



FINISHING THE DECADE STRONG



IN THIS ISSUE

A Message from the Dean.....	1
Social Work Pioneer	2
CSWE Conference	2
Community Connections	3
Connecting with Coppin	3
Phi Alpha	4
Department Highlights.....	4
Faculty Highlights.....	5-7



PHENOMENAL TRANSITION HOME

Greetings to our students, alumni, faculty, and community partners!

I trust you are well and preparing for a wonderful Holiday Season with family and friends!

I want to let you know that while my time as Interim Provost this past year was a “Pinnacle Experience” in my academic career, I am simply thrilled to be back home! The transition has been amazing in so many ways. First, under the leadership of Interim Dean Dr. Sandra Chipungu, our school did not miss a beat! Our Executive Team, our hardworking and dedicated faculty, our amazing students, alumni, and friends demonstrated their love, support, and commitment to our school leading, to excellence in every aspect of our growth and development.

You will see in this edition of our Newsletter a few of the exciting things going on in the school as we continue to Grow the Future and Lead the World “Social Work Style”! Although our neighborhoods and communities continue to be challenged in a variety of ways, we remain steadfast in preparing competent urban social workers committed to serving our communities with an emphasis on celebrating our collective strengths. We remain diligent in strengthening our community partnerships with the entire Morgan family toward altering the trajectory of our children, youth, families, elders, and the communities of which they are a part.

We wish each of you a Glorious and Blessed Holiday Season and hope you know that you are always in our hearts and minds.

Happy New Year and keep the 2020 Vision Clear!

Warmest Regards!

Dean McPhatter

Honoring a Social Work Pioneer



Dorothy Heights is a social service pioneer. Her contributions to the African American community are remarkable. Her advocacy for women and civil rights and community organizing awarded her the title as the “Godmother of Civil Rights Movement.” Born in 1912 in Richmond, VA, but later raised in Pennsylvania. Dorothy Heights excelled as a student and received both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from New York University in education and psychology, respectively. Ms. Heights advanced as a social worker and worked at the Harlem Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA). She established the Center for Racial Justice. She later led the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) for 40 years, where she campaigned against lynching and advocated for the restructuring of the criminal justice system. She was also the founder of the National’s Women Political Caucus and helped organized the March on Washington in 1963 with other activists. Dorothy Heights received recognition and several awards to honor her contributions during the Civil Rights Movement and to the African American community. Of her awards, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 and the Congressional gold medal in 2004 for her outstanding activism. Ms. Heights later died at the age of 98 in April 2010. It is with great gratitude that the Morgan State School of Social Work solutes and honors Ms. Dorothy Heights.

Council of Social Work Education Conference (CSWE) 2019

This year at the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting in Denver, CO, the *School of Social Work* was well represented. Alumni, current faculty, and students presented at this year’s conference. CSWE’s Annual Program Meeting (APM) is the place where social work education influencers collaborate, learn, teach, and grow. CSWE conferences help promote and teach best practices in research and curriculum development through dynamic educational sessions, peer networking forums, and job-search opportunities. Join us again in Denver, CO, November 12-15, 2020, at the Sheraton Downtown. Click [here](#) for more information. We hope to see you all there



From Right to Left: Dean Anna McPhatter, Dr. Iris Carlton-LaNey, Dr. Dana Wilson, Ms. Shauntisha Pilgrim, Dr. Melissa Littlefield, Dr. Denise Davidson, Ms. Dasha Rhodes

Community Connections

Dr. Denise Davison, Associate Professor and Chair of the Social Welfare Policy and Economics, continues to bridge the divide between academia and the community. This year she engaged her MSW class in a guided tour of West Baltimore with community activist-scholar, Nneka N'dambi of [Fight Blight Baltimore](#) to assess visual indicators that “Baltimore communities are safe.” Students have been analyzing federal, state, and local policies that impact living in safe communities. Students also learned how the geospatial historical markers of race and wealth intersect with social policies and community safety. The classes were joined by Dr. Maurice Vann, Social Work, and Dr. Mark Barnes, Associate Professor of Geography.



Connecting with Coppin State University

The Dorothy I. Height HBCU Student Leadership & Social Justice Conference will focus on community engagement through social justice-related education, advocacy, research, and referrals. The conference is designed to prepare students of color for leadership in the area of social justice. Its mission is to heighten awareness regarding national and international human rights and social justice issues that impact marginalized populations and communities. Several Morgan State students presented at the conference. The school was also represented by [Shauntisha Pilgrim](#), Director of Student Affairs & Admissions and [Sherlease Cannady](#), MSW Online Program Coordinator.



