



Starting the Decade Stronger



Message from the Dean

Less than 12 months ago, I wrote to you wishing you a glorious and blessed holiday. In that newsletter, the headline stated "Finishing the Decade Strong."

Who would have known how the roaring twenties would have unfurled its first year. As 2020 enters we gathered with our loved ones and friends to share traditional joy of the season. We at the school of social work welcomed our students back to campus for the Spring semester. About midway through

that semester, a shadowy disease COVID-19, that disproportionately impacts Black and low-income communities emerged.

In response, we left our classrooms and offices, locked our doors, donned masks, and began to isolate socially. Some of us did that with immediate family, others with a trusted few. Still, others did so alone. We shielded our elders and turned our attention to our computer screens, yet another reminder of disparities as Black and low-income communities often experience the digital divide's impact.

By Fall 2020, students and faculty alike dived into online learning and teaching with various levels of skill and styles. We rapidly became aware of the need for presence, responsiveness, and accountability. We hurried to meet the needs of our signature pedagogy, field instruction. We pivoted to tele-therapy and virtual internships where previous in-person contact was a cherished ideal. Amidst this turmoil, contradictory messages of how to protect ourselves proliferated. Evidence-based messages became politicized.

All while the United States was reminded yet again that #BLACKLIVESMATTER and that racism remains a raging pandemic. Black people and urban communities in general and Black women, in particular, are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic both in terms of their health and due to the structural inequities, that bound them to low-income employment and increased risk of exposure.

Yet Black women rose to change the face of one of the highest offices in the United States. I saw our students and alums' faces reflected in the young people who marched into the streets, insisting on fairness. I saw vast numbers of Black people, honoring those who came before, to stand in line for hours, refusing to be disenfranchised.

As such, I am resolute that we remain strong, unwavering in our quest to correct the social structures that create and perpetuate oppression. We are determined in our uncompromising insistence on integrity, respect, and ethical behavior.

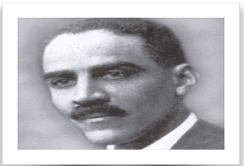
With this in mind facing the next year, I wish each of you a Glorious and Blessed Season!

Dean McPhatter

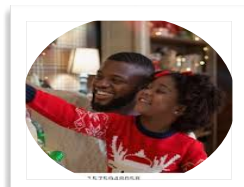
IN THIS ISSUE

Social Work Pioneers

Eugene Kinkle Jones
P2



Students Leading the Way P3 - 5



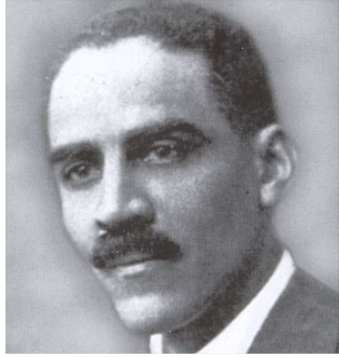
Words from Faculty and Staff Pages 5 - 7 Highlights and



Announcement Pages 2 Continues on P8



Honoring a Social Work Pioneer



Eugene Kinkle Jones (1885-1954) grew up in an integrated environment in Richmond, Virginia. His father taught theology at Virginia Union College for Negroes, and his mother was a music teacher at Hartshorn Memorial College for African American women. Jones completed

his studies at Virginia Union College in 1905 and earned a Master's degree from Cornell University in 1908 that focused on economics and social science studies, earning a master's degree in 1908. Encountering systemic racial barriers to advancement, Jones taught in segregated schools in Louisville, Kentucky. moved to New York to work for the National Urban League [NUL]nee Urban Conditions Among Negroes after meeting sociologist George Edmund Haynes

Jones, a vigorous advocate for African Americans, worked to increase African American social workers professionals' authority. He realized that those arriving during the great migration required African American social workers' participation and white social workers. He understood that real racial progress needed alliances with white social workers.

Among his many achievements, Jones made permanent artifacts that were part of Arthur A. Schomburg's collection of African Americans. Along with Elaine Locke, he also established the Associates in Negro Folk Education created to curate and disseminate African Americans' history.

As a member of the National Conference of Social Work (NCSW) executive board (1926-1935), Jones represented African American community concerns - social and economic and interpreted the African American community's social and economic. As a pioneer, Eugene Kinkle Jones assisted in the process of guaranteeing African Americans in social work a seat at the table.

