Celebrating 100 Centennial Alumni Award Winners

The Magazine of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University

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Breeanna Usher, MSSA 2016, of Atlanta (center) celebrates at the 100th Birthday Block Party at the 2016 Homecoming + Reunion with social work master’s students and Centennial volunteers (l-r) Jessica Switzer, Leah Adams and Jenn Angelo.

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Our Once-in-100-Years Experience

You only turn 100 once—which is why we’re having a 100-week celebration that began in 2015 and has continued with celebrations throughout 2016. We’ve been honoring the rich history of our school and looking to a future that promises to continue transforming communities and people’s lives.

That’s why I like to joke that we are a party school. After all, it’s impossible to celebrate all of the Mandel School’s 100 years of innovation in just one event. But, you can go all out for one specific event, which is what we did during the Centennial Homecoming + Reunion Celebration October 14-15.

The festivities began with a special panel discussion with three former Mandel School deans and then a cocktail reception. The dean’s panel was the first sign it was going to be an incredibly special weekend. I didn’t realize how moving it would be for me and those who attended. In speaking to alumni, they talked about how hearing past deans speak reminded them of why they came to our school in the first place, the large part it has played in their lives and their desire to stay engaged with the school. The event proved to be intellectually stimulating, yet surprisingly emotional.

For Saturday’s luncheon celebration, we were at capacity. It was great to see so many friendly faces and new faces there. The overwhelming joy in the room was palpable—to be part of the celebration, to reconnect with the school and be part of its legacy, and for alumni and faculty to reconnect with people who have made such a difference in their careers. I heard time and again that it was unlike any other awards celebration. Everyone felt engaged and connected in their hearts with the mission of our school.

At the luncheon, we also celebrated the Hall of Achievement inductions and the presentation of the 100 Centennial Alumni Award winners. [See pages 7-25 for a complete list.] Congratulations to all of our award winners, including the 40 Hall of Achievement inductees and 70 Centennial Alumni Award recipients who were in attendance. It is truly inspiring and humbling to be able to honor so many of our outstanding alumni who are making Cleveland, our nation and the world a better place.

The 100th Birthday Block Party followed the luncheon, with Bellflower Road blocked off to really embrace the entire campus and community. There were food trucks, live music, games, tours of the newly renovated building and most importantly... birthday cake. We handed out 800 pieces of cake before we ran out! Even nearby residents were happy to be a part of the celebration, saying it was unlike anything they had seen before.

Thank you to everyone who planned and participated in the festivities and who has been part of our 100-week celebration—and to everyone who has been joining in spirit. It certainly has been a fitting “once-a-century” celebration that we’ve thoroughly enjoyed, thanks to the wonderful efforts of our Centennial co-chairs and the Centennial Planning Committee.

The parties have been great, but our Centennial celebration message is what will continue to carry forward for the next century: Inspiring hope. Shaping the future.

Grover C. Gilmore, PhD
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel
Dean in Applied Social Sciences
Centennial Home

Inspiring Hope, Shaping the Future: The Deans’ Perspectives and Cocktail Reception

The Centennial Homecoming + Reunion celebration kicked off Friday, October 14, with an unforgettable gathering of all living former deans and Grover “Cleve” Gilmore, PhD, Mandel School Dean since 2002. They were joined by nearly 150 alumni, students, family members and faculty for the panel discussion and reception.

Inset photo above: Wallace Gingerich, PhD (far left; Interim Dean 1993-1994) presented a history of Mandel School dean leadership and the event was moderated by John Yankey, PhD (far right; Acting Dean 1980-1981). The panelists were (from second to the left to right) M.C. “Terry” Hokenstad, PhD (Dean 1974-1983); Grover Gilmore, PhD (Dean 2002-present); Darlyne Bailey, PhD (Dean 1994-2002); and Richard Edwards, PhD (Dean 1988-1992).

Complete photo albums and videos: msass.case.edu/Centennial
coming + Reunion

100th Birthday Block Party

Bellflower Road was blocked off and nearly 1,000 revelers came to enjoy birthday cake, food trucks, giant games, music, stilt walkers, building tours and much more!

Jennine Vlach, MNO 2016, at the self-care oasis, which was a hit with kids of all ages.

Centennial Co-Chairs Denise Gibson, MSSA 1978; John Yankey, PhD, Professor Emeritus; and Kathleen Farkas, PhD 1984, Associate Professor.

Dorothy Faller, MSSA 1978, and Associate Professor Sonia Minnes, PhD 1998.

Dancing to the DJ are Vivian Jackson, PhD 2008; former dean Darlyne Bailey, PhD; and Sharon Milligan, PhD, Associate Dean.
Centennial Home
Alumni Reunite and Receive Historic

More than 300 alumni, family and friends filled the ballroom to capacity at the Tudor Arms Hotel for the Mandel School Celebration Luncheon. Attendees enjoyed socializing and catching up before lunch, which celebrated the Hall of Achievement inductions and the presentation of the 100 Centennial Alumni Award winners. Alumni with graduation years ending in 1 or 6 commemorated reunions, including Neil Newstein, MSSA 1966, who travelled from Florida to celebrate his 50th reunion.

Miriam Ampeire, MSSA 2009, who was there to receive an Early Career Success Award, said she was looking forward to seeing classmates and professors—the people who inspired her—and that she was humbled to receive a Centennial Alumni Award. "It is a great honor that my peers think I’m accomplished to deserve this award," she said. "I wouldn’t be here or do what I do if it wasn’t for the Mandel School."

Kathleen Stoll, MSSA 1960, was proud to be receiving a Professional Achievement Award. "The school has taken such a leadership position in the field. It’s a great honor to be recognized for more than 50 years of experience in a variety of areas."

For Marcella Brown, MNO 2007, the event provided an opportunity to reconnect with peers while also being recognized in the Nonprofit Leadership Award category. "It’s a testament to the degree and what we learned at the Mandel School for how much several of us who received degrees around the same period have accomplished in a fairly short time to be able to receive this honor today," she said.

Also joining the event were a number of emeriti faculty and current faculty, plus 49 people who travelled from 21 states and Canada to participate.

Dean Gilmore kicked off the luncheon by welcoming everyone and discussing the record year the school is having with 652 students enrolled this fall. After lunch, Centennial Co-Chair and Associate Professor Kathleen Farkas, PhD 1984, thanked members of the Centennial Alumni Awards Committee before introducing the Centennial Alumni Award winners, 70 of whom were at the luncheon to receive their awards in person.

John Yankey, PhD, Centennial Co-Chair and Leonard W. Mayo Professor Emeritus of Family and Child Welfare, followed by introducing Hall of Achievement inductees. Case Western Reserve University Emeriti Trustees Robert Madison and Sarah Austin-Crosthwaite, MSSA 1962, were among the 40 in attendance who were officially inducted as members of the Hall of Achievement.

Dean Gilmore closed the luncheon and invited everyone to carry on the festivities at the 100th Birthday Block Party that followed. "This has truly been wonderful. We will continue to recognize the people in our community who have done such great work and are making a difference. We celebrate the work that you’re doing every day,” he said.
Centennial Alumni Award winners congregate for a soon-to-be historic photo with Dean Gilmore.

Nonprofit Leadership Award winner Darlene Rebello-Rao, MNO 1998 (left), from the Miami area, catches up with Nonprofit Leadership Award winner Ann Lucas, MNO 2000 (right), from Sacramento, Calif.

Professional Achievement Award winner An-Pyng Sun, PhD 1987 (center), who travelled from Las Vegas, Nev., with her husband Jong-Shang Liu (left), laughs with Hall of Achievement Inductee Flavio Marsiglia, PhD 1991.

A gathering of great minds: CWRU Emeritus Trustee and Hall of Achievement Inductee Robert Madison (left); Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Harvey Shankman, MSSA 1974, CNM 1988; and Nonprofit Leadership Award recipient Marsha Mockabee, CNM 1994.

Complete photo albums and videos: msass.case.edu/Centennial
A Century in the Making
Hall of Achievement Inductees

The new Mandel School Hall of Achievement was founded during the Centennial celebration to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding alumni, faculty, partners and friends who have greatly impacted the school and the fields of social work or nonprofit management for the past 100 years. These individuals have received school, university or top industry honors in the past.

