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To see all photos in this issue plus more, please click [here](#)!

## A Message from the Dean



My Dear Morgan Family!

I pray that each of you and your loved ones are well.

I have attempted this communicate to you many times, but never quite knowing what to say and how, exactly! At times worried and deeply afraid for your health, safety, and well-being! At other times nothing concrete to say that replaces the overwhelming unknowns, as the leadership of the university and our own school struggle to find answers that make sense – how do we switch the entire campus to Remote and Online Learning formats, and more importantly how do we continue to support and nurture our students within this new learning format for many of our students – How do we safely and caringly relocate thousands of our students from their campus housing to their own homes, many of whom live in other states and abroad – and oh my, how do my

(our) students safely continue in their Field Placements to provide services to the families and communities who desperately need them during this ugly and feared Virus that is taking away so many of our loved ones needlessly – How do we assure the safety of our current students and that of our graduates while they tackle Tele-Services in agencies that are still trying to figure it out at the same tie!

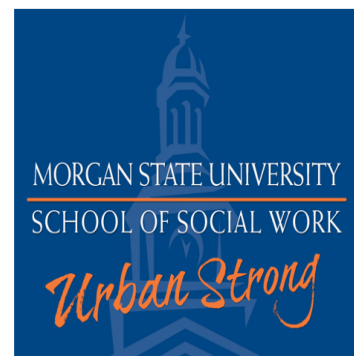
And then, today – Dr. Van Sluytman reminds me for the last time, “Get Your Letter for the Newsletter Done”!

Yet the tears, the anger, the exhaustion are still too raw to fully take in and process – to really know where to start. Is it where I began the Racism Battle in my 20’s and which I, as well as many of you, have fought the entirety of our lives! How do I embrace the call to “Educate” people with vigor and sincerity that I can’t grasp that, after all this time, don’t know, understand, or care!

When I feel so broken, how do I speak to the thousands of you about what we must do as we mourn the brutal murder of our very own George Floyd and so many of our murdered family members while we and the world looked on? Just as we were trying to grasp the hatred and insanity of a society that sits by and behaves as if these brutal killings are our fault!

Then, as your Dean, what do I tell you to do about the city, nation, and worldwide protests/uprisings!

Can I assure you that our new “Allies” in the street will be with us during the arduous work of taking down the structural racism that exists in every corner of every institution in America – will they be with us when they really get clear that they, their parents, their education, their jobs, the privileges to which they can return, as it turns out are at the core of the Racial Pandemic they were in the streets protesting! Are



they willing to believe and own that their ancestors were the architects of these very same structures that now assure them and their children's children of the privileged life that they can now "wipe away the tear gas" and return to!

Or, as my Millennials and Gen Zers say to me, "Come on, Dean, this time, these uprisings are different and will turn into a Movement, with a whole new set of Allies. Things will be different this time; they will be with us as we collectively shape and enact new policies and legislation that reform policing and criminal justice, that fully address the inequities and trauma of the past through Reparations that will begin to restore and make whole education, health, and employment systems that mirror that of our Allies!

Okay, okay then!

Since I've never been one to sit on the sidelines, I promise to trust and support your optimistic views, hopes, and desires for changes we can see, feel, and live! And so – today – among the still so many unknowns, know this, each and every single one of you is loved, supported, and cared for by your Morgan Family.

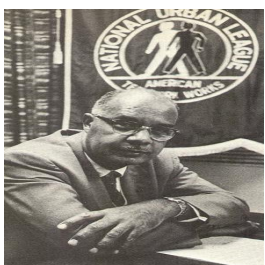
Remember also, that you are living on shoulders, hopes, dreams that our ancestors had for us – knowing that they would not live to see. Let's do all we can to assure your hopes and dreams, and those of our children come to fruition!

Know, too, that as your Dean, I will continue to the best of my ability to be an effective advocate for your best interest!

Love and Peace

*Dean McPhatter*

## Honoring a Social Work Pioneer



Lester B. Granger is known for his work with introducing civil rights to the social work agenda on both the national and international platforms.

Born one of six sons in Newport News, VA, in September 1896 and later grew up in Newark, NJ. Mr. Granger was a graduate of Dartmouth College and then New York University, where he studied at the

New York School of Social Work. He later served in the US Army during World War I, and upon his return, he began his social work career in 1922, where he worked as an extension worker in Bordentown, NJ. He progressed throughout his National Urban League tenure by first working in the educational section between 1934 and 1938. Between 1940-1941 he served as an executive secretary and finally as an executive director from 1941 to 1961.

Mr. Granger identified the mistreatment and discrimination of young men as they returned home from the war and became an advocate for equal rights of individuals serving in the military and African Americans employed across the federal government. Mr. Granger supported the 1941 March on Washington, which led to President Roosevelt's Executive Order that banned discrimination based on race in agencies with federal contracts. He is credited with leading the development of unions among African Americans and the integration of white unions. He further led the beginning of the desegregation of military services during World War II and the inclusion of African American workers in defense industries. As a special consultant to Navy Secretaries, he was instrumental in aiding in the abolishment of segregation in the Navy. He was awarded the Navy Medal for Distinguished Service and the President's Medal for Merit.

