



## Even Stronger

### Message from the Dean



Our Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Community Partners, Hello and Heartfelt Greetings to each of you!

It is hard to believe that we have arrived at another year's end and time for the customary Christmas and other Holiday Celebrations. I can't help but take the time to reflect on this past year as we have endured unimaginable challenges never before experienced by most of us. At the same time, we witnessed the remarkable persistence and resilience highly characteristic of the social work profession all across the nation and world.

I must begin by acknowledging the COVID pandemic's toll has taken on all of us and the families and communities we serve. The unavoidable loss and pain we have and continue to endure challenge us in unfamiliar ways. The personal and collective grief seems to have no end and is often complicated by confusing messages and the lack of definitive answers to our lingering questions.

Yet, we must also lay witness to the incredible resilience we demonstrate every single day in line with the pathways forged by our cultural ancestors. They were clear-eyed concerning the reality that they would not personally experience the sought-after freedom and empowerment. But they were confident that those of us who followed would pick up the mantle in service to generations to come. Like so many of you, I call upon the faith of those before me as a beacon to ease the suffering of marginalized families in our City and all over the world.

That said, we want you always to remember that as a treasured member of Morgan State University and the School of Social Work, there is no end to the love and support we hold for each of you. We remain resolute and committed to the reciprocal bond we share in our sacred service mission to our people. Never doubt or forget that your place in the family is secure and binding as the rough times endure.

Remember, too, that Work-Life Balance is a "real thing"! Make time for respite and restoration as we also enjoy this Blessed Season.

Dean Anna McPhatter

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## Honoring A Social Work Pioneer



In Albany, Ohio, Eva del Vakia Bowles was born on January 24, 1875. She began her career as a teacher but was recruited to spearhead a project for the sister project, the [YWCA](#) association of New York, to address the needs of

black women. Bowles was the first black woman employed as a YWCA secretary in the United States and went on to study social work at [Columbia University](#).

Bowles became a caseworker at the Associated Charities of Columbus, Ohio, between 1908 and 1912. She returned to New York in 1913 to serve as secretary on the national board of the YWCA's Subcommittee for Colored Work. Bowles sought to

increase services to black women, and she raised the black staff from one to over sixty. The magnitude and quality of Bowles's work during the war impressed President Theodore Roosevelt. He designated \$4,000 of his Nobel Peace Prize award to be disbursed as she directed. She traveled widely to open YWCA branches and sought expansion to include Africa and the Caribbean. However, Bowles became disillusioned and resigned in 1932 from the YWCA. She continued her work with the National Colored Merchants Association and the National Negro Business League to improve the economic opportunities of African Americans. Bowles also served as Executive Director of Civilian Defense for the Harlem and Riverside areas of New York City.

Jones, A. L. (2005). *Bowles, Eva Del Vakia*. Oxford African American Studies Center <https://oxfordaasc.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780195301731.001.0001/acref-9780195301731-e-44048>

## Faculty and Student Highlights



[Sharon Gandarilla-Javier, PhD, LMSW, MA](#), was elected President of the National Association of Social Workers Florida Chapter <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/NAASW-FL-July-2021-ENewsletter.html?soid=1111755595621&aid=Zs6S9DI-hBU>

### Accepted and Pending Publications:

[Coles, C.](#), & Sawyer, J. M. (2021). A Multi-Paradigmatic Interdisciplinary Framework for Human Service Systems. *Journal of Human Services*, 40(1), 63-83.

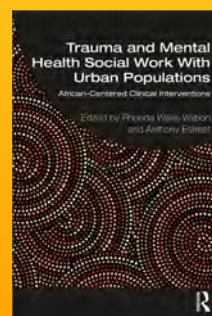
[Coles, D.C.](#) & Sawyer, J. (in-press). Conflict resolution and conflict mediation. In T. Mizrahi, & Bailey, D. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Macro Social Work*. Oxford University Press

Ortega-Williams, A., & [McLane-Davison, D.](#) (2021). Wringing Out the "Whitewash": Confronting the Hegemonic Epistemologies of Social Work Canons

(Disrupting the Reproduction of White Normative). *Advances in Social Work*, 21(2/3), 566-587.