Margaret E. Adams ◊
Barbara Munroe Allan ◊
Margaret Allen ◊
Goldie Alvis
Joseph P. Anderson ◊
Sarah S. Andrews
Sarah S. Austin-Crostwaiete
David M. Austin ◊
Darlyne Bailey
Charles A. Ballard
Olive K. Baumber ◊
Mildred C. Barry ◊
Jennifer M. Bartholomew
Marcus Battle ◊
David Bergholz
Philip Bernstein ◊
Margaret Berry ◊
Leona Bevis ◊
David E. Biegel
Clark W. Blackburn ◊
Eileen Blackey ◊
Mary Blake ◊
Arthur Blum ◊
William Thomas Bogart
Margaret F. Bolton ◊
Lawrence Bresler
Charles D. Brink
Grace F. Brody ◊
Ralph Brody ◊
Suzanne Brown
Steve D. Bullock
Geraldine Burns
Jane Campbell
Dorothy H. Castle ◊
Margaret L. Celeste ◊
Fern Chamberlain ◊
Pranab Chatterjee
Mary Blake ◊
Margaret Hartford ◊
Ann Hartman
Lois Hayes ◊
Marguerite Haynam ◊
Virginia O. Herbst ◊
Frank J. Hertel ◊
Stephen H. Hoffman
M.C. “Terry” Hokenstad
Stanley B. Horowitz ◊
Donald B. Hurwitz ◊
Hazel C. Jackson ◊
Deborah J. Jacobson
Jeffrey Janata
Edmond T. Jenkins ◊
Kathryn P. Jensen
Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson ◊
Geneva Johnson
Margaret H. Johnson ◊
Richard Lewis Jones
Mark L. Joseph
Mitchell Kahn
Israel Katz
Deborah Kendig
Margaret M. Kennedy
Anna E. King ◊
Lenore A. Kola
Derrick Kranke
Florence G. Kreech ◊
Joyce Edward
Richard L. Edwards
Daniel R. Elliott, Jr.
Daniel R. Elliott, Sr. ◊
Theodore Fabian
Hans S. Falk ◊
Art J. Falco
Kathleen J. Farkas
Dean Fazekas
Robert L. Fischer ◊
Raymond Fisher ◊
Paula A. Fitzgibbon
Jerry E. Floersch
Claire E. Freeman
Angelo J. Gagliardo ◊
Ursula M. Gallagher ◊
Karachepone Ninan George
Eleanor R. Gerson ◊
Grover “Cleve” Gilmore
Wallace J. Gingerich
Mitchell I. Ginsberg ◊
Howard Goldstein ◊
Sol Gothard
Howard Gustafson ◊
Kirsten M. Hagesfeld
Caileen Haggard
Marjorie Hall-Ellis ◊
Lillian F. Harris ◊
Margaret Pauline Roney Lang ◊
India Pierce Lee
Marcia Levine
Verl S. Lewis ◊
Mark Light
Belle Likover
Gail Long
Jacalyn Lowe-Stevenson
Elizabeth L. Lynch
Robert P. Madison
Marjorie W. Main ◊
Chris A. Mallett
Salvatore A. Maldafino ◊
Jack Mandel ◊
Joseph Mandel ◊
Morton Mandel
Flavio Marsiglia
John Matsushima
Jean Maxwell ◊
Leonard W. Mayo ◊
James McCafferty
W. Thomas McCullough ◊
Arthur H. Kruse ◊
Margaret E. Adams ◊
Barbara Munroe Allan ◊
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John Matsushima
Jean Maxwell ◊
Leonard W. Mayo ◊
James McCafferty
W. Thomas McCullough ◊
David B. Miller
Steven Minter
Robert Morris ◊
Milton C. Morris
Eric Morse
Kirsti Mouncey
Michelle R. Munson
Myrtle Munzt
Michael Murphy ◊
Meher C. Nanavatty ◊
Arthur Naparstek ◊
Aravindhan Natarajan
Tom O’Brien
Shig Okada ◊
Ralph Ormsby ◊
Nancy Osgood
Kathi Overmier-Gant
R. Susan Pearlmuter
Wilma Peebles-Wilkins
Ruby Pernell ◊
Norman Polansky ◊
Curtis D. Proctor
Joseph Pyles ◊
Steven Raichilson
Jim Rokakis
Jay L. Roney ◊
William S. Rooney ◊
Marvin Rosenberg
Edna Roth ◊
Bernard Russell ◊
Marian E. Russell
Janet Sainer ◊
Paul Salipante
Lillian Schlachter
Roy Schlachter
Alvin Schorr ◊
Connie Schultz
Beth Shapiro
William H. Sheridan ◊
Barbara Silverstone
Maya M. Simek
David A. Simpson
Patricia Sinclair
Mark Singer
H Bernard Smith
John Palmer Smith
Rebecca C. Smith ◊
Phyllis Solomon
Mary Louise Somers ◊
Joan Southgate
Harry Specht ◊
Dorothea Spellman ◊
Herman Stein ◊
Richard O. Stock ◊
Louis Stokes ◊
James L. Strachan
Mary Lou Stricklin
Gerald A. Strom
Kimberly Strom-Gottfried
Ilya Sveches
Hank Tanaka ◊
Sachie Tanaka
Virginia Sandifer Tannar ◊
Caroline Tempio ◊
Celeste Terry
Esther L. Test ◊
Maria J. Thompson
Toni-Jane Tickton
John J. Toner ◊
Mario Tonti
Elizabeth M. Tracy
John B. Turner ◊
Barbara K. Varley
Helen M. Walker ◊
John Wallin
Creed F. Ward ◊
Elizabeth Law Watkins ◊
Kathryn S. Weitzel ◊
Kathleen Wells
Pearl S. Whitman ◊
Scott A. Williams
Danny R. Williams
Joy Willmott
Donald V. Wilson ◊
Zoe Green Wood
Judith L. Wylie ◊
John A. Yankey
Dennis Young
Henry L. Zucker ◊

◊Deceased
Announcing 100 Centennial Alumni Award Winners

At the 2016 Homecoming + Reunion Celebration Luncheon, these 100 extraordinary alumni were honored for best representing the spirit of the school and embodying the Centennial theme: “Inspiring Hope. Shaping the Future.” They were nominated by alumni, faculty, social work and nonprofit leaders, Centennial Planning Committee members and community members at large. They were then selected by the Centennial Alumni Awards Committee and the Centennial Co-Chairs. As Alumni Award winners, they are now members of the Hall of Achievement. To nominate alumni or yourself for the 2017 Homecoming + Reunion Alumni Awards, visit: msass.case.edu/Reunion.

Thank you Centennial Co-Chairs Kathleen Farkas, PhD 1984; Denise Gibson, MSSA 1978, PhD; and John Yankey, PhD, Leonard W. Mayo Professor Emeritus of Family and Child Welfare; and to Centennial Alumni Awards Committee Members:

- Goldie Alvis, MSSA 1973
- Paula Atwood, MSSA 1973
- Mary Beth Cernoia, MSSA 1980
- Julia Ellifritt, MSSA 1991
- Dean Fazekas, MSSA 1991
- Maureen Gauntner, MSSA 1967
- Beth Glas, MNO 2011
- Adriennie Hatten, MNO 1996
- Nancy Lowrie, MSSA 1995
- Carole Marciano, MSSA 1993
- Carlier Myers, MNO 2003, MSSA 2013
- Gerald Strom, Senior Instructor
- Ella Thomas, MSSA 1971

Louis Stokes Community Service Leadership

Recipients embody the socially minded characteristics of the late beloved and honorable Congressman Louis Stokes: Community service leadership; social justice advocacy; Mandel School volunteerism; and Mandel School community-related project support.

Magda Gómez, MSSA 2004, is Director of Diversity & Inclusion at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), where she works on initiatives related to inclusivity, diversity training and awareness of national diversity-related issues. Her focus is on valuing employees by encouraging mutual respect and honoring unique perspectives. Gómez is President of Hispanic Community Programs of the Hispanic Roundtable of Cleveland and serves on the Early Childhood Compact Team for PRE4CLE. She is one of the founding members of LATINA, Inc. Gómez was included in Crain’s Cleveland Business’s “Who to Watch in Marketing” while serving in her previous position at Tri-C as Manager of Enrollment Communications.
Miriam Ampeire, MSSA 2009, is a Linkage to Care Coordinator for Cuyahoga County at The MetroHealth System in Cleveland, working with an interdisciplinary team to provide HIV/AIDS counseling and services to individuals diagnosed with HIV. Her professional focus has been on addressing social stigmas, coping with chronic illness and helping people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS navigate the health care system. Ampeire is Co-Chair of the AIDS Clinical Trials Community Advisory Board. She has served on Cleveland’s HIV Regional Planning Advisory Board, Ryan White Community Planning Board, as a refugee mentor to multiple families and as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland.

Matthew Butler, MSSA 2010, is a Clinical Supervisor at Community Counseling Center in Ashtabula, Ohio, and has experience across multiple social work settings. He is a member of the Ashtabula County Suicide Prevention Coalition, Housing Council, Second Chance Citizen Circle and on the Ethics Committee for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Ohio Chapter. He is a founding member of the Ashtabula County Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors Team, which provides postvention services following suicide and other traumatic losses, and is the facilitator of Heartbeat, Ashtabula County’s only support group for suicide loss survivors. Butler is a Field Instructor and an Adjunct Instructor at the Mandel School.

Devon Fegen-Herdman, MSSA 2005, is in community practice at St. Clair Superior Community Development Corporation in Cleveland as the Director of Operations at Upcycle Parts Shop, which she co-founded. Upcycle Parts Shop is an innovative project that transforms unwanted materials into art, using sustainable arts programming to positively engage local residents, help build connections within the community and ensure access for all regardless of ability to pay. Previously, she worked at Hospice of the Western Reserve, where she testified against Medicaid cuts before the Ohio State Legislature, worked as an in-home and school therapist, and conducted hundreds of sensitive family meetings.

Annette Iwamoto, MSSA 2012, is Foundation Relations and Strategic Initiatives Manager at Providence House, a crisis nursery in Cleveland dedicated to child abuse prevention and family preservation. She is President of the Mandel School Alumni Board, board member of the Interreligious Task Force on Central America (IRTF) and a board member of Cleveland Young Professional Senate. She has served as a member of the City Year National Alumni Advisory Board and as Vice Chair of the Cuyahoga County Next Generation Council. Iwamoto was awarded a 2016 Northeast Ohio Movers & Shakers Award from the Cleveland Professional 20/30 Club.
Ijeoma Mba, MSSA 2013, is Program Associate at Reboot in Nigeria, a social impact firm dedicated to inclusive development and accountable governance, where she does programmatic work supporting client engagements, field research and business development. She also works with Road Preppers to create Nigeria’s largest community-based trip planner mobile app. As a 2015-2016 Global Health Corps Fellow at the Foundation for Community Development in Kasashe, Uganda, Mba focused on promoting global health equity. Her work has extended across Rwanda and South Africa, focusing on women’s rights and online citizen engagement campaigning. She previously worked on nigeriaelections.org, a comprehensive electoral engagement and real-time results website.