During the 1950s, Mr. Granger became frustrated with the racial tension and unfair treatment of African Americans in the South and was active in the push for civil rights legislation with President Eisenhower. His social work contributions were further demonstrated not only through his advocacy efforts but through his term President of the National Conference of Social Welfare and the International Conference for Social Work. Additionally, he served as the Vice President of the American Association of Social Workers, honorary President of the

International Council on Social Welfare, and a member of the board of directors of the Council on Social Work Education. He was President of one of the seven organizations that merged to form the National Association of Social Workers.

After he retired from the National Urban League, Mr. Granger taught as a visiting professor of sociology at Princeton, Loyola, Tulane, and Dillard Universities. He later died in January 1976 in Alexandria, LA. His contributions have paved the way for other activists and illustrated the power of advocacy, action, and serving the Black community. The fight must continue.

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

The members of the BHIPP team joined our new partners from Morgan State University School of Social Work for a stakeholder networking dinner to kick off our exciting Baltimore City social work co-location project. In partnership with Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration, the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Salisbury University



BHIPP provides social work co-location in primary care practices. In the co-location model, social work interns are available on-site to provide screening, brief intervention, referral and real-time consultation to PCPs. We are thankful for the contributions from all partners involved and we look forward to building on the enthusiasm of the PCPs who attended.

### Vision Board Party

This semester began on an inspiring note with student participating in the Vision Board Event by The Office of Student Affairs and Admissions. Jessica Turner hosted the event. The purpose of this event was to give an opportunity for students to create a visual board that highlights their vision for the spring semester or the new year. BSW and MSW students participated in the event that was held for two days to accommodate student's schedules.



### HBCU Summit

Mr. Sequean Mahnke and students Amira Jabbar, Wandago Choge-Arum, Paul Tolliver, Dominic Hambleton, and Glennis Armstrong attended this school year's HBCU Summit to



represent the School of Social Work. Ms. Jabbar shares her experience:

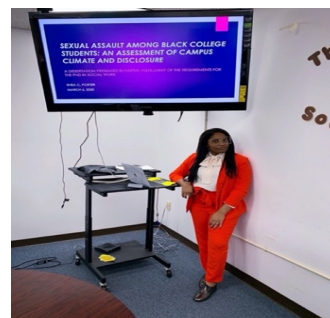
The summit my peers and I attended was: Improving Retention at HBCUs: Creating Connections. To step outside of Morgan State's campus to represent in front of other HBCUs was an amazing experience. I was granted the opportunity to meet with students and faculty from other institutions in the region. During this three-day event I represented on a student panel. I gave an in-depth outlook on how Morgan's campus provides students with many facets to connect with others whether it is through organizations, classes, or meeting with their advisor. I also had a tremendous experience of presenting an abstract and poster board with one of my colleagues. Our board outlined the BSW Peer Advising Program and talked about the link between organizations and academic success from both a traditional and non-traditional student perspective

This summit gave Morgan State students exposure to other schools such as Delaware State, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Bowie State University, etc. Furthermore, this summit taught us that there is always room for growth and challenged us to be innovative in drawing students to our campus and how to bridge the gap between

students, faculty and administration. Morgan State University breeds Urban Strong social workers who advocate for their communities and that was very visible at this summit. We are the future, and the future inevitably is now. More importantly, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and thanks to Dr. Mfume and the Office of Student Retention and Success for the opportunity and Mr. Mahnke for believing enough in us to extend the opportunity to us. Lastly, we'd like to thank our School of Social Work for grooming us for a time such as this. We are only as good as those who came before us and are continuously teaching us along the way. We are #UrbanStrong.

## Highlights of Students and Alumni

- Ms. Rhea Porter *pictured left top* (Chair: Dr. Wilbon) and Ms. Latanya Townsend *pictured right bottom* (Chair: Dr. Estreet) defended their dissertations in time for the May 2020 graduation.



- Ms. Taylor Geyton was selected as a recipient of the Future Faculty Fellowship Award Program at James Madison University in Virginia. The program provides students with teaching experiences by pairing them with a faculty mentor, and it provides a stipend, lodging, and travel money.
- Mr. Kahlil Green, along with a few other Black men, is the author of a new book entitled ["Stereotypes of the Black Male: Changing the Narrative for Misunderstood Black Males One Story at a Time."](#)



