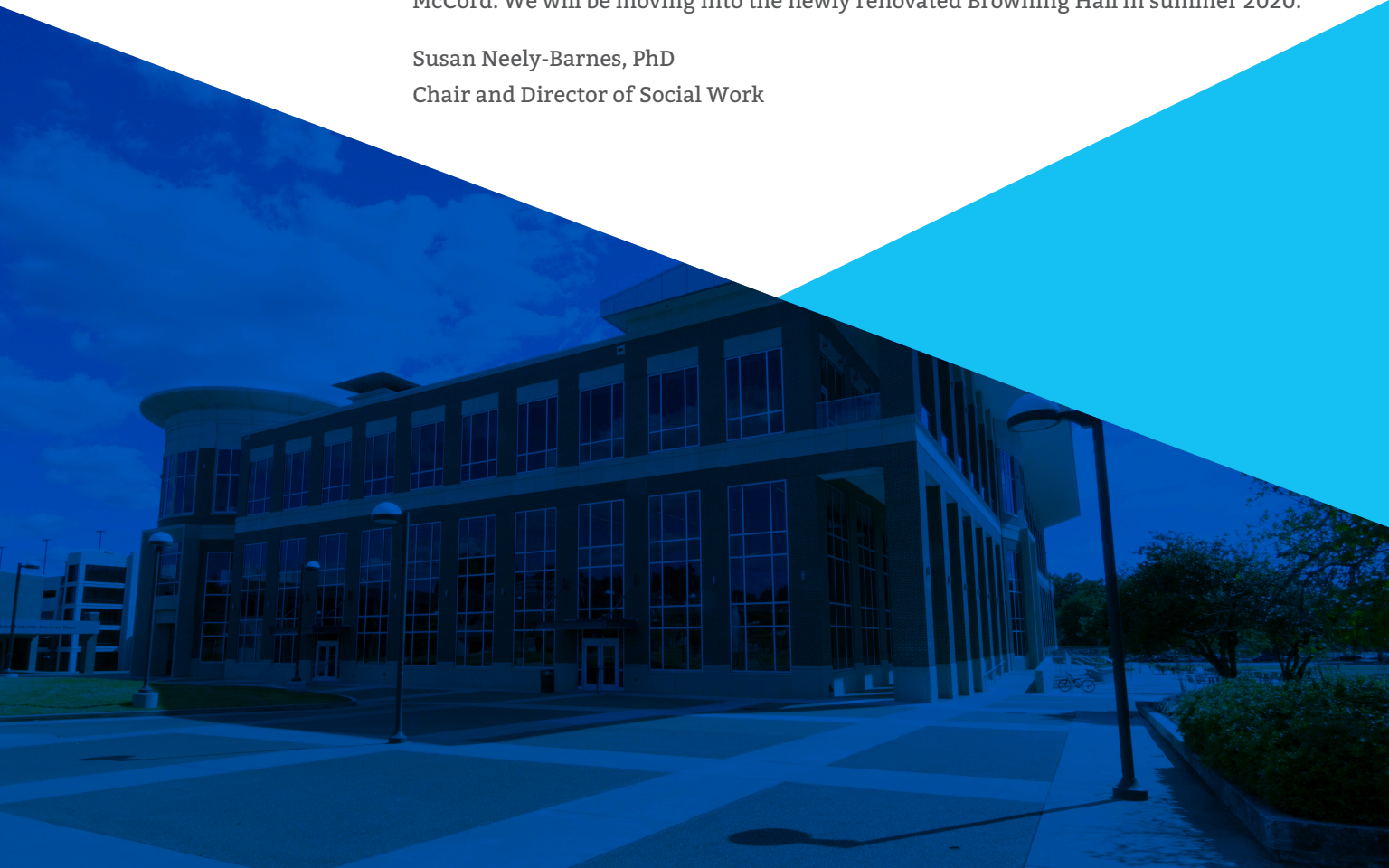


It has been a wonderful year for Social Work at the University of Memphis. This year, we became the School of Social Work. Our Master of Social Work (MSW) was reaccredited for eight years by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and was ranked No. 88 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. We also added a new graduate certificate in School Social Work this year. During the 2017–18 academic year, we had 77 students graduate from our BA in Social Work program and 52 students graduate from our MSW program. This was one of the largest classes of Social Work graduates in the history of the University of Memphis.