Mary McNamara, MSSA 2003, is Administrative Manager of the City of Cleveland Department of Aging. She is part of a team that is committed to making Cleveland an age-friendly city for its more than 70,000 older adult residents. Prior to her work at the city, McNamara was a Program Director at Fairhill Partners in Cleveland. She is an active board member with the Amani Children’s Foundation, which raises funds and awareness for four baby orphanages in Kenya. She is also a volunteer with several local organizations and is a mentor to recently resettled refugees through Migration and Refugee Services at Catholic Charities.

Thomas Mulloy, MSSA 2006, is National Director of Poverty Programs for the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He leads systemic change initiatives and public policy advocacy. Previously, he worked in federal policymaking and advocacy, first as Legislative Assistant and Legislative Director to former Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and later as Domestic Labor and Economic Policy Advisor to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Mulloy is Chair of the Beyond Borders Board of Directors, a nonprofit working in Haiti to eliminate child slavery and violence against women, guarantee universal education and create sustainable communities.

Catherine Rotolo, MSSA 2007, is Suicide Prevention Manager of the Suicide Prevention Program at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, which implemented her recommendations for 24-hour staffing of the Patient Transfer Center and mental health pharmacy services for veterans at risk for suicide. These services have led to improvements in access to care and a reduction in the rate of suicide attempts via overdose on prescription medication. The program has been applauded by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Organizations for several best practices and it was named one of the Top Five Strengths of the Cleveland VA.

Nathan Schaefer, MSSA 2005, is a prominent HIV and LGBT advocate in New York City. He began his career in Washington, D.C., as a Government Affairs Associate at AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families. He then served as Director of Education and Public Policy at the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland. Schaefer became Director of Public Policy at Gay Men’s Health Crisis in 2008 in New York City, then Executive Director at the Empire State Pride Agenda in 2012. Schaefer is currently Senior Policy Director at the National Hemophilia Foundation and an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University’s School of Social Work.

Christa Hayden Sharpe, MSSA 2005, is Vice President of Aftercare at human rights organization International Justice Mission (IJM). She provides oversight to IJM global aftercare operations and creates innovative strategies to ensure IJM’s clients are restored to health and wholeness by developing local aftercare programs and building the technical capacity of government social services. Sharpe joined IJM in 2005 as Cambodia’s Director of Aftercare, then served as a Director of Church Mobilization in the United States. Most recently, she served as IJM Cambodia’s Field Office Director, where she led a team to equip Cambodia’s justice system to more effectively enforce anti-trafficking laws and serve survivors.
Nonprofit Leadership

Recipients have been working as leaders over a span of 15 or more years in the nonprofit profession and must have earned a Master of Nonprofit Organizations (MNO) degree or a Certificate in Nonprofit Management (CNM) from the Mandel School.

**Sheryl Aikman, MNO 1995**

is Vice President of Development at The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, a $250 million foundation serving an 18-county region, where she has been on staff since 1998. Aikman has served in multiple national leadership roles for the community foundation field. Since 2010, she has been a peer reviewer for the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. She is a member and former Board Officer of the North Carolina Planned Giving Council and is past President of the Land of Sky Estate Planning Council. Aikman is a William C. Friday Fellow of the Wildacres Leadership Initiative.

**April Alvis, MNO 1999**

has consulted in the public and nonprofit sector for 15 years. Her expertise is in capacity building, strategic planning, board development, program development and implementation, change management, and training. In 2009, she and her mother founded The Alvis Group, a consulting company focusing on capacity building in nonprofit organizations. She served on the board of directors of both Preterm and Applewood Centers Inc. Alvis was named to the 2002 Kaleidoscope Magazine 40 Under 40 Class and the 2004 Class of Cleveland Bridge Builders. She currently works for Parthenon Globalsystems as Director of Provider Services.

**Mary Anne Crampton, CNM 2007**

is President of MACC Partners, a consulting firm that specializes in facilitating strategic alignment, identifying strategic partners and building outcome-oriented cultures in nonprofit organizations. A civic activist, Crampton co-founded and served as the Executive Director of LakewoodAlive, the nonprofit economic development organization in Lakewood, Ohio. Spearheading the Downtown Lakewood Main Street revitalization program, she worked closely with government and business stakeholders to attract more than $20 million in reinvestment in Lakewood’s primary commercial district. Recognitions include Lakewood Chamber of Commerce 2011 Business Person of the Year and 2010 Ohio Main Street Manager of the Year from Heritage Ohio.

**Eric Dicken, MNO 2009**

has forged a reputation as a trusted advisor and an accomplished leader in the greater Cleveland nonprofit sector. He is Senior Executive Director for Donor Relations, University Events and Presidential Protocol at Case Western Reserve University. The department he leads has expanded significantly to support the university’s $1.5 billion capital campaign while orchestrating more than 120 annual events. Dicken is actively involved with Cleveland Arts Prize, Near West Theatre, the Cleveland International Film Festival and the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation. A member of Protocol and Diplomacy International – Protocol Officers Association, he is a graduate of the Protocol School of Washington.

**Marcella Brown, MNO 2007**

is Executive Director of the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation, which supports the development of Northeast Ohio’s top black professionals and future community leaders through scholarship, leadership training and career development. She is a Strategic Planning and Nonprofit Management Consultant through her private firm, Brownstone. Previously, Brown was a Development Consultant for OneCommunity, a broadband technology organization, and she spent several years as Assistant Director of Development for The City Club of Cleveland. Brown served as the Secretary and Chair of Advocacy for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry and is a member of Who’s Who in Black Cleveland.
Phyllis “Seven” Harris, MNO 2005, has nearly two decades of leadership experience in Cleveland-area nonprofits, including program management and development, fundraising and senior-level executive positions. She has played a strong role as an advocate in Cleveland’s LGBT community for many years. She has served as Director of Education and Advocacy at the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Vice President of Programs and interim CEO with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland, Capital Campaign Director at the Cleveland Sight Center, and has had roles on the governing boards of the LGBT Center, SPACES and Community Shares of Greater Cleveland.

Timothy Logan, MNO 1994, Principal at The TimLogan Group in Reston, Va., has 36 years of experience in fundraising and nonprofit management. He holds ACFRE advanced certification from the Association of Fundraising Professionals and is a Fellow of the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy (FAHP)—one of only six fundraising professionals to hold both advanced certifications. An innovator in health care fundraising, he co-authored a white paper on best practices in developing a grateful patient fundraising program. He is a past President of the Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations Alumni Association and is a national board member of the AFP Foundation for Philanthropy.

Ann Lucas, MNO 2000, is Vice President of Lester Consulting Group in Sacramento, Calif., counseling on fundraising campaigns and feasibility studies, board development, mergers and organizational analysis for organizations primarily along the West Coast. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the Nonprofit Resource Center in Sacramento, where she oversaw the center’s work in strengthening the management, fundraising and board development of hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout the Sacramento Valley and Sierra Nevada regions. Lucas also served as a Director at the Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations, where she managed professional development programs for nonprofit organizations in Ohio and nationally.

Marsha Mockabee, CNM 1994, is President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, where she leads an agenda empowering African Americans to develop and exercise their potential on par with all other Americans through education, research, advocacy and provision of services. She has more than 28 years of nonprofit leadership experience. Mockabee serves on the National Urban League’s Education and Jobs Task Forces. She was selected to lead the Equity and Excellence in Education initiative for the State of Ohio to help engage in statewide advocacy and policy issues affecting education in urban communities. Among her colleagues, she is known as the “turnaround specialist.”

Megan O’Bryan, MNO 1995, is a change leader. She is Vice President of the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, which raises vital support for student scholarships and educational enhancement programs at the college. Previously, O’Bryan served as the founding Executive Director of the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, a public-private nonprofit created to oversee education reform in the City of Cleveland with the goal of every child attending a quality public school. From 2000-2013, O’Bryan worked at Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, including serving as its President for eight years. During this time, O’Bryan helped grow the organization and promote major systemic change in the community.

Darlene Rebello-Rao, MNO 1998, is Assistant Vice President, Campaign and Donor Relations at the University of Miami, where she has helped raise more than $1.6 billion as a principal staff member on a major donor campaign. She has spent more than 30 years dedicated to the public and nonprofit sectors. She began her career with the National Film Board of Canada, then went into public policy work. At the Mandel School, she was named Student of the Year. She went on to volunteer and work for several Cleveland-based nonprofits, including The Ratner School, the Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations, Cleveland Zoological Society and Magnolia Clubhouse.
Honoring 100 Centennial Alumni Award Winners

Scott Simon, MNO 1998, is passionate about building and transforming community—whether in bricks and mortar or via connection and creation. He is President of North Pointe Realty, a Cleveland-based commercial real estate firm. He is also co-founder of [thrive], a social venture and “happiness incubator” that designs highly curated experiences rooted in science that fuel greater individual and communal happiness and super-charged social networks. Simon is Board Chair of Shoes and Clothes for Kids, Vice President of the Agnon School and Trustee of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. He was named one of Crains Cleveland Business’s “40 under 40.”

Yolanda Y. Armstrong, MSSA 1994, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland. She is a 25-year veteran in social services in the areas of mental health, chemical dependency, juvenile justice, domestic violence, management and community development. Armstrong began her career at Murtis H. Taylor Multi-Services Center, then worked for Berea Children’s Home and Family Services (now OhioGuidestone) for 21 years. She is past President of the Cleveland chapter of the National Alliance of Market Developers. In 2014, she was the recipient of the Amazing Woman Award for her work with youth and families.

Rene Barrat-Gordon, MSSA 1979, is an Oncology Social Worker at the Cleveland Clinic, where she counsels patients with breast cancer. Previously, she worked at The MetroHealth System and helped develop the Northeast Ohio Head Injury Foundation. Barrat-Gordon has won the JD Breast Cancer Coalition Community Impact Award, the Northern Ohio Breast Cancer Foundation Breast Cancer Hero Award and the Association of Oncology Social Work Oncology Social Worker of the Year award. She serves on several hospital committees and community boards. Barrat-Gordon was involved in advocating for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Project in Ohio and has advocated in Washington, D.C., for breast cancer legislation.