Bowie, S. L., & [McLane-Davison, D. R.](#) (2021). Readiness for Graduate Social Work Education: Does an Undergraduate Social Work Major Make a Difference?. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 41(4), 360-372.

[Wells-Wilbon, R.](#), & [Estreet, A.](#) (Eds.). (2021). *Trauma and*



*Mental Health Social Work With Urban Populations: African-Centered Clinical Interventions*. Routledge. [Trauma and Mental Health Social Work With Urban Populations: African-Centered Clinical Interventions](#) addresses the social problems associated with trauma and mental health among African Americans in urban environments.

It uses an African-centered lens to critique the most common practice models and (Continues on page 9).

## Alumni and Students Leading the Way

### Gracefully Overcoming Carrie Boone, LCSW-C



#### Alumni 2015

Growing up I always had a passion for helping others. My life's journey has led me to the dynamic field of clinical social work. As a proud alumni of the Morgan State University School of Social Work, class of 2015, I am excited

at how far I've come in my career. When I look back post-graduation, I'm able to appreciate the various challenges and experiences I have gracefully overcome because of the knowledge, skills and ethical principles I've learned related to social welfare in urban social work practice. The various

theoretical frameworks that I learned provided a launchpad for my trajectory.

As an agent for change advocacy is another vital element that I've taken with me and utilize vastly in my work. I began my social work career as a hospital social worker with an Orthopedics trauma unit and years later I would pursue outpatient work at another local hospital. I must say that in such a short period of time and with great mentorship, this support has helped me to remain confident in my abilities as a clinician. In Summer of 2021 I started my therapy business and enjoy independent contractor work as a psychotherapist. I am blessed to have been able to experience the rich and historic education that I received from faculty, staff, and my classmates when I matriculated through the MSW program at Morgan State University. I've concluded that it is vital to believe wholeheartedly in yourself, your capabilities, and what unique attributes you bring to the world during any journey that you take in life. The sky is the limit!



### Making changes to continue the work

Lisa D. Fisher

M.Ed., M.Div., BCC, LCSW-C

Alumni 2016



I was riding home from a leadership conference in Hartford, Connecticut, in March of 2020 on an Amtrak train. The weekend conference was filled with women from the North Atlantic region, including Connecticut, Eastern New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, DC, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. On the ride home to Maryland, I was able to secure special seating accommodations due to an injury - plenty of room to stretch out my legs with my bags resting on the side of the shiny silver half-border. The train was not crowded. We made a stop in New Rochelle, New York, where more passengers boarded. As the train approached my stop in Aberdeen, Maryland, the conductor informed me that I would be getting off from the café car. Hmm, okay. In the café car, at least four people can sit at a table. I scanned the area for a suitable seat as all the tables already had at least two people. I sat down at

the table near the exit door with one person working on his laptop and the other reading her book.

On March 10, 2020, The New York Times published an article regarding the 'containment area' ordered for the New Rochelle coronavirus cluster due to spiking infections. Fortunately, I did not contract the coronavirus. I continued my work as a primary therapist at a substance abuse rehabilitation facility, where the leadership began to reconfigure and move offices around, but no one told us why. I started wearing a mask on March 31, 2020. I was also associated with a private practice firm at the time, and the office was wide enough to distance 10 feet apart appropriately. I continued seeing clients



in person until November 2020. It was then that I realized the second wave of the virus was upon us, and I was the only therapist seeing clients face to face. I adhered to all the COVID-19 protocols, including cleaning in between sessions, wiping the doorknobs, wiping the rails, wiping the chairs, spraying Lysol®, and not forgetting the restroom cleaning. When all sanitizing was complete, I would text the next client for clearance to come into the building.