In fall 2018, we added four new faculty: two new assistant professors and two new instructor/coordinators. Our faculty have been especially productive receiving new grants and publishing new articles. We have highlighted the LIFE project and the Music Club grant in this newsletter along with a list of new faculty publications.

We are looking forward to great things in the next two years. We will be launching a fully online advanced standing MSW track beginning in summer 2019. We also added another instructor/coordinator in January and a new assistant professor in August. The School of Social Work is currently located in McCord Hall and Building 29. We look forward to the completion of a renovation of Browning Hall located right next door to McCord. We will be moving into the newly renovated Browning Hall in summer 2020.

Susan Neely-Barnes, PhD  
Chair and Director of Social Work



## Alumni Spotlight



### DEAVILA BENNETT

DeAvila Bennett is an active therapist at both the clinical and school level in the Memphis area. She is a school social worker for the KIPP Memphis Collegiate Schools, and is a licensed therapist utilizing Trauma-Focused CBT. DeAvila has also embraced new technologies to become a multi-platform personality with a blog, a YouTube channel, a podcast and a published book, all to help individuals process their feelings, understand themselves and cope with the world at large.



### VICTORIA JONES

A Chicago native, Victoria Jones moved to Memphis to pursue her education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. After graduating from the MSW program, she pursued a career in therapy, earning her LMSW and currently working towards her LCSW. She currently works for the office of Student Health and Counseling Services here at the University of Memphis, leading efforts to destigmatize mental health, promote student self-care and prevent suicide.

## Introducing our New Faculty



### JERRY WATSON, PhD, MSW, MBA | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Jerry Watson has a diverse education background, with an MSW, MBA and a PhD in urban higher education. Watson has a broad research focus, including university-community partnerships and African American men's health issues.



### SEOK WON JIN, PhD, MSW, MA | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Seok Won Jin has studied extensively both in America and in his native South Korea. His area of specialty is in gerontology services. Jin's research utilizes technology-based approaches to eliminate health disparities among underserved populations.



### KATIE ALLBRITTEN, LCSW | INSTRUCTOR/COORDINATOR

As both a licensed clinical and school social worker, Katie Allbritten brings more than a decade of clinical experience in the Greater Memphis area to the classroom. With a focus on trauma-informed care, she specializes in serving vulnerable populations.



### MAGGIE LANDRY, LMSW | INSTRUCTOR/COORDINATOR

Maggie Landry has worked with our growing School in multiple roles since her time in our MSW program. She has half a decade of clinical experience in early-intervention behavior modification and domestic violence prevention and intervention.



## Faculty Awards

### DR. SUSAN NEELY-BARNES | EYE OF THE TIGER AWARD

Presented by the University of Memphis Alumni Association for her exemplary contributions to the University of Memphis community at large.

### DR. ELENA DELAVEGA | FACULTY RESEARCH AWARD

Presented by Influencing Social Policy for her article, "The Blame Index: Exploring the Change in Social Work Students' Perceptions of Poverty."

### DR. SUSAN ELSWICK | EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD

Presented by the College of Arts & Sciences for her outstanding accomplishments in research in the field of social sciences.





## A Special Thanks to Our Donors

### **SPONSOR | \$400+**

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Susan Neely-Barnes

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### **SUPPORTER | \$100–\$199**

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## Serving the Community Through Academics



### A NEW SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CERTIFICATE APPROVED!

With recent revelation that 44 percent of Tennessee school districts lack social workers, the concentration is in high demand. Luckily, a new School Social Work Certificate has been approved and is now available at the graduate level. Although there has been a program in place to help students achieve certification/licensure, the certificate offers another path to licensure, including an opportunity to apply for financial aid. It is also available online so that students from Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and beyond can now achieve a higher level of certification.



### MLK50 - MAJOR POVERTY REPORT RECEIVES NATIONAL COVERAGE

2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The National Civil Rights Museum hosted a number of events and released multiple reports this year in a project called MLK50. As part of the MLK50 events, Dr. Elena Delavega authored *The Poverty Report: Memphis Since MLK*. This significant report, detailing how African-Americans and the poor have fared in Memphis and Shelby County over the past 50 years, was presented by the National Civil Rights Museum in partnership with the University of Memphis Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change. Delavega participated in numerous events and symposia surrounding the release and was interviewed by national and international media regarding this high-impact report.