JoAnn White, MNO 1999, operates Glengarry Consulting Inc., which specializes in management consulting and fundraising for nonprofit organizations. She has worked for the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation and has consulted with the American Red Cross, Cleveland’s Promise, the City of Cleveland and the Regional Transit Authority. She and her husband own Yellow Butterfly Winery and Seven Pines Alpacas in Newcomerstown, Ohio, and run the Seven Pines Foundation. White served on Lakewood (Ohio) City Council from 1990 to 1998, when she also served as the national President of Women in Municipal Government and the Chairwoman of the Economic and Development Committee of the National League of Cities.

Eva Beard, MSSA 1967, began her career with Richland County (Ohio) Children Services in 1968. She later worked as an emergency Mental Health Professional at Firelands Medical Health Center, volunteered at the Domestic Violence Shelter and worked as a Medical Social Worker at Firelands Community Hospital in Sandusky, Ohio. Following her retirement, Beard worked for the local agency Parenting Plus under a six-month grant, which turned into seven years of work and a second retirement at the age of 80. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NASW Ohio Region and the Martha Phillips Jorden Beacon Award from the Mental Health and Recovery Board.

Professional Achievement
Recipients demonstrate professional mid-to-late career success and achievement, plus working 15 or more years in the field.

Professional Achievement

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Ralph Belk, MSSA 1996, is Deputy Executive Director, Program Administration at the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF), a community institution serving more than 40,000 youth and families in the Washington, D.C., area. Belk has worked at NCCF in various positions for the past 15 years, including Program Director of NCCF’s DC Treatment Foster Care Program and Division Manager of Treatment Foster Care/Adoption Services. He has received numerous awards, including the NASW DC Metro Chapter Social Work Administrator of the Year Award in 2005. He is past President of the DC Metro Chapter of NASW and the District of Columbia’s Consortium of Child Welfare.

Patrick Boyle, MSSA 1989, PhD 2016, is Director of Implementation Services at the Center for Evidence-Based Practices at Case Western Reserve University. With experience in addiction services, mental health services and employee assistance programs, Dr. Boyle has shaped the technical assistance services of the center to assist providers in 22 U.S. states, Canada, the Netherlands and Australia. He has been a Lead Consultant and Trainer in the State of Ohio’s dissemination of Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT). Dr. Boyle has authored and co-authored numerous publications and training and technical assistance modules and manuals. He is an Adjunct Instructor at the Mandel School and maintains a private counseling practice.

Phyllis Brody, MSSA 1958, has spent a majority of her career as an entrepreneur, artist and advocate for the importance of creativity in children’s development. She co-founded Creativity for Kids, a toy company devoted to encouraging children’s natural creativity that grew into a global brand. Brody received a Lifetime Achievement award from the American Specialty Toy Retailing Association, an organization of which she was a founding Trustee. She was involved in the development of the Children’s Museum of Cleveland, serving as President of the board when the museum opened in 1986. Brody currently serves on the board for the Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development.

Mark G. Chapin, PhD 1995, is Team Leader, Annapolis Vet Center, U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs, where he specializes in addictions, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), marital/family therapy and mind-body medicine. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Dr. Chapin was deployed to the Pentagon as part of a stress management team. He has been deployed at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where he served as Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Director of Research at the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine. Dr. Chapin retired from the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years of active military service as a Social Work Officer.

Dabney Conwell, MSSA 2007, has committed her career to working with underrepresented populations developing, implementing, supervising and evaluating social service programs. She is Vice President and Executive Director of the Rose Centers for Aging Well at the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging in Cleveland. Conwell previously served as Executive Director of the East Cleveland Neighborhood Center and was Project Coordinator of the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS). She later became a National Trainer and Program Supervisor for FAST in Madison, Wis. Conwell is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Mandel School.

Amy S. D’Aprix, PhD 2005, is the Co-Founder of the Essential Conversations Project, an organization leading a prevention movement for proactive harmonious planning conversations for older adults and their families. She is also the Bank of Montreal’s Life Transition Expert, speaking at client events across North America on aging, retirement and caregiving. Dr. D’Aprix authored From Surviving to Thriving: Transforming Your Caregiving Journey. She co-recorded a CD with an accompanying workbook, Building the Bonds of Friendship in Midlife and Beyond. Dr. D’Aprix is a Certified Professional Consultant on Aging and serves on the International Federation on Ageing Board of Directors.
Honoring 100 Centennial Alumni Award Winners

Florence Drage, MSSA 1979, started her career as a Social Service Coordinator for Senior Citizens Council at Lake County (Ohio) Mental Health Center. After graduating from the Mandel School, she was a Psychotherapist at Lake County Mental Health Center until 1987. She went on to be the Program Director of Aging at Catholic Service Bureau Lake County and also worked at the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She was a member of NASW, the Cleveland State University Alumnae Association, the American Orthopsychiatry Association and the Academy of Certified Social Workers. Drage earned her bachelor’s degree from Cleveland State University.

Cynthia Dunn, MSSA 1982, is President and CEO of Judson Services, Inc., a nonprofit corporation in Cleveland that includes three retirement communities, Smart Living at Home (Judson Home Care program and Judson Hospice) and the Judson Foundation. Dunn has more than 30 years of experience in senior living and services. She currently serves on the boards of University Circle Incorporated, the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging and GroundWorks Dance Theatre. Dunn has received several awards, including the Joseph D. Pigott Leadership Award from University Circle Incorporated and the LeadingAge Ohio 2004 Leadership Award of Honor. She is a graduate of Leadership Cleveland.

Rachel Foster, MSSA 1997, is an active duty Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force who has been named the Air Force Social Worker of the Year and Field Grade Officer of the Year. She has led installation staff in promoting family maltreatment response and prevention by counseling service members. In Afghanistan, she treated a population of 10,000 service members suffering from combat and operational stress. Foster has provided content expertise regarding the Air Force Medical Service’s response to sexual assault working policies, operational oversight and implementation of services supporting victims. As a principal investigator, she directed research projects totaling more than $7.2 million.

Michael J. Freas, MSSA 1975, specializes in marital/couples therapy and was trained by some of the best researchers in the field of marriage and relationships, including John Gottman, PhD, and Richard Stuart, MD. His career has included in-patient psychiatric and out-patient counseling settings, where he uses a cognitive behavioral and dialectical behavioral approach to individual, couples and family therapy with a special interest in anger management, grief, depression, anxiety, adjustment disorders and spirituality issues. He has expertise in facilitating the navigation of the vicissitudes of adolescents, emotional regulation of anger and integration of spirituality. Freas completed a post-graduate program with The Gestalt Institute of Cleveland.

Darlene Grant, MSSA 1984, is Country Director of Peace Corps Kosovo. She is a former Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her work focused on incarcerated women and their children. She took a leave of absence from the university in 2009 to join the Peace Corps. Grant became Country Director of Peace Corps Mongolia in 2012 and then became Country Director of Kosovo in 2015. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including NASW Social Worker of the Year and the Rosa Parks Award from the American Association for Affirmative Action.
Lynn D. Heemstra, MSSA 1982, is a nationally recognized city and community leader in system-building work for children. As the first Administrator of Our Community’s Children, a shared office between the City of Grand Rapids and the public schools, she was instrumental in developing the first-ever Grand Rapids Youth Master Plan, engaging young people as leaders and driving better outcomes for children. Heemstra has generated more than $75 million in national, state and local investments to ensure quality expanded learning opportunities for children in every school. In 2013, President Obama recognized her Mayor’s 50 LEAD youth employment program as an example of creative public-private partnerships.

Laura Rae Hokenstad, MSSA 1996, has extensive emergency management field experience at local, national and international levels. She has coordinated disaster response and recovery operations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross. FEMA deployed her to New York City during the 9/11 crises, where she worked with nonprofits to organize long-term recovery. She previously was Director of Health, Safety, Security and Environment at Northwestern University in Doha, Qatar, and Director for the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management in Nashville, Tenn. Hokenstad represented the United States at the International Forum on Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Sustainable Development held in Chengdu, China.

Ronald Hughes, MSSA 1975, co-founded and is Director of the Institute for Human Services in Columbus, Ohio, which promotes protection and permanence for maltreated children and supports their families by promoting large-scale system change in the public child welfare organizations that serve them. Hughes co-authored Field Guide to Child Welfare, the Child Welfare League of America’s best-selling textbook. He is the architect of the Comprehensive, Competency-Based Inservice Training system (CCBIT) model of child welfare training. Hughes also founded and is Director of the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare. He is President Emeritus of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

Vivian Jackson, PhD 2008, is a semi-retired member of the faculty of the National Center for Cultural Competence at the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development. She has more than 40 years of experience as a practitioner, supervisor and manager in mental health, child welfare, system reform and cultural competency. Jackson served on the NASW National Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity. She co-authored Institutional Racism and the Social Work Profession: A Call for Action. Dr. Jackson co-chaired the Diversity Interest Group for The College for Behavioral Health Leadership, which presented her with the 2016 King Davis Award for Leadership in Promoting Diversity and Reducing Disparities.

Charles “Chip” Joseph, MSSA 1992, spends his retirement as a part-time consultant with CARF International. Before retiring, he was Executive Director of Y-Haven, a YMCA of Greater Cleveland transitional housing for homeless men program. He was at Y-Haven for nearly two decades, after writing the application for the grant that got it started. A former heroin addict, he kicked the habit 30 years ago and helped many others do the same through Y-Haven or just by offering support and rebuilding their self-esteem. He spent two years in the Peace Corps in South Korea in the 1970s and worked for many years for Catholic Charities in Northeast Ohio.