As urban social workers in the COVID environment and other times, we are called to serve humankind. As a result of the chaplaincy work that I perform with hospice patients, I had the opportunity to get tested weekly and receive the first dose of Pfizer vaccination in December 2020 and the second dose in January 2021. Since opening Freedom Pearl Therapeutic Center, LLC in February 2021, I see clients on Saturday mornings face to face for now. I follow the COVID-19 protocols with a few exceptions. Social workers are essential in all aspects of life; then, now, and in times to come.



your personal flair to, finding ways to connect to my clients has not been an issue in either setting.

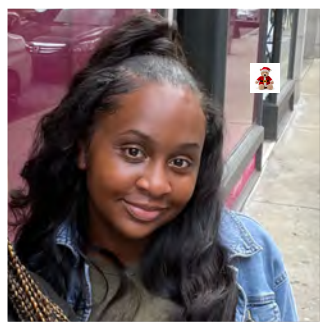
From working in a call center with patients needing housing resources or having thoughts of suicide, the field placement undoubtedly prepared me for my clinical language and how to speak with a client about some topics that may be uncomfortable. Transitioning over to my long-awaited clinical social work profession and learning the proper documentation techniques have been challenging but rewarding, especially through a pandemic. Providing resources, connections, and a listening ear to my clients has assisted them on their journey through life.

Overall, finding new ways to establish rapport with clinics was tough initially but allowed me to find new avenues to assist them better.

## Our Student Interns

### Taelor Staton-Gutrich, Student Intern

My transition into my new internship has come with challenges but has been a smoother transition than last year. With COVID-19 being a threat to everyone's health, there were concerns about going into the office at my previous internship, as there was no protective barrier. This new year and upcoming year seem more promising as the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters have become more prominent. As things return to normal, we must try to figure out how to connect with our clients behind clear plastic shields and personalized masks. Although it has been something to adjust and add



### Adrienne Ellison, Student Intern



I have the unique opportunity to have a hybrid field schedule this academic year. Before the school year started, I was very anxious and nervous that I would have to attend classes and my internship in person during a pandemic while trying to maintain and protect my own health.

Trying to navigate how to take care of my health while receiving my education was the goal. I have the opportunity to intern at Tellerman Pediatrics with Dr. Tellerman. Although most of my time is spent virtually, Dr. Tellerman continues to allow me the chance to get involved with the different initiatives he is involved in within the community. The usage of virtual learning has allowed me to gain a lot of knowledge from my field supervisor and site supervisor. The BHIPP team has prepared me and provided me with the



clinical skills to become a successful clinician in this field. Getting back into the world post covid has been a bittersweet experience. Although I was nervous trying to determine the best strategy to protect my health and receive an education, I have enjoyed the experience thus far. Every day in the field, I am increasing my knowledge.



**TAYLOR A. GEYTON, PH.D., LCSW-C**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**Portland State University**



It's surreal and so real all at the same time. Coursework and the tutelage of my professors prepared me for the work but transitioning from student to faculty meant the adjustment from hard and fast due dates and expectant

professors to free and unstructured time with no deadlines or targets. It means setting my own standard, deadline, and expectations for myself and my students. It also means finding the space between self-deprecating humility and overconfident arrogance because you're expected and assumed to know and "be the expert" while acknowledging that you are still learning. I looked up one day from my writing and realized I had assigned myself a paper! I never imagined I'd be creating my own work, and yet that's what I have done and will continue to do, literally. That's been the most significant adjustment for me in this transition.