<https://www.nabsw.org/page/SocialWork>

Armfield, F.L., & Carlton-LaNey, I.B. (2001). Eugene Kinkle Jones: A statesman for the times. In I. Carlton-LaNey (Ed.), African American leadership: An empowerment tradition in social

Faculty and Student Highlights

Awards and Grants

- Behavioral Health Administration awarded [Dr. Anthony Estreet](#), [Dr. Dawn Thurman](#), [Dr. Taqi Tirmazi](#), and [Dr. Jordan White](#) to fund The Substance Use Disorder Training, Education, and Practice with Urban Populations (STEP UP) Workforce Development Clinical Fellowship 2020-2021. The Grant program provides students with training and up to \$12,000 Fellowship for 10 ASP MSW students.
- Dr. Anthony Estreet, [Dr. Margaret Pittman](#), and [Dr. Taqi Tirmazi](#) were awarded the Substance Use Disorder and Health Initiative for Education and Leadership Development (S.H.I.E.L.D) 2020- 2022 to fund 20 MSW, 10 BSW, and 2 Ph.D. students.

- Child Support Administration awarded [Dr. Van Sluytman](#) and [Dr. Minli Liao](#) to research the experience of Child Support obligor and their communities. The project will engage BSW students in community-based participatory research as research assistants.
- [Dr. Wells-Wilbon](#) was named a finalist for an Intellectual Property Innovation of the Year award by the Office of Technology Transfer at Morgan. The finalist naming is in the Office's Information Science category to contribute to the platform for communications between patients and mental health providers. She and Dr. Thurman developed an app to deliver mental health services remotely).

Continues on page 8.

We are ready: We've been here before

Lakiesha Mixon,

LGSW, Alumni 2018

Quite frequently, I hear many say that now more than ever, we need social workers. I'm afraid I have to disagree. Health disparities, racial inequities, and police brutality have permeated throughout African American communities long before COVID-19. They predate the Trump presidential administration. And long before the murder of George P. Floyd, Jr., social workers have, and will always be needed. Our professional training and ethics position us to respond to complex crisis, advocate for equity for marginalized populations and create innovative approaches to produce outcomes deemed impossible to achieve.

As unemployment, homelessness, and substance abuse increase amid this pandemic, social workers are increasingly tasked to provide case management services. It is vital to utilize our training as urban social workers and demand several seats at the table to remind others that we bring much more to our community than a job lead, shelter bed, and an outpatient appointment.

We are assessing, administrating, intervention developing, crisis responding, psychological stress relieving, community and family building, program evaluating, psychotherapy delivering, policy creating, grant writing, college lecturing, organization leading, conference presenting, non-profit establishing, scholarly researching, public health leaders. And now, more than ever, we must show our communities and those impacting our communities everything we truly are made of.

On the frontline with our children

Shannon Lett,

LCSW-C, Alumni 2015

This year has been the manifestation of Tim Elmore's assertion, "prepare your child for the path, instead of the path for your child." Bearing witness to racial injustice and subsequent social uprising has served as a catalyst in fueling adolescences to re-calibrate their perceptions of humanity. They are exposed to new harsh realities and postured to experience society for what has become, not merely the filtered European facade taught in social studies courses. In turn, this generation is gifted with greater self and social awareness.

Working with children during escalating racial terrorism has been complex yet rewarding as this year has highlighted that morality and the administration of law are privileges based on one's complexion. Therapy has provided children a platform to oscillate between feelings of hopelessness and optimism. They have grieved the loss of their safety and perceived value in America while also expressing confidence that oppressors' souls will be transformed, and justice can be achieved.

While it has been challenging guiding youth through this issue, the reward of observing them examine and transform their values and belief system and strengthen their connection to and protection of their racial identity has been inspiring.



TIPS FOR BLACK FAMILIES NAVIGATING COVID-19

For many Black families, adjusting to the new normal may be difficult. Balancing work and family life are vital for managing optimal home life.



1 SCHEDULE

Create a family schedule for work, homeschooling, and fun activities.

2 MEETINGS

Family meetings to discuss what your children are seeing and hearing about Black people and COVID-19.



3 DINNER

Eat dinner together at a minimum of three days a week—a great way to stay connected.



4 MOVIE

A movie night can be a great family activity—a fun way to spend the weekend.



5 TEACH

Teach your children about financial literacy and investing. Important for being prepared for emergencies such as a pandemic.