Mary Jane (Potts) Karger, MSSA 1969, has been advocating for LGBT youth since 1997, when her then 23-year-old son told her he was gay. That year, she connected with Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and became its New York Hudson Valley Chapter’s Co-Chair, then co-founded and is still a member of GLSEN’s National Advisory Council. She co-founded an annual conference now called PrideWorks for LGBT Youth and their Allies. Karger received the National Education Association’s Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights and the Westchester County LGBT Advisory Board’s Outstanding Contributor to the LGBT Community Award.
Honoring 100 Centennial Alumni Award Winners

Ferne Katleman, MSSA 1957, served as Vice President and Director of Special Programs of The Wexner Foundation, overseeing the Wexner-Israel Fellowship Program. She retired in 1998 and is currently a consultant. Prior to joining the foundation in 1989, Katleman was Assistant Director of the Council of Jewish Federations. She taught social work and supervised students at Hebrew Union College’s School of Jewish Communal Service, the University of Southern California and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s School of Social Welfare. She is honorary Vice President of the World Conference of Jewish Communal Service. The Association of Jewish Community Organization Professionals gave her its Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

Shirley Keller, MSSA 1981, PhD 1999, is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Social Work, Youngstown State University (YSU). She provided leadership in the development of the YSU Master in Social Work (MSW) Program, designing a strengths-based empowerment approach as the organizing theme for the MSW curriculum. Dr. Keller was honored with three YSU Distinguished Professorship Awards in Excellence for teaching, university service and public service. In 2003, she was honored with an Ohio Educator of the Year Award. Dr. Keller has presented and authored numerous peer-reviewed publications. She has been honored with multiple NASW awards, including the 2008 NASW Ohio Chapter Social Worker of the Year.

John Lisy, MSSA 1977, has been Executive Director of the Shaker Heights Youth Center for 20 years. He chaired the Ohio Alcohol and Drug Policy Alliance and was a founding member of the Coalition for Chemical Dependency Licensure, which saw an Ohio licensing bill signed into law in 2002. He served as President and State Legislator Chair of the Ohio Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, and was the recipient of the August Martin Meuli Humanitarian Award. He is currently Treasurer of the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) and was awarded the 2005 NAADAC Advocate of the Year.

Nancy Lowrie, MSSA 1995, founded Nancy Lowrie & Associates LLC in Strongsville, Ohio, in 1999. The firm now has 25 clinicians and one psychiatrist on staff. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker, psychotherapist and substance abuse professional with advanced training as a mediator. Previously, she was the Director of Social Work in inpatient psych at Berea Children’s Home & Family Services (now OhioGuidestone). In this role, she worked for an in-home and court-involved program called Pro Kids and Families. Lowrie was also a psychotherapist, where she started an in-school program to diagnose and treat children on-site. She is a Mandel School Alumni Board member.

Victoria Marion, MSSA 2003, returned to school after 20 years to receive her undergraduate degree in social work from Ursuline College and then a master’s degree. As a clinical social worker, her current position is Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Her duties include completing a bio-psycho-social assessment and referral for veterans who are eligible for the Veterans Treatment Court in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas and Mahoning County Municipal and Common Pleas Courts. Marion has a passion for self-wellness, substance abuse disorders and trauma-related issues. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker and a Licensed Chemical Independent Dependency Counselor.

Toby Martin, MSSA 1998, PhD 2007, has extensive expertise in program evaluation. Prior to receiving her doctorate, Martin worked in the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development at the Mandel School. Her research includes a focus on co-occurring disorders and investigation of barriers and facilitators to services for women in substance abuse treatment settings. Her dissertation was funded by the research suplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Dr. Martin joined George Washington University in 2007 as Senior Evaluator on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded District of Columbia Co-occurring State Infrastructure Grant (DC COSIG).
Karen McHenry, MSSA 1994, is Program Manager of Bellefaire JCB’s Homeless Youth Programs in University Heights, Ohio, which offer intervention, safety, street outreach and short-term solutions for homeless youth. McHenry’s initial role as a childcare worker at Bellefaire JCB helped her develop clinical experience supporting high-risk youth. She has been recognized for her outstanding assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She received the Childcare Worker of the Year Award and the National Direct Service Worker Merit Award from the Child Welfare League of America. McHenry is a certified Chemical Dependency Counselor with clinical endorsement, a Licensed Independent Social Worker and a fire safety educator.

Barbara (Bantle) Obiaya, MSSA 1976, is Director of Family Support Services at the Achievement Centers for Children (ACC) in Highland Hills, Ohio, and recently celebrated her 40th anniversary with the agency. She has been instrumental in the development of ACC’s Early Childhood Mental Health program and Help Me Grow Home Visiting program. She has provided leadership to numerous community committees. Obiaya was awarded the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County Mental Health Professional of the Year, the Carolyn Grossman Award for advocacy in improving systems for children and families and the Mental Health Board Award for Supervisory Excellence.

Judith Greene (Lacerte) Phoenix, MSSA 1968, has had a lifelong commitment to peace and social justice. Recipient of the Chemical Dependency Professional Award for Washington State in 1989, she was chosen as Social Worker of the Year in 1995 by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Phoenix has held several faculty positions and directed graduate and undergraduate field practice. She has been a regular speaker at social work conferences and was Consulting Editor for Health and Social Work. Phoenix is currently board President of Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, which advocates for women farmers and a sustainable food system.

Jerome “Jerry” Rauckhorst, MSSA 1976, is President and CEO of Catholic Charities Hawaii and has been a social service leader for more than 40 years. He has advocated for affordable family housing development, senior issues, and policies affecting immigrants and migrants. Under his leadership, Catholic Charities Hawaii grew to become one of Hawaii’s largest social services agencies. Rauckhorst served on the Catholic Charities USA Board of Trustees from 1992 to 1997. He was also a governor-appointed Trustee of the Hawaii Employees Retirement System, a founding member of the Hawaii Alliance of Non-Profit Organizations (HANO) and a member of the Hawaii Pops Board of Directors.

Candace Risen, MSSA 1971, is the Co-Director of the Center for Marital & Sexual Health in Beachwood, Ohio, and an Assistant Clinical Professor of Social Work in the Department of Psychiatry at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. The Center for Marital & Sexual Health is nationally and internationally recognized as a training center of excellence in the field of human sexuality. Risen and her center partners were co-recipients of the 2005 Society for Sex Therapy and Research Masters & Johnson Award for outstanding contributions. Risen is Associate Editor of Handbook of Clinical Sexuality for Mental Health Professionals, in which she wrote two chapters.

Jane Ann Robertson, MSSA 1995, is Deputy Executive Director of Lorain County (Ohio) Children Services. She has steadily been promoted at Lorain County Children Services, beginning her career in public child welfare as a Caseworker before being promoted to Supervisor and then Manager for foster care and adoption. In 2007, Robertson was awarded the national Adoption Excellence Award by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for her commitment to significantly decreasing the length of time children waited to be adopted. She has travelled internationally with the Mandel School and trained social workers in Romania and Guatemala.
Honoring 100 Centennial Alumni Award Winners

Phil Starr, MSSA 1959, was a Social Work Researcher at Child and Family Services of Connecticut, then at Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic in Lancaster, Pa. Starr was also Executive Director of Southeast Lancaster Health Services. Living 22 miles from the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station, he co-authored two books on nuclear power, as well as two books on Medicare. Upon his retirement, Starr volunteered as Executive Director/President of Lancaster Jewish Family Services. Among his many awards are the Harry C. Robinson Sr. Humanitarian Award, a lifetime achievement award from both the Northern Connecticut and the Central PA Chapters of NASW, and the NAACP Adult Service Award.

Kathleen Stoll, MSSA 1960, has a lifetime commitment to the improvement of services to the mentally ill. She was the first Associate Director of the first Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board and served as Interim Director for the Murtis H. Taylor Center and the Phillis Wheatley Association. In her retirement, she has served on the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee to develop policies and procedures as a result of the Cleveland Police consent decree. She received a Lifetime Commitment to Mental Health Award from the Woodruff Foundation in 1996 and the Advocate of the Year: Adults Award from the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County in 2016.

Alida Struze, MSSA 1959, was a social worker for 50 years, first at a social services agency and then at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, where she spent 42 years. She counseled clients at Legal Aid for 10 years before transitioning into managing the organization’s lawyer referral program, matching private attorneys willing to take pro bono cases with Legal Aid clients. Her strong relationship with hundreds of pro bono attorneys helped thousands of low-income clients access the justice system. Struze retired from the Legal Aid Society in 2009 at age 88. Her first book, My Life, My Letters and My Loves, was published in 2015.

An-Pyng Sun, PhD 1987, is Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, teaching treatment of addictions and social work research methods. She is recognized for her contributions to the field of addiction treatment and her research has been widely cited by clinicians, researchers and policymakers. Dr. Sun authored Systemic barriers to social worker employment in the alcohol and other drug treatment agencies: A statewide survey, which was distributed by the National Addiction Technology Transfer Office to all project directors across the country, and the book, Helping Substance-Abusing Women of Vulnerable Populations. She is a governor-appointed member of Nevada’s Committee on Co-occurring Disorders.

Nominations Wanted!
2017 Homecoming + Reunion Alumni Awards

Nominate alumni or yourself by March 31, 2017, in one of the following categories: Distinguished Alumnus, Professional Achievement, Nonprofit Leadership, Early Career Success, or Louis Stokes Community Service Leadership.

Go to: msass.case.edu/Reunion
Georgia Jean Anetzberger, MSSA 1980, PhD 1986, has conducted pioneering research and authored more than 70 publications, including the books *The Etiology of Elder Abuse by Adult Offspring* and *The Clinical Management of Elder Abuse*. Dr. Anetzberger was President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Editor of the *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. She helped establish the oldest state and local elder abuse networks in the United States, was the architect of Ohio’s adult protective services law and served on numerous panels to elevate elder abuse research, policy and practice. A Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America, Dr. Anetzberger has received numerous awards.