- Ms. Nia Johnson's (with mentor Dr. Estreet) abstract, "Sustaining Self to Sustain Practice," was accepted for the 2020 National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS. Additionally, a second abstract with Dr. Estreet for the same conference also was accepted, which is entitled "Integrating SBIRT into Social Work Practice to Address Substance Use among people living with HIV."
- Mr. David Miller published an OpEd in the Afro Newspaper entitled "[Homage to Kobe Bryant](#)".
- Ms. Dasha Rhodes and Ms. Davida Robinson (with mentors Drs. Archibald and Van Sluytman) published an article in Advances in Social Work, "[A Decade's Tale: Consent Decrees and Police Use of Disproportionate Excessive Force with Communities of Color](#)".
- Ms. Maxine Taylor's and Ms. Dasha Rhodes' abstract, "The Impact of Social Work Education on Policing" was accepted for the 2020 Joint

#### Social Work Education and Research Conference

- Ms. Davida Robinson and Ms. Dasha Rhodes (with mentor Dr. Van Sluytman) published an article in the Journal of Poverty, "[Watching Neighborhoods Vanish: The Intertwining of Gentrification, Race, Class, and Policy](#)".
- Alumna and associate professor of social work at Clark Atlanta University, Dr. Kenya Jones, published a chapter in the 30th anniversary book commemoration of the [University of Kansas' Strengths Perspective](#). The chapter is entitled "[Supporting Students Utilizing the Strengths Perspective: Classroom Activities & Assignments that Encourage and Empower Student Success.](#)"
- In early March, alumna and assistant professor of social work at Fayetteville State University, Dr. Kimberly Hardy, won a primary election for a House of Representatives seat in the North Carolina General Assembly by defeating a long-time incumbent.

## Faculty Highlight



**Dr. Dana Burdnell Wilson**, in collaboration with Dr. Linda Darrell, and doctoral student Dasha Rhodes published *Autumn Divas: Women of Color Who Achieved Doctorate Degrees After Age 50 in Urban Social Work*. In this article the scholars examined the lived experiences of women of color who achieved doctoral degrees after the age of 50. The article discusses the pursuit of self-fulfillment and empowerment, receptivity to new challenges and perspectives, and messages for others who see to uplift their communities.

**Dr. Linda Darrell** recently co-edited a special issue of *Social Work & Christianity Journal* that was published this Spring. She has written several parts in the journal including "Sometimes You Have to Bend Your Knees" and "Starting an Intentional Conversation with Our Special Issue." These articles discuss movement towards racial reconciliation guided by intentional conversation among racial groups – acknowledging the past harms and truth about current beliefs.



**Dr. Anthony Estreet**, Associate Professor in the MSW Department is the co-chair of the committee for addiction practice competencies for the Council of Social Work Education practice guide for release Fall 2020. He is involved with the Social Work Behavioral Health Workforce Development and Expansion: The Substance Use Disorder Workforce Expansion (SUDWE). Each of the three Maryland MSW programs will recruit and select 10 advanced standing students for the 2020-2021 academic year. Students would be

referred to programs providing some level of screening, assessment and treatment for substance use disorders, for their field practicum experience; they would receive additional didactic and experiential training specifically in evidence-based practice in SUD treatment.

**Dr. Denise McLane-Davison**, Associate Professor in the MSW Department and was a recipient for the 2020 Zenobia L. Hikes Award. The Award recognizes a woman of color with a distinguished career in higher education demonstrated by scholarly endeavors or administrative and professional accomplishments. Additionally, she recently co-authored a book chapter: *The Strengths of Black Families: The Elusive Ties of Perspective and Praxis in Social Work Education* in the book *Rooted in Strengths: Celebrating the Strengths Perspective in Social Work*. Dr. McLane-Davison also received The HistoryMakers 2020 Digital Humanities Fellowship Award (\$5000) and was invited as the Keynote speaker with co-author of chapter, Dr. Tanya Smith-Bryce for the Social Work Day Conference. She further had an oral paper entitled “Expanding the Bench: Application of Performance Measurement/Results-Based Accountability Learning with Macro-Oriented Students of Color” has been accepted for presentation during the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) to be held in Washington, DC, January 15-19, 2020.



**Dr. Melissa Littlefield**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Master of Social Work Program, co-edited the book *Online and Distance Social Work Education. Current Practice and Future Trends*. This text was published March 2020 and provides a comprehensive presentation on the evolution, current status and future direction of distance learning and online education in the social work profession. This book demonstrates the power of distance learning and online technology and addresses

future trends in web-based social work education.

According to the FBI there were over 1, 206,836 violent crimes in the United States in 2018. In fact, there were 348 homicides in Baltimore City in 2019; which makes last year the second deadliest in Baltimore’s history. We, as a society, have often overlooked the consequences of witnessing such violence. More focus must be paid to the collateral damages that violence in our society causes. As a scholar and activist,

**Dr. Michael M. Sinclair** has turned his focus to teaching about “Complex Integrated Trauma” and its impact on fragile families and their children living in urban communities. Current research suggests that if left unchecked, Trauma and related stress can have long lasting effects on the poor people’s overall psychological and physical health well-being. As Social Workers we have to work to combat interpersonal and community violence, and assist those exposed to violence not only cope, but ultimately create safer environments.



***Congratulations to all the Graduates!***

**To view all the photos in the newsletter plus more, click [here!](#)**