6 BOOK CLUB

Start a family book club. Family members select books to read monthly (Especially books by Black authors).



7 GARDEN

Start a family garden. Allowing your children to plant and grow food can be exciting.



8 EXERCISING

Exercise together to strengthen the family bond. Walking, bike riding, and Yoga to start.

9 VIDEO

Find time to video conference with friends and relatives. Great way to connect with the elders in the family.



10 MOTIVATION

Being the motivational leader in your home is important. Focusing on the strengths, hopes, and dreams of your family is key!

TIPS FOR BLACK FAMILIES NAVIGATING COVID-19

David Miller,

BA, MEd, PhD Student

While the nation comes to grips with COVID-19, the Black community has been ravaged socially and spiritually due to COVID-19. Speak to anyone in the Black community, and most can share horrific stories of the loss of life and economic upheaval caused by COVID-19. From massive job loss to fear of contracting COVID-19, many in the Black community are experiencing the anxiety many are calling the new normal.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Black Americans are disproportionately at risk for COVID-19 infections and deaths. To this end, Covid-19 has ripped through Black communities, with the virus taking the lives of Black people in the US at nearly twice the rate of white Americans. As the death toll rises, African American families face the new realities of wearing masks, social distancing, and using plenty of hand sanitizer.

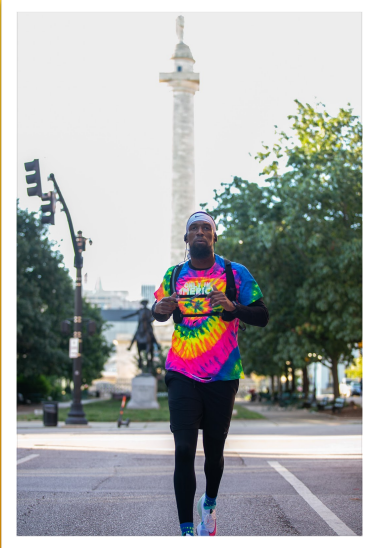
David Miller, a Baltimore native and founder of **Dare to Be King Project, LLC (DTBK)** and organization founded to inspire, support, and strengthen organizations that provide services to boys and men of color. Their goal is to engage boys and men of color in four areas: academic success and growth, emotional development, healthy notions of manhood/masculinity and familial reconciliation.



#I RUN FOR EVERY BLACK MAN, I RUN FOR BLACK FAMILIES

Dwayne Speaks,

MSW Graduate Student



Running through Baltimore's urban communities during a global health pandemic has been my joy, lifestyle, and social activism. As a black man and a social worker, I need to be the change that I want to see in my community. Practicing a healthy lifestyle, which includes running, was one way I chose to manage the daily stressors resulting from the pandemic. Although the pandemic has created many difficulties for me, it was a time to connect with people in the community who have similar interests. As a positive result of the pandemic, I have interacted with and influenced others in urban communities.

I run for every Black Man, I run for Black Families, I run for the empowerment of Black Communities, and I run to Inspire. I participate in weekly and monthly runs with local

Black run crews; (@ riotsquadrunning, @ a tribecalledrun, @ runnersrun & @buildingbodiesandbonds) who share my same passion. Through

exercise and advocacy, we have found a way to impact urban communities while promoting wellness positively. I have witnessed firsthand the response to the Urban Community's call for wellness by mental and physical exercise. Leaders in local urban communities have allied to create weekly exercise groups that include bike riding and running groups. Although COVID-19 has created many difficulties for everyone, it has created a heightened awareness and increased participation through

these groups.

Words from Faculty and Staff

Revisioning Equity

Jordan White, DPH, MSW

Assistant Professor



The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to impact the United States in unprecedented ways. It has influenced both the quality of life and life chances of millions of people. During this historical period, Social Work must not lose sight of the injustices and inequities brought about by marginalization, exclusion, and lack of access to resources. The current cultural and sociopolitical context has elucidated many gaps and barriers to promoting numerous populations and subgroups' health and well-being. Undoubtedly, COVID -19 mirrors several past health epidemics (e.g., HIV/AIDS, Syphilis, Opioid-Overdose) in this nation. In context, individuals in correctional facilities and congregate settings remain at the highest risk for contracting COVID-19. The behavioral, place-based,

and social network determinants of COVID-19 further compound the longstanding health

inequities experienced among the populations. Essentially, disadvantages related to housing, education, environment, and legal status, among others, can reinforce each other to foster ill health vulnerability and high-risk environments. Social Work must have a leading role in re-envisioning and advocating for what is considered equitable and just. All particularly true, as it relates to the structure, assets, and resources available to support the health and well-being of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations (regardless of their current legal, economic or social status).