Lowell Arye, MSSA 1982, is a nationally recognized leader, speaker, activist and advocate in aging and disability policy in work spanning federal and state government, academia and philanthropy. As staff to the House Select Committee on Aging, Arye drafted major provisions of the Disability Benefits Reform Act of 1984. He was a prime force behind New Jersey becoming the ninth state in the nation to have a Medicaid buy-in program. As Deputy Commissioner at the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Arye led the development and implementation of Managed Long Term Services and Supports. In 2002, he was elected to the National Academy of Social Insurance.

Paula Vivian Atwood, MSSA 1973, is Senior Director for Staffing and Special Projects at Beech Brook in Pepper Pike, Ohio. She was nominated by Cleveland Magazine in 1981 as one of the “Most Interesting People in Cleveland.” Atwood was appointed to the Ohio Chemical Dependency Counselors Credentialing Board by Governor Richard Celeste, serving as a founding member and Vice President from 1984-1987. She was voted “Outstanding Program Director for a Youth Oriented Service” by the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County in 1989 and was a 2006 Hearts of Hope recipient in recognition of her longtime contributions to children in Greater Cleveland.

Hoda Badran, DSW 1967, is President of the Alliance for Arab Women (AAW) in Cairo, Egypt, and Chair of the Egyptian Feminist Union. She works with more than 350 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) on issues regarding Arab women’s human rights. Dr. Badran is Representative of NGOs for the Summit of Arab Women and a member of the National Council for Women (Egypt). A Professor Emeritus of Social Research and Community Participation at the University of Helwan in Cairo, Dr. Badran’s honors include the UNESCO Award for distinguished women, the Emirates Women Union Award for leadership in women’s activities and the Distinguished UN Representative Award from the government of Sri Lanka.

Myrna Balk, MSSA 1963, has received international recognition for using art and her skills as a social worker to inform the world about egregious social issues. For 16 years, she directed the group work program at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. She was twice a member of the board of NASW Massachusetts and received the chapter’s Beverly Fliegel Social Work Policy and Change Award in 2003. Invited to Nepal in 1998, Balk taught and drew with girls and women in shelters who had been rescued from sex trafficking. She has given numerous talks about these women and shown her and the women’s artwork in many venues.

Distinguished Alumni

Recipients demonstrate extraordinary professional success and achievement over the span of their entire careers (usually 25 or more years). *This award is the highest honor bestowed by the Mandel School Alumni Association.*
Honoring 100 Centennial Alumni Award Winners

James Billups, MSSA 1954, was President of The Ohio State University College of Social Work. He served two terms as President of the Inter-University Consortium for International Social Development, an organization with members in 60 countries. He also served as Research Professor for a four-state violence and development project conducted by NASW in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development. Dr. Billups received the Outstanding International Faculty Award from The Ohio State University and an honorary doctorate from the Moscow State Social University. He passed away in November 1999.

Margaret Brodkin, MSSA 1967, Founder and Director of Funding the Next Generation in San Francisco, is one of the nation’s child advocacy pioneers. She is responsible for the passage and re-authorization of San Francisco’s Children’s Fund, bringing in $750 million for children’s services since its passage in 1991. As Executive Director of San Francisco’s Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth from 1978 to 2004, she fought for reforms and the creation of a city department of children’s services. Brodkin was appointed Director of the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families in 2004, where she developed innovative models for coordination, public/private partnerships and afterschool-for-all.

Dorothy Burnside, MSSA 1947, started her career as a Senior Child Welfare Worker in Charleston, W.Va. In 1949, she became District Child Welfare Supervisor in Wheeling, W.Va. She was appointed Director of West Virginia’s statewide child welfare program and later an Assistant Commissioner in the West Virginia Department of Human Services. She was a key player in professionalizing the state’s children’s programs and a major force in policy development. Burnside was a member of NASW, Academy of Certified Social Workers, American Public Welfare Association and the West Virginia Welfare Conference. She also served as Chairperson for regional conferences of the Child Welfare League of America.

Allen Cohen, MSSA 1959, has a proven track record in developing and implementing comprehensive programs for minority and immigrant groups. In more than 50 years of public service, Cohen has worked with these communities in Cleveland and New Jersey, as well as in New York City with the American Chinese Community. He helped change the political and economic structure of Manhattan’s four major Chinatowns in work that has been recognized by every mayor of New York, from John Lindsay to Michael Bloomberg. Cohen established a scholarship award at the Rutgers School of Social Work in honor of his departed wife, Marcia Cohen, MSSA 1962.

Susan Cole, PhD 2001, is Emeritus Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she was an Associate Professor before retiring in 2015. Her career focused on clinical social work practice, program development, evaluation and research of such programs as the Adolescent PKU Program and PKU-Clinic at the University of Michigan Medical Center and the behavioral health program in the Ministry of Health in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Dr. Cole is recognized for her research into factors affecting attachment relationships between infants and kin and foster caregivers. She completed a two-semester Fulbright Fellowship at Taiwan University.

Anita Curry-Jackson, MSSA 1970, worked seven years as a social work administrator and 33 years as a higher education social work educator and administrator at the Mandel School, Atlanta University, Clark College and Wright State University. At Wright State, she was Regional Campus Dean, Associate Provost and Dean of University College. Her professional affiliations included the Council on Social Work Education (Board of Trustees, Commission of Accreditation, Editorial Board and reviewer of the Journal of Social Work Education) and former President of the National Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors and the Ohio College Association of Social Work Educators.
Hope Curfman, MSSA 1942◊, helped establish the Hope Center in Denver to provide services for special needs students, which continues to operate today. She also developed special needs programs as a social worker for the Denver Public Schools from 1963 to 1974, where she counseled families with children with autism. The tragic death of her only daughter Claudia in 1977 and the absence of adequate models for understanding their loss propelled Curfman and her husband into grief counseling, which eventually led to the establishment of the renowned Grief Education Institute (GEI). GEI became a model for disseminating the Kubler-Ross principles of empathy through the grieving process.

Dorothy Faller, MSSA 1975, retired as President of Faller International Training in 2011. She previously was Secretary General of the Council of International Programs USA and Executive Director of the Cleveland International Program. Faller worked with more than 500 professionals from 150 countries, providing long-term internships in social work. She helped found the social work master’s program at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and taught there. She also taught at the University of Bucharest in Romania and at Bosporus University in Turkey. She was elected to the board of NASW, was Board Chair of the Gestalt Institute and is an honorary life member of the Fulbright Association.

Maureen Dee, MSSA 1978, is Executive Director of Treatment, Prevention and Recovery Programs at Catholic Charities Corporation in the Diocese of Cleveland. She was born and raised in Uruguay and is committed to serving the Hispanic community. Dee helped start the Hispanic Alliance and has served on various Ohio and Cuyahoga County planning committees, including the Ohio Recovery Council, the Ohio Chemical Dependency Credentialing Board and the Cuyahoga County Service Coordination Team under Families and Children First Council. She currently serves on the Hispanic Roundtable and the Hispanic Alliance, and on the governing boards of Latina, Inc., Scarborough House and The MetroHealth System.

Gerald Futty, MSSA 1958◊, was Executive Director of Richland County Children Services for 32 years. At the time of his retirement, he was the longest standing county executive in Ohio. Under his watch, Richland County Children Services became one of the most respected agencies of its kind in the state. In 2007, the agency dedicated the Gerald F. Futty Training and Learning Center. After retirement, he consulted for the Public Children Services Association of Ohio and served for five years as a Senior Fellow for the Child Welfare League of America. He received the NASW Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993.

Charles A. Emlet, PhD 1998, is a Professor at the University of Washington Tacoma and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Washington School of Social Work. He is an affiliate faculty with the Institute for Multigenerational Health, Development and Equality at the University of Washington and the UW Center for AIDS Research. He is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. He has co-authored two books, *In Home Assessment of Older Adults: An Interdisciplinary approach* and *HIV/AIDS and Older Adults: Challenges for individuals, families and communities*. Dr. Emlet received UW Tacoma’s Distinguished Research Award in 2004 and its Distinguished Community Engagement Award in 2016.

Denise Gibson, MSSA 1978, is a nationally recognized medical educator, mental health professional, student advocate and community leader. As an educator, she has focused on undergraduate social work education, medical education and graduate education in cultural foundations. Dr. Gibson has received research funding from the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges and The Arnold P. Gold Foundation. She established chapters of the Gold Humanism Honor Society at two medical schools. Dr. Gibson has served as President of the board of directors for a community mental health center and as an advisory board member of the Urban Health Project. She is Co-Chair of the Mandel School Centennial.

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Honoring 100 Centennial Alumni Award Winners

Stuart Gitlin, MSSA 1973, has been a clinician, teacher and field instructor, and has worked in direct practice, supervision and administration. His quest for social justice began after he participated in the March on Washington in 1963. Gitlin was acting Director of Social Work at Schneider Children’s Hospital. He was Director of Admissions at New York University School of Social Work; Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University, New York University and Iona College; and Financial Aid Director at New York University. Gitlin was on the advisory board of the social work program at Siena College and won the New York State Social Work Education Association’s Community Service Award.

Jean Greenhalgh, MSSA 1946◊, helped organize Sonoma County California’s system of mental health clinics in the 1970s. She established herself as a psychiatric social worker at a time when the state’s mental health system was changing dramatically. As the state began closing psychiatric hospitals with the intent of establishing a more community-based system, Greenhalgh’s role in organizing the county’s clinics led to her being named director of the Cloverdale Mental Health Outreach Clinic. She was deeply involved in civic affairs, and was a Cloverdale Planning Commissioner and a Cloverdale Senior Center Advisory Board Member. In 1987, the state legislature recognized her as Woman of the Year.