**DASHA RHODES, PH.D., LMSW**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**University of South Florida**



As with most transitions in life, there are challenges, rewards, and growth. Although some aspects of my job are new, the expectation for productivity and scholarship remains. A

recurring mantra from senior faculty is, "protect your time." I've quickly learned to balance multiple responsibilities and carefully elect not to participate in specific service committees. As a tenure-earning faculty, it is essential to establish boundaries and plan my day precisely. Unlike being a student, there are no set deadlines for my work nor any immediate rewards or repercussions. Having a solid support network remains invaluable, as it did when I was a student. I am fortunate to work in a supportive environment with ample resources designed for faculty success. Further, I believe the supportive network established at Morgan and my current institution, along with my willingness to learn, made the transition manageable. Life is the greatest teacher, but Morgan prepared me to navigate any new





## Health and Human Services Ground Breaking Ceremony

Dean McPhatter and University and Government officials celebrated the groundbreaking for Morgan's newest buildings on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.. The 208,000-square-foot, \$171-million facility, slated to open in 2024 will house the School of Social Work, School of Community Health and Policy, including Public Health, Pre-Professional Physical Therapy, Nutritional Sciences, Nursing, and the Prevention Sciences Research Center; the Medical Technology program; the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; the University Counseling Center; the Center for Urban Health Equity, a community clinic and other spaces designed to enhance community engagement.



# PhD program

Jerome Schiele, DSW, MSW, Chair, PhD Department

This year, 2021, represents the 15th anniversary of the Morgan State University Ph.D. Program in Social Work! The program admitted its first cohort in August 2006. Its mission is to prepare students for leadership roles in urban social work research, urban policy analysis and advocacy, and social work education. The Ph.D. program in social work also prepares students to apply a social justice framework to analyze and solve the catastrophic social problems of contemporary urban society.

The Ph.D. program at Morgan is one of only six Ph.D. social work programs located at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Since its first graduate in 2010, the program has produced 54 alumni engaged in phenomenal work in social work education and research, policy analysis and advocacy, human service administration and practice, and other professional activities. Most of the program's graduates work as professors or administrators in schools and departments of social work throughout the nation. Through their research, administration, and community engagement, the program's alumni use Morgan's urban mission and model to prevent, reduce, and eliminate social problems that

disproportionately affect urban families and communities.

The program's students mostly come from Maryland, but a significant number also emanate from other states, and there are international students. The program attracts students who display a strong professional interest and commitment to addressing social problems that impact urban communities of color. For more information about the Ph.D. program in social work at Morgan State University, please contact Dr. Jerome H. Schiele at [jerome.schiele@morgan.edu](mailto:jerome.schiele@morgan.edu).

1 in six PhD social work programs located at an HBCU

54 Graduates since 2010

60% of the department's alumni work in academia as professors or

40% work as government and nonprofit administrators, human service entrepreneurs, consultants, and in other

## Celebrating 15 years



# Self care IS NOT SELFISH

## TIPS FOR NAVIGATING THE HOLIDAYS

**Linda Darrell,**

PhD, LCSW-C, Associate Professor

Here we are, we have arrived at yet another Holiday season, yet this season is like none other. First Responders have to show up for those in distress; Teachers have to show up for struggling students, Nurses must show up for sick pandemic patients, Parents must show up for stressed-out homeschooled children, show up for never-ending eating machine teens and show up as short-order cooks as well as show up as emotional hand-holders., Social Workers must show up for clients with increased anxiety levels, deepening depression, and distressing family issues.

But how do we show up for ourselves? How do we navigate these uncertain and ambiguous times? What might showing up for ourselves look like?

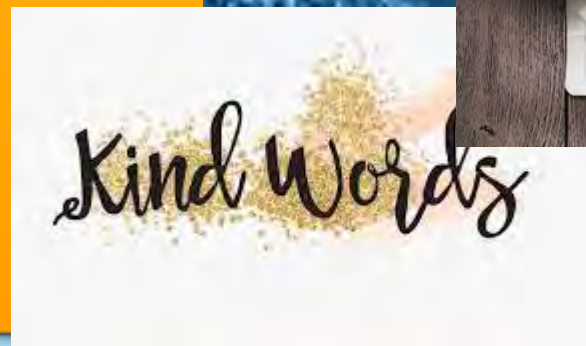
I contend that caring for ourselves is becoming the first thing on the list of What we Must do and how we can show up for ourselves this holiday season.