A Call to Action! Merging Critical Thought with Action in the Social Work Profession

D.Crystal Coles, PhD, MSW

Assistant Professor

As I sit at my desk in my home office, I am reading the new Patricia Hill Collins book, *Intersectionality As Critical Social Theory*. With every page, it is clear that social work has work to do!

On the heels of the election, I have been considering how vital the social work profession is to ensuring social change and how much we have fallen short.

Hear me out.

In classes, we discuss what it means to think from a critical lens. But this is not enough. We can no longer only *speak* of having a critical lens; we need to have *actions* that demonstrate that practice. As an educator, I can no longer simply prepare students for practice; I must prepare them to be social change agents *within* practice arenas. This must be our focus.

It is time to move our profession forward!

As a social worker, whether in micro or macro practice, we must transition to engaging in critical practices that advance social work practice. The profession must merge **action with critical thoughts** that progress society forward.

It's time to act!
Critical social work
is needed now
more than ever!



FIELD EDUCATION: A SITE FOR INNOVATION

Thelma Rich, LCSW

Director of Field Education

Field education, the signature pedagogy of the social work profession, thrives in this season of pandemics. The mainstay of the field experience has been agencies that have committed and given support to students pursuing this dynamic helping profession. Our community partner agencies were reduced from more than 125 to 82. Agencies whose tradition was to support our mutual goal of preparing students for urban social work practice can no longer extend this invaluable contribution. Their capacity to provide placements have been reduced by the encroaching pandemic - the need to protect both consumers and staff within an environment that all too often operate with limited technology resources and funding.

As a result, this challenges us to innovate to meet our students' learning needs – creating growth opportunities. A profession that has been compelled to "give back" must now innovate, take a back seat, or be placed on hold in a time of greatest need for urban communities, disproportionately devastated by the pandemic.

Given these myriad challenges, the Field Education Program continues to marshal its resources to secure our students' maximum opportunities. And as in the past, despite harsh conditions, the fruits of our labors continue to bloom. Feedback from field liaisons indicates that BSW and MSW students in VIRTUAL and HYBRID PLACEMENTS exceed expectations.

The COVID-19 pandemic will undoubtedly leave lasting economic, social, and political challenges. Nevertheless, in collaboration with our community partners, we will maintain a standard of excellence as students prepare to become impactful and influential change agents, facilitators, advocates for social justice, researchers, policy experts, leaders, and urban LEADERS.

Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (BHIPP)

Martha Stuart, LCSW-C

Project Director

Morgan State University (MSU) acquired a phenomenal grant, and unbeknownst to anyone, its pilot year would be during the height of a pandemic. Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (BHIPP) is a federal grant disbursed to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). For the last 8 years, Salisbury University has implemented this grant in rural areas, with the support of Maryland BHIPP, housed at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. In the Fall of 2020, the premier University for Urban Social Work, MSU, is now successfully implementing this grant in Baltimore Urban areas.

Who benefits from this?

The answer to that is, the community MSU School of Social Work is committed to serving! The children, elders, the adolescents, MSW MSU students, community Pediatricians, hospitals, small clinics, Federally Qualified Health Center's (FQHC), and the field of Social Work. In the height of a pandemic, where innocent Black Lives have been lost due to soaring health disparities, racist police acts, and continued economic disparities, we at MSU continue to problem solve and look for solutions.

As we navigate this pilot year we teach, we empower, we model, we learn, we pray, we meditate, we cry, we listen, we commune, we dance, we sing, we laugh, we accept and we heal.

As the phenomenal Mother and Queen Maya Angelou wrote so truthfully:

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise
I rise.



ARE YOU A GRADUATING BSW OR MSW?
REGISTER FOR

PASS PERFECTION

LICENSURE PREP WORKSHOP

For Registration
bit.ly/MSUPREP2021

1.15.21

SPONSORED BY:

DEAN MCPHATTER & MSU SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK

PRESENTERS:
DR. SAPPHIRE BOONE, LCSW
& CHARMEIKA LEWIS, LCSW-C



LICENSE PREP WORK SHOP, JANUARY 15 2021

Dr. Sapphire Boone, LCSW, and Professor Charmeika Lewis, LCSW-C are Morgan State University School of Social Work alumni teaching the next generation of social workers how to pass the social work exams. Their featured skill is the dynamic ability to simplify the content and break down the questions. During the last workshop, they taught over 132 BSW and MSW students and alumni. Of those that attended the workshop, an estimated 28 attendees are now licensed social workers on the masters level resulting in a 75% pass rate. Are you ready to Dump your fear and Decide your future? **You will not want to miss the next** licensure preparation workshop with this dynamic duo!