Eliezer Jaffe, MSSA 1957, DSW 1960, was one of the founders of the first school of social work in Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1960. He is the Centraide L. Jacques Menard Professor Emeritus for the Study of Volunteering, Nonprofit Organizations and Philanthropy. Dr. Jaffe is the volunteer founder of the Israel Free Loan Association, which has provided more than $270 million in interest-free loans to the working poor. Dr. Jaffe was co-founder of ZAHAVI-The Israel Association for Rights of Large Families and served on three prime ministerial committees formulating social welfare policy. He has been widely recognized for his contribution to Israeli society.

Art Lifson, MSSA 1969◊, served as Chairperson of the Mandel School Visiting Committee, and he and his wife established the Art and Amy Lifson Scholarship at the school. He was Principal of Art Lifson Consulting, which was a health care consulting and lobbying firm. He was previously Vice President for Federal Affairs and Vice President Federal Health Policy at the CIGNA Corporation. He frequently testified before Congress on health policy issues and was recognized as an expert in long-term care insurance. Lifson was active in several organizations, including the American Jewish Society for Service and the National Governing Council of the American Jewish Congress.

Robert Keefe, MSSA 1985, is Professor of social work at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he teaches courses in social work practice and human behavior, and conducts research on macro-level factors that lead to negative health outcomes. Keefe’s research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is a Fellow in the New York Academy of Medicine who was awarded Insley/Evans Public Health Social Worker of the Year by the American Public Health Association and was named to Who’s Who in Medicine and Healthcare. Keefe is an editorial board member of several journals.

Jean Lawrence, MSSA 1984, is a nationally recognized researcher and leader in childhood diabetes and gestational diabetes. As a Senior Research Scientist with Kaiser Permanente, she is the Principal Investigator (PI) or Site PI on multiple federally funded studies, including SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth (presently in year 17), the Incidence of Type 1 Diabetes among 20-45 year olds and the HAPO Follow-Up Study. She has more than 130 peer-reviewed publications. Lawrence received a doctorate degree in maternal and child health from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. She did her post-doctoral training in the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Wayne W. Lindstrom, PhD 1986, is Director of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division and CEO of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative. He previously was President and CEO of Mental Health America (MHA), formerly known as the National Mental Health Association.

Before joining Mental Health America, Dr. Lindstrom was the CEO of a behavioral health provider organization in Ohio that served children, youth and families. In the 1980s, he directed addiction services for the State of Ohio and then worked to build a private group psychotherapy practice into a managed behavioral health care business. His career began in the United States Air Force.

Soad Mansour, MSSA 1972, founded Towards Employment in 1976—a national model of workforce development—and served as its Executive Director for 20 years. She joined the Mandel School as a Field Education Faculty Advisor in 1996. When the Office of International Affairs was established in 1999, she was appointed its first Director. She continued to serve as a Field Education Faculty Advisor until 2012 and as Director of International Affairs until retiring in June 2016. Mansour was awarded Social Worker of the Year by the NASW Ohio Chapter in 1991 and was presented with the key to the City Of Cleveland in recognition of her work at Towards Employment.

Patricia “Pat” Nobili, MSSA 1983, is a recognized nonprofit leader and advocate who was Executive Director of the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeast Ohio and recently retired from the Achievement Centers for Children after 21 years as CEO. Nobili was named by Smart Business Network as one of Cleveland’s Top Women Executives, received the Pillar Award as an Executive Director/CEO of the Year in Northeast Ohio, was appointed by three governors to the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, was awarded Executive Director of the Year by the Epilepsy Foundation of America, and received the Samuel Clemens Award in St. Louis for exceptional service and commitment to individuals with disabilities.

Lillian Milanof, MSSA 1949, committed her life and career to being an advocate for social justice. A nationally recognized child welfare expert, she held various positions in public welfare organizations in Ohio and New York before joining the social work faculty at the Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville in 1964. She was named Professor Emerita upon her retirement in 1986. Milanof served on advisory bodies for the administrations of four Kentucky governors and the mayors of Louisville. She was a charter member of NASW and was recognized as an NASW Social Work Pioneer.

Lisa Pape, MSSA 1990, is Executive Director of Homeless Programs for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), responsible for executing a $1.4 billion operating budget for specialized homeless services. She leads the agency as the principle adviser to VA and VHA leadership on policy, management and operations of a continuum of programs that constitute services for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. She is responsible for ensuring effective implementation of the VA Plan to End Homelessness. Pape has worked at the VA since 1991.

Dave Pedlar, PhD 1997, is Director of Research at the National Headquarters of Veterans Affairs Canada in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. He specializes in research, policy and practice to improve the transition experience to civilian life for military personnel. He has been responsible for more than 50 research studies and is a leader in veteran health research in Canada. He was a recipient of a Fulbright Student Scholarship and has held university affiliations in medicine at Dalhousie University and in nursing at the University of Prince Edward Island. Dr. Pedlar was the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Military Social Work at the University of Southern California for 2015–2016.
H. Ted Rubin, MSSA 1950, committed his career to furthering productive social service interventions and progressive juvenile justice policies and practices. After graduating from DePaul University College of Law in 1956, he practiced law in Denver and was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives. He was elected judge of the Denver Juvenile Court, where he created the Jane Addams and Judge Ben Lindsey Halfway Houses and implemented the nation’s first Juvenile Court VISTA Volunteers Program. He joined the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts and served as its Director for Juvenile Justice Training and Research from 1971-1992. Rubin has authored six books.

Seymour “Sy” Slavin, MSSA 1958, was Class President while at the Mandel School. Known for his creativity, he developed the first Cleveland Summer Arts Festival while serving on the staff of Mayor Carl B. Stokes. He went on to achieve an international reputation in social policy and administration, serving as a special consultant to Vice President Hubert Humphrey during development of the Great Society Programs and consultant to the New Towns Program in Harlow, England. He retired as Emeritus Professor at the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville. At the age of 95, he remains an active lecturer and speaker.

Nancy Schiffer, MSSA 1971, said the strong educational, ethical and practical background she developed at the Mandel School set a solid stage for her career. After graduating, Schiffer held positions at the United Way of Southeastern New England, the Health and Welfare Planning Council in Dayton, Ohio, and several positions at the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, including Interim President. After retirement, she continues to serve the Dayton community on a variety of volunteer boards, including the Homeless Solutions Policy Board. Schiffer honored her commitment as a scholarship recipient by providing practicum experiences for social work students and establishing a scholarship trust.

Norman Sohn, MSSA 1968, received his doctorate from The Sanville Institute for Clinical Social Work and Psychotherapy in Berkeley, California. His doctoral dissertation, *Awareness Groups for Children of Holocaust Survivors: An Application of Control Mastery Theory*, provided a groundbreaking understanding of how trauma is transmitted and how therapists can help people master traumas. Sohn went into full-time private practice and has continued teaching at the San Francisco Psychotherapy Research Group Training Center & Clinic. He serves as Adjunct Faculty at Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, University of California San Francisco, and is on the consulting clinical faculty at The Sanville Institute.

Harvey Shankman, MSSA 1974, CNM 1988, is President and CEO of Eliza Bryant Village in Cleveland, where 280 employees serve more than 1,200 older adults annually with comprehensive geriatric services that include adult day care, transportation, well seniors, senior housing and nursing home care. He is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator and has worked in the field of health care for more than 40 years. Shankman is a graduate of Leadership Cleveland and the FBI Citizens Academy. In 2008, he received The Dr. Arnold L. Heller Memorial Award for his contribution in the field of long-term care and in 2010 he received the Award of Honor from the national LeadingAge organization.

Melody Stewart, PhD 2008, is a judge on the Ohio Court of Appeals – Eighth District (Cuyahoga County). In 2013, she served as the court’s Administrative Judge. She earned her law degree as a Patricia Roberts Harris Fellow from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, and completed her PhD as a Mandel Leadership Fellow, where her studies focused primarily on restorative justice. After practicing law as an Assistant Law Director, Dr. Stewart worked in various positions at Cleveland-Marshall before joining the faculty. She currently serves on the Ohio Supreme Court’s Judicial College Board and was recently appointed to the Ohio Criminal Justice Recodification Committee.
Ella H. Thomas, MSSA 1971, is Executive Director of the Thea Bowman Center, a nonprofit organization in Cleveland. Thomas finds that the challenges of a small community organization are greater than the large multi-million dollar organizations she directed over the years as CEO of the Cleveland Psychiatric Institute, CEO of the Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board (now ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County) and CEO of the Department of Mental Health in Washington, D.C. Thomas is currently a board member of the Woodruff Foundation, as well as a member of the United Way of Greater Cleveland Emergency Services Committee.

Eleanor Weisberger Weintraub, MSSA 1943, an emeritus faculty member at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, worked in the division of child psychiatry at University Hospitals in Cleveland. She taught an undergraduate course with Dr. Benjamin Spock, who wrote the introduction to her first book. Weintraub pioneered the first parent education and support groups to support normal child development. Her books include *Your Young Child and You: How to Manage Growing-Up Problems in the Years from One to Five; Letters from Nin: Wisdom, Advice, and Encouragement for a First-Time Mother;* and *When Your Child Needs You: A Parents’ Guide Through the Early Years.*

Margaret “Margie” Wheeler, MSSA 1970, co-founded and served as Vice President of Foundation Management Services, which provides grants administration for foundations in the Cleveland area. Previously, she was Assistant Director of Leadership Cleveland. Wheeler has served as the president of many boards, including Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland, the Junior Leagues of Champaign (Illinois) and Cleveland, The Positive Education Program and The Gathering Place. She has received a United Way Spotlight Volunteer award, the Civic Service Award from the former Citizens League of Greater Cleveland and the 2011 Frederick Goff Philanthropic Service Award from the Cleveland Foundation.