Right: Dr. Sapphire Boone, Dr. Kesslyn Brade Stennis, Dr. Christa Gilliam, **Center:** Ms. [Sherlease Cannady](#) and Ms. [Shauntisha Pilgrim](#), **Right:** Ms. [Shauntisha Pilgrim](#), Dr. Dana Wilson

Phi Alpha KappaZeta Chapter Honor Society

ΦΑ

Our students did a fantastic job of collecting donations for this season's project. This holiday season Phi Alpha collected over 500 hygiene packages to distribute to Baltimore residents through Roberta's House charitable organization. Roberta's House is a family grief support center that believes every individual has the capability of healing and positive, memories can become the motivation to live fully and purposefully. With the support of the volunteers, along with a staff of professionals, the children/families and adults can receive the help they need to look to the future with confidence and hopeful anticipation of developing quality relationships.



Department Highlights

- Fall OPEN House was a success. Approximately 25 high school seniors attended and were interested in the BSW program.
- SOWK 101- sponsored by the "Four Year Outta Here" Ambassadors which was a forum to discuss student to



student the steps to success for applying to the program,

- preparing for the internship, and workload balance.
- First year PhD student, Mr. David Miller, recently



published a children's book entitled *Gabe and His Green Thumb*. Ms. Rhea Porter and Ms. Taylor Geyton co-authored Mental Health Disparities for publication in the *Encyclopedia of Social*

Work with MSU faculty (see pg. 5).



- First year PhD student, Mr. Eric Lee, was a guest on "For the Culture" radio talk show WEAA to discuss the adverse effects of gentrification.
- Dr. Tracy Cudjoe successfully defended her dissertation in May and graduated in December.
- See more Fall [Graduate Pictures](#)

Faculty Highlights

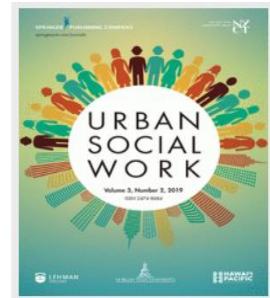
The University of Maryland-School of Nursing invited Dr. Michael Sinclair to serve as the keynote speaker for the Dean's Lecture Series. This engagement discussed **S.E.L.F. Community Conversations: A Resilience Framework for Youth and Young Adults in Communities Vulnerable to Violence** to consider the trauma and its impact on urban youth. In case you missed it, view Dr. Sinclair's lecture [here](#).



Dr. Michael Sinclair appeared on Morgan's WEEA 88.9 F.M. radio on November 8th. For the Culture is the new, daily show that airs Monday-Friday from 5 pm-7 pm on the college-based station. The show launched on October 2nd and has a fresh perspective on trending news, issues impacting the next generation, and critical cultural conversations. *For the Culture* is an attempt to connect black college students and Baltimore residents to news and information that will educate and empower them. Listen [here](#).

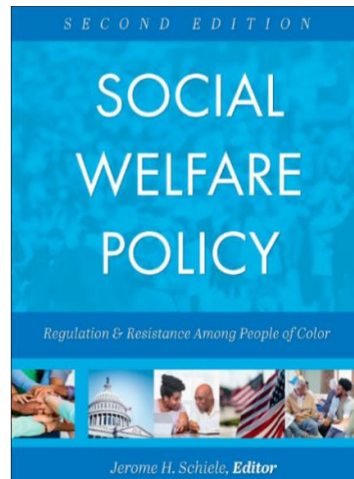


Editors Carl Mazza, DSW, Halaevalu F. Ofahengaue Vakalahi, Ph.D., Brenda Williams-Gray, DSW, and Morgan's own [Dana Burdnett Wilson, Ph.D.](#) just released the new volume for *Urban Social Work* journal. Dr. Wilson's extensive history in child welfare drives her research in leadership in child welfare programs and policy, foster care alumni empowerment, women of color in social work leadership, mentorship for women in the academy.



Dr. [Rhonda Wells-Wilbon](#) and Dr. [Anthony Estreet](#), along with Ph.D. Students (see page 4), wrote "Mental Health Disparities," for publication in the *Encyclopedia of Social Work*, published by the National Association of Social Workers. Dr. Wells-Wilbon's area of research focuses on macro practice, domestic violence, sexual assault, African-centered social work, cultural competence, and social and economic justice. Dr. Estreet's areas include: evidence-based substance abuse and mental health treatment with youth, substance use epidemiology, clinical assessment and intervention research with youth and families, social and behavioral determinants of health among African Americans, and substance use and HIV prevention research.