Faculty and Student Highlights

Accepted and Pending Publications

- Cage, J., [Coles, D. C.](#), McGinnis, H. A., Yoon, S., & Pitts, B. E. (2020). [Validating the factor structure of the drug-free schools and communities scale for child welfare involved youth](#). *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 1-11.
- **Chandler, M. A.***, Van Sluytman, L., Tirmazi, M. T., & Liao, M. (2020). [The Road Home: Predictors of Health Care Utilization Among Older Returning African American Men](#). *The Review of Black Political Economy*, 0034644620967002.
- [Geyton, T.](#),** [Johnson N.](#), ** & Ross, K. (2020) [‘I’m good’: Examining the internalization of the strong Black woman archetype](#), *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, DOI: 10.1080/10911359.2020.1844838
- Rose, T., Hope, M. O., [Thurman, D.](#), Forrester, P., & Rose, R. (2020). [Non-organizational Religious Involvement and Psychosocial Well-Being Among African American and Caribbean Black Youth](#). *Journal of Black Psychology*, 46(5), 388-422.
- [Wilson, D. B.](#), Solomon, T. A., & [McLane-Davison, D.](#) (2020). [Ethics and Racial Equity in Social Welfare Policy: Social Work’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). *Social work in Public Health*, 35(7), 617-632.

*Ph.D. Alumnus

** Ph.D. Candidate

Stay Tuned

- [Dr. Jerome Schiele](#) received a book contract from Oxford University Press, with Phyllis Day, to publish the 8th edition of the popular textbook, *A New History of Social Welfare*.
- Dr. Anthony Estreet, Ms. Nia Johnson, and Dr. Paul Archibald’s manuscript entitled **“Teaching social justice through critical reflection: Using immersive theatre to address HIV among BMSM”** was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Social Work Education*.

Appointments

- [Dr. Kevin Daniels](#) was appointed to head up the “[Baltimore City – Mental Health Covid Recovery](#)” (partners: Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore (BHSB), Johns Hopkins Hospital, Minister’s Conference Baltimore Vicinity, Healing City Baltimore). Dr. Daniels was also appointed to the

[Baltimore City Elijah Cummings Trauma Task Force](#) and [Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore \(BHSB\)](#) Board of Directors

Presentations

[Dr. Linda Darrell](#) presented at that [2020 the NACSW Annual Conference](#). The conference focus was Unity in Times of Adversity. The Panel discussion was Race and Reconciliation. Conference Panelists included Dr. Telvis Rich; Dr. Tanya Brice, Dr. Kimberly Hardy, Dr. Gary Jones, and Dr. Kesslyn Brade Stennis. **Dr. Darrell** also presented Women’s Wellness: A virtual session on African American women’s mental health concerns. Empowering Ministries Inc. Pastor Monique Lemmon sponsored the event. This presentation was shared on Facebook Live.

Eight doctoral students presented at this year’s CSWE conference: Ms. Maxine Taylor, Ms. Elizabeth Perryman, Ms. Jahneen Keatz, Mr. Len Price, Jr., [Ms. Dasha Rhodes](#), [Ms. Taylor Geyton](#), [Ms. Nia Johnson](#), and Ms. Katrina Ross.

NASW’s [SocialWorkTalks Podcast](#) featured Dr. Anthony Estreet, LCSW-C, and Walter Palmer, JD, who discussed the need for more Black male social workers and how to support people looking to enter the profession.

[Professor Darryl Green](#) delivered the opening address at the Ohio Association of the Chief of Police National Conference October 2020: Restorative Justice: What do you see when you see me? The conference focused on healing the relationship between the police and the black and brown community. Professor Green also delivered the opening address at Care First BC/BS November 2020 Week of Equity & Action, which focused on the Art of Healing and served as a spokesperson for Restorative Justice Victim Advocate for the Baltimore City Attorney’s Office.

[CLICK TO VIEW SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS](#)