## Engaging in Our Community



### BARBER SHOP TALK

The LIFE Project, a community enrichment and development grant project led by Dr. Gregory Washington, launched a new series of community events last fall called Barber Shop Talk. These events were designed to engage black male youths and explore black male identity by discussing mental, physical and emotional health; sharing community resources; and promoting social justice awareness. A range of activities include open discussion, poetry readings, barber services and interview sessions with community leaders.



### MUSIC CLUB

Developed by Dr. Susan Elswick and Dr. Gregory Washington, the Music Club was granted funding by the State of Tennessee as part of an initiative to support programs designed to address the needs of at-risk youths and families. Combining cognitive behavior interventions in schools (CBITS), expressive arts through African drumming, and mentoring, the program has seen effective intervention both in school and within after-school programs. Research results and findings will be available soon.



### THE WELLNESS AND STRESS CLINIC

The Wellness and Stress Clinic is a multi-disciplinary partnership between the School of Social Work, students from various local colleges and several community advocacy groups. Operated by the Healing Center Baptist Church, the clinic offers free physical and mental health care, legal consultation and other services to the Oakhaven neighborhood. The collaboration has been awarded more than \$100,000 by the State of Tennessee. The program continues to grow, looking to add vision and dental care, workforce development and nutritional education to its repertoire.

## Faculty Publications

**Delavega, E, Neely-Barnes, S.L., Elswick, S.E., Taylor, L.C.,** Pettet, F.L. & **Landry, M.** (2018). "Preparing Social Work Students for Interprofessional Team Practice in Health Care Settings." *Research on Social Work Practice*.

Kindle, P. A. & **Delavega, E.** (2018, accepted). "Increasing Awareness of White Privilege Among Social Work Students." *Multicultural Education*.

Granruth, L., Kindle, P. A., Buford, M. L., **Delavega, E.,** Johnson, D. H. & Caplan, M. A. (2018). "Increasing Awareness of White Privilege Among Social Work Students." *Journal of Social Work Education*, 54(1), 110-121.

Goerdts, L. A., Blaaid, B., **Elswick, S.,** Johnson, D. J., **Delavega, E.,** Kindle, P. A. Granruth, L., & Caplan, M. A. (in-press 2018). "Teaching Characteristics and Student Satisfaction: Impact on Social Work Student Interest in Policy." *Journal of Social Work Education*. USWE-2017-0203.

**Elswick, S.,** Cuellar, M., Williams, M., Albert, W., Norfleet, T., Carlson, S., Fleming, G., Leig, N. & Shine, J.K. (2018). "School Social Work Leadership: Essential Knowledge, Skills & Practices for the Profession." *School Social Work Journal*, 42 (2), 57-73.

**Elswick, S., Neely-Barnes, S.,** Casey, L. & Rudd, L. (2018). "Chapter 24: Social Work. In R. D. Rieske (Ed.)," *Handbook of Interdisciplinary Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorder* (pages of chapter). Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

**Jin, S. W.,** Lee, J. & Lee, H. Y. (in print). "Psychosocial Factors Associated with Decisional Stage Of Adopting Breast Cancer Screening Among Korean American Immigrant Women." *Ethnicity and Health*.

**Jin, S. W.,** Kim, Y., Warrenner, C. & Holden, K. (2018). "African American Students' Use of Personal Technologies in the University Classroom." *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Educational Studies*, 13(2), 1-14.

**Lennon-Dearing, R.** & Price, J. (2018). "Women Living with HIV Tell Their Stories with Photovoice." *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 28(5), 588-601.

**Lennon-Dearing, R., Elswick, S., Neely-Barnes, S.** Snipes, K., Williams, M., Carter, A., Washington, G. & Gray, A. (in press-2018). "The Students Helping Students Program: Response to Intervention in Higher Education." *Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work*. 20180116-6R.

Wingate, S., Postlewaite, R., Mena, R., **Neely-Barnes, S. & Elswick, S.** (2018). "Parent Knowledge of and Experiences with Response to Intervention (RtI)." *Children & Schools*. 40(3), 163-171.

Simmons, L., **Taylor, L., Anderson, K. & Neely-Barnes, S.** (2018) "Comparative Experiences of First Generation and Continuing Generation Social Work Students." *Journal of Social Work Education*. doi: 10.1080/10437797.2018.1434436.

McNeish, R., Simmons, C., **Watson, J.** & Tran, Q. (2018) "Perceptions of Emotional and Physical Wellness Among African American Men as Predictors of Perceived Overall Health." *Ethnicity & Health*, DOI: 10.1080/13557858.2018.1530738.



School of Social Work