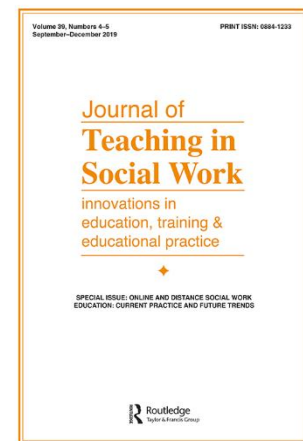




[Dr. Jerome Schiele](#), Professor, and Chair of the Ph.D. Department, edited the newly released *Social Welfare Policy: Regulation and Resistance Among People of Color*. This textbook examines how American social welfare policies, both historical and current, have sought to control the lives of marginalized populations. The chapters explore how people of color have organized to critique and resist the racial control aspects of these policies. For more information and orders, please click [here](#).



[Dr. Melissa Littlefield](#), Associate Professor and Chair of the Master of Social Work Program, guest-edited a special edition of the *Journal of Teaching in Social Work* centered on the present status and future direction of online learning and distance education. In addition to her role as steward for contributing scholars to the journal, Dr. Littlefield wrote [An Introduction: Reimagining Social Work Education for the Digital Age](#) and [Designing for Quality: Distance Education Rubrics for Online MSW Programs](#) in collaboration



with Karen Rubinstein, director of Academic Technology Services and Cynthia Brown Laveist, Director of Morgan Online, a department within the [Division of Academic Outreach and Engagement](#). Both offer glimpses into the future of social work education.



[Dr. Denise McLane-Davison](#), Associate Professor in the MSW Department, and Dr. Sharlene Allen-Milton and colleagues: Dr. Paul Archibald and recent MSW graduate Robert Holmes '19 collaboratively wrote [Of Common Bonds: Accounting for Intergenerational Culture Competency in Community Policing](#), an article published in *Race and Justice*.

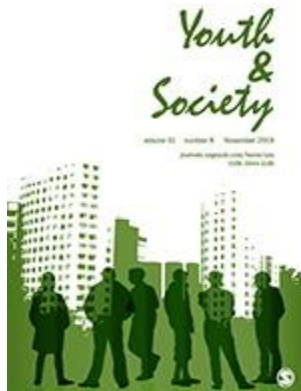
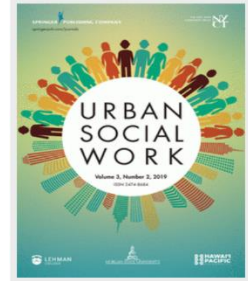


[Dr. Sharlene Allen-Milton](#), Assistant Professor in the MSW Department, whose research focuses on Dispersed social work, work-life balance for women of color, leadership and mental health, co-authored [Making the Case for Result Based Accountability as an Intervention for Chronic Absenteeism in Schools to Improve Attendance](#) an article published in *Race and Justice*.





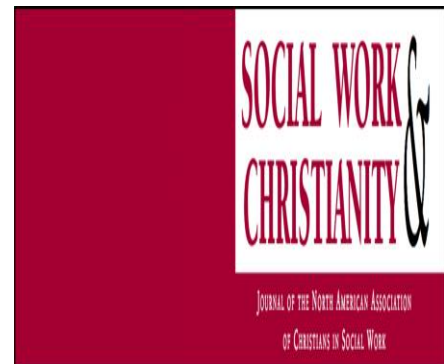
Dr. Vann, who recently joined our faculty in Fall 2019, focuses on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's); mass incarceration; restorative justice and reentry; returning citizens reentry: programs, policies, and practices; returning citizens' employment; urban unrest; volunteerism and civic engagement among returning citizens. Check out Lecturer [Dr. Maurice Vann](#)'s book review on [Families in the Urban Environment: Understanding Resilience](#) published in the recent volume of *Urban Social Work*.



Assistant Professor, [Dr. Minli Liao](#), in the BSW Department whose research focuses on urban child welfare; children with disabilities; child abuse & neglect; grandparenting; and quantitative & qualitative research methods, published [Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Decision Points of Mental Health Service Use and Psychotropic Medication Receipt Among Depressed Youth](#). With her co-author, Saijun Zhang, and Daphne S. Cain, Dr. Liao discusses implications for mental health policies and practices to address inadequate mental health service utilization for youth and to tackle the growing concern racial/ethnic difference depression among minority youth.



In [Faith, Family, and Friendship: Experiences of African American Women Living in the Margins](#), scholarly collaborators Dr. Dawn Thurman and Coppin State University's Dr. Jeronda Burley discuss the intersection of the Christian social work identity, faith, and marginalized communities in the practice of social work. Dr. Thurman's research examines school social work, child and adolescent psychopathology, clinical social work, and black families.



And we will not forget HOMECOMING 2019!



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