I must show up for myself by getting more rest, real rest, not falling asleep in front of the murder mysteries I've binged watched. Real rest equates to real sleep, not snoozing or napping but what is defined as REM sleep, after which you awake refreshed, renewed, and restored.

## To do list

- 1 I must show up for myself by eating well, not fast-food flurries, or fad induced diets.
- 2 I must show up for myself by setting boundaries around what I say yes to and when I say no.
- 3 I must show up for myself by teaching others how to treat me
- 4 I must show up for myself by treating myself with care.
- 5 I will show up for myself by sharing a kind word with someone who needs it.
- 6 I must show up for myself by sharing a kind word with me.

Think about, list and practice showing up for yourself and your holidays and your life will be more fulfilling and Peaceful.





## Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (BHIPP)

Martha Stuart, LCSW-C

### MSU BHIPP Updates

- Complete the MSU BHIPP Student Interest Form if you are interested in becoming an MSU BHIPP Intern.
- MSU BHIPP Open Application dates for School Year 2022/2023  
January 17, 2022 - February 18, 2022

1st Year MSW's moving to 2nd Year ONLY The application will be emailed to you if you have filled the Interest Form.

- Advanced Standing Students for SY 2022/2023- If you are interested in MSU BHIPP and are a BSW student applying for Advanced Standing, complete our Interest Form. Once you are accepted as an Advanced Standing Student, MSU BHIPP will contact you to apply on a Rolling Basis.
- Student MSU BHIPP Virtual Information Session  
  
January 27, 2022-2:00 pm-3:00 pm (A Google Registration Form will be available)
- For more information on MSU BHIPP, visit our website or contact our offices:  
MSU BHIPP Website

Jessica Somrajit, CHES®  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers  
Administrative Assistant BHIPP  
jessica.somrajit@morgan.edu  
Office Hours:  
M and W 9:00am-4:00pm,  
Friday 9:00am-3:00pm



## Faculty and Student Highlights (cont.)

interventions currently employed by social workers in the field. [Link to order.](#)

### Stay tuned

[Schiele, J.H.](#), Kirven, J., Joe, S, and Teasley, M. (In Press). Intergenerational Contributions of Black Male Social Work Educators to Combating Racism. In L. Abrams, S. Crewe, A. Dettlaft, and J.H. Williams (Ed.), Social Work, White Supremacy, and Racial Justice. New York: Oxford University Press.

[Schiele, J.H.](#), [Davison, D.](#), and Maith, C\*\*. (In Press). White Supremacy and American Social Policy: Implications for Racism-Centered Policy Practice. In M. Teasley, M. Spencer, and M. Bartholomew (Ed.), Racism and the Grand Challenges for the Social Work Profession. New York: Oxford University Press.

### Conference Presentations

[John Gallagher, PhD, LCSW, LCAC](#), presented at the [Pennsylvania Association of Treatment Court Professionals \(PATCP\) conference](#) on Advancing Justice by Giving Women a

Voice in Drug Court, Advancing Justice by Giving African Americans a Voice in Drug Court, and Participants' Experiences Using Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Drug Court to Treat Opioid Use Disorder.

[COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION \(CSWE\) 67th Annual Program Meeting \(APM\)](#), "Leading Critical Conversations: Racial, Economic, & Environmental Justice"

[Denise McLane-Davison](#), Centering the Strength of Black Families in Social Work Curriculum  
Black Men's Coping Styles During COVID-19: Implications for Social Work Education

### Our PhD students also contributed to the conversation:

Taylor Alexandra Geyton\* (2021) Shattered Resilience: The Experiences of Black Women Activists in the United States

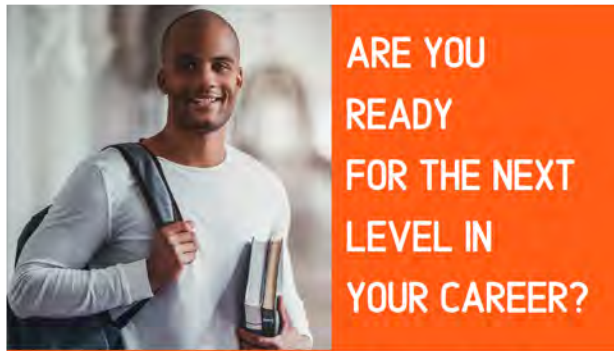
Darius Xavier Gwynn, Black Men's Coping Styles During COVID-19: Implications for Social Work Education

Chelsey Henderson\* Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Preterm Birth Among African American Women

David L Robinson\*\* and Dasha Rhodes\*(2021) Shared Strength Perspectives Among Black Women Social Work Educators During a Pandemic

\*Ph.D. Alumnus

\*\* Ph.D. Candidate



ARE YOU A GRADUATING BSW OR MSW?

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For Registration

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PRESENTERS:

DR. SAPPHIRE BOONE, LCSW  
& CHARMEKA LEWIS, LCSW -C



## LICENSE PREP WORK SHOP, JANUARY 12, 2022

The School of Social Work, led by Dean McPhatter, presents Pass Perfection, an online Licensure Preparation Workshop. This workshop will be held on Friday, January 14th, 2022, from 9:30 am-4:00 pm. BSW, MSW, OMSW students, and alumni will access this workshop at no cost. Once registration is complete, the zoom link to the workshop and workshop materials will be sent. For those who are interested, please complete the required registration no later than Wednesday, January 12th, 2022, by clicking this link- [bit.ly/MSUPREP22](https://bit.ly/MSUPREP22)

This workshop is for participants who would like to learn about the LBSW and LMSW social work examinations. Whether you are thinking about taking the exam soon or preparing to take the exam within the next three months, this workshop will be imperative to your success!

This crash course will address the following areas:

- How to apply for the exam.
- How to create an effective study plan.
- How to manage test anxiety and a simple strategy to answer questions.

In addition, the workshop will cover the following exam content areas: Human Behavior, Direct Practice, Clinical Diagnoses and Medications, Values and Ethics, Community Practice, Group Practice, Administration, Organization, and Research.

## Class of Fall 2021



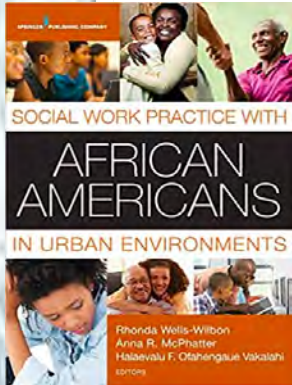
(l)Rhonda Well-Wilbon Assoc. Prof.  
(r) Maxine Taylor, Ph.D. (2021)

(l)Thelma Rich, Dir., Field Ed Prog.  
(r)Kenyawna Holder, BSW (2021)



## Find a Bear Challenge

Welcome to the first of its kind, "Find a Bear Challenge" through the School of Social Work. We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. Thank you for taking the time to read through it. As a school with an urban focus, we are appreciative of all our student, faculty, staff and alumni, and partners that support us and the important work we do in Baltimore City.



[Please use this form to enter your answers.](#)

This contest is first come, first served.

The first person to answer correctly the numbers of bears found inside the Fall 2021 newsletter will win a copy of the textbook, Social Work Practice with African Americans in Urban Environments, by Wells-Wilbon, Rhonda / McPhatter, Anna R. / Vakalahi, Halaevalu F.O. (Eds.) This book is used in many of the undergraduate courses.

The 2nd and 3rd prize winner will receive a Morgan State University School of Social Work t-shirt.