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Gautam Yadama, MSSA 1985, PhD 1990, is Dean and Professor at Boston College School of Social Work. His work focuses on understanding the social and environmental challenges of rural poor in the regions of South Asia, Central Asia and China, with a particular focus on solutions to improve social, economic, environmental and health outcomes. Dr. Yadama has collaborated with George Soros’ Open Society Foundation in training several cohorts (1999-2014) of young social policy and social development professionals across Asia. His book, *Fires, Fuel & the Fate of 3 Billion: State of the Energy Impoverished,* outlines an argument for transdisciplinary research to tackle complex problems at the intersections of poverty, environment and health.
Record Year for Research Funding and Enrollment

The Mandel School’s Centennial year became even more significant with the release of the 2015-2016 Research and Training Annual Report, which announced another record year for research funding and publications.

Enrollment also reached a record high, with 652 students enrolled in master’s, doctoral and undergraduate courses this fall—an increase of 29 percent over last year.

From July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, research and training grants totaled $9,400,847, which is the highest amount in school history. This amount reflects the breadth and depth of research and the responsiveness to community needs in terms of training, program evaluation and technical assistance to nonprofits and government entities. Federal funding increased as well, now comprising 52 percent of all external funding. Read the complete report: msass.case.edu/research

The photograph on the annual report cover was taken October 13, 2016, when the Terminal Tower in downtown Cleveland was lit blue in commemoration of the Mandel School Centennial—a bright beacon of social justice in the night sky, inviting the entire city to join the celebration. Download and share this photo: msass.case.edu/Centennial

Welcome New Faculty

Jennifer A. King, DSW, LISW
Assistant Professor
Clinical practice with children, adolescents, families and adults; assessment and treatment of trauma in children and adolescents

Dana Prince, MPH, PhD
Assistant Professor
Cumulative disadvantage across the lifespan; the role of institutional and community-based services during the transition to adulthood

Laura A. Voith, MSW, PhD
Assistant Professor
Violence prevention, particularly violence against women and children; implementation science on the delivery of violence prevention programs

msass.case.edu/faculty
We are exceedingly grateful for the unwavering, enthusiastic and generous support of those who shared our vision for the renovation of the main building of our Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. We were thrilled that so many wonderful friends could join us for this meaningful dedication ceremony, including Mort Mandel, who, through the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, provided the lead gift for this exceptional renovation,” said Barbara R. Snyder, President of Case Western Reserve University, at the dedication of the building renovation. Pictured at the ribbon cutting (left to right): Lilli Harris; Leah Adams, MSSA/MNO student; Seth Harris; Holley Martens, MSSA 2007; President Snyder; Gayle Noble, MSSA 1988; Morton Mandel; David Noble; James C. Wyant, PhD, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Case Western Reserve; Chuck Fowler; Dean Gilmore; Bruce Higley; Char Fowler; Sharon Higley Watts; Bob Eckardt, Cleveland Foundation; Margie Wheeler, MSSA 1970; Marcia Levine, MSSA 1966; Jazmine Danner, MSSA student; Christine Manning, MSSA 1997, Saint Luke's Foundation; and Ron Reed.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Writer Connie Schultz Receives Advocate for Human Rights Award, Delivers 2016 Commencement Address

Author and nationally syndicated newspaper columnist Connie Schultz received the 2016 Mandel School Advocate for Human Rights Award and delivered an inspiring 2016 Commencement address. Her address received a standing ovation at the diploma ceremony, which honored 139 graduates May 15 and was part of the Centennial celebration.

Also honored at the ceremony were Shelly Gracon, MSSA 2016 (Irene Sogg Gross Service Award); Breeanna Usher, MSSA 2016 (John A. Yankey Student Community Service Award); Deborah Crane, MSSA 2016, and Catherine Weaver, MSSA 2016 (Dean’s Award for Outstanding Student Achievement); Kimberly McFarlin, MSSA 2005 (Outstanding Field Instructor Award); and Zoe Breen Wood, PhD 2013, Assistant Professor (John A. Yankey Outstanding Teacher Award).

Hear the speeches and see photos: msass.case.edu/Commencement
We recognize the many achievements and contributions Mandel School alumni make in all corners of the world. Please send your news to: Nada Di Franco (nada.difranco@case.edu) and include your name, class year, email address and phone number.

Myrlene Jones, MSSA 1972, was recognized by Worldwide Branding for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in religious education and work with The Bethel Bible Institute, which she co-founded in 1984.

Doug Breunlin, MSSA 1975, is the co-author of two chapters in the recently published new edition of the *Handbook of Family Therapy*. The book illuminates the common threads in couple and family therapies and a range of perspectives. It explores the integration of theory, clinical wisdom, and practical and meaningful research that produces the best understanding of family relationships as well as the best treatment options. Breunlin is the Director of the Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy program at The Family Institute at Northwestern University.

Ena M. Watson, PhD 1976, will be featured in the International Association of HealthCare Professionals’ publication, *Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare*. Dr. Watson is a psychotherapist with a range of expertise, including child, adolescent and adult therapy and mental health. Dr. Watson has been practicing for more than 43 years. She is a Clinical Social Worker Specialist at Metropolitan Psychotherapy Services in Camp Springs, Maryland.

Robert Keefe, MSSA 1985, is the lead author of a study that offers new insights on postpartum depression among women of color. The study, published in the journal *Social Work in Mental Health*, is among the first to provide first-person perspectives from African-American and Latina mothers about their experiences with postpartum depression and the types of formal and informal services that help manage their depression. Keefe is an Associate Professor at the University at Buffalo School of Social Work.

Gautam N. Yadama, MSSA 1985, PhD 1990, became the Dean of the Boston College School of Social Work in July, having previously been Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Affairs and Professor in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. Dr. Yadama is an internationally respected researcher whose interdisciplinary work has focused on understanding the social and environmental challenges of the rural poor in South Asia and China. He currently serves as an advisory group member with the Implementation Science Network for the National Institutes of Health, addressing the issue of household air pollution around the world.

In Young Han, PhD 1988, Professor at Ewha Women’s University, Department of Social Work, South Korea, chaired the June 2016 Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Seoul, South Korea.

Nadine Bean, MSSA 1990, PhD 1994, Associate Professor at West Chester University, won the 2015 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award. When she was honored with the award, she promptly gave part of the stipend it came with to four social work master’s students in the form of $500 scholarships. She is the first Lindback recipient known to have done so. Bean was also recognized in 2012 with a SAGE/CSWE Award for Innovative Teaching in Social Work Education.

Eugenia Cash, MSSA 1992, was re-elected as board chair of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAHMS) Board of Cuyahoga County. Cash is the Humanware/ Social Emotional Learning Manager, Administrator External Supports for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Also serving on the board are Richard Romanik, MSSA 1999, a Lecturer at the Mandel School, and David Biegel, PhD, Henry L. Zucker Professor of Social Work Practice at the Mandel School.

Carlton Craig, MSSA 1993, joined the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) as Professor and Director of the School of Social Work and Program Supervisor for the UNLV Marriage and Family Therapy Program. Dr. Craig had been on the faculty at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work.

Kim Strom-Gottfried, PhD 1993, who is the Smith P. Theimann Jr. Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Professional Practice at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) School of Social Work, was appointed Director of Ethics Education and Policy Management at the university. In this newly created cabinet-level position, Strom-Gottfried will focus on coordinating ethics programs and reporting mechanisms, along with overseeing management of UNC’s policy infrastructure. In addition, she will serve as an advocate for ethics resources and programs, helping identify, coordinate and promote ethics-related opportunities across campus.

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Holly Hirsel, MSSA 1995, a social worker with the Veterans Administration national Homeless Program, wrote a VA blog article about Army Veteran Tony Grant, who created a veteran-focused ministry within his church, True Vision Church, where he serves as a deacon.

Megan O’Bryan MNO, 1995, was featured in Crain’s Cleveland Business for her work at Cuyahoga Community College as the Vice President of Development and the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation.

Leslie Opper, MSSA 1998, was promoted to Assistant Vice President, human resources at Fischer-Titus Medical Center in Norwalk, Ohio. In her new role, Opper will provide leadership for all Fisher-Titus Health employee relations and organizational development, including recruiting, engagement and training.

Craig Boitel, PhD 2002, co-authored an article about youth and community outcomes. The article, “From juvenile offender institutions to residential treatment centers: Evidence of the shifting paradigm to improved youth and community outcomes,” appears in the Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work.

Theresa Ott-Gaser, MSSA 2003, wrote a children’s book entitled Ice Cream Cone Feelings, which officially launched in June. Her second children’s book, There’s A Squirrel In My Tummy, is expected to be available in December and she has a third book in the works. Her books can be found at www.icecreamconefeelings.com. In addition, Ott-Gaser presents training seminars on trauma-informed therapy and professional ethics in high risk clinical circumstances and clinical supervision in high risk clinical circumstances for Heisel and Associates. She is also the founder of the Restore Foundation, which provides education about the impact of trauma on children and provides financial support for children seeking professional assistance.

Lee Fisher, MNO 2005, Ohio’s former Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, is serving as Interim Dean of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University and as a Visiting Professor of law. Fisher is the President and CEO of the CEOs for Cities network and a Senior Fellow with the Center for Economic Development in Cleveland State’s Levin College of Urban Affairs.

Sylvia Olaszek Brochue, MSSA 2006, received the “25 under 35” award from her high school, Saint Joseph Academy in Cleveland. She was featured in the school’s publication Update, which had this to say about her: “Sylvia began a career in social work with a service-oriented mind set and a desire to assist those from disadvantaged populations. Within the foster system, she works to create loving and strong relationships with the children, focusing her energy on therapeutic foster care, which treats some of the more significantly traumatized, abused and neglected children in the Cleveland area and surrounding communities. Throughout her 10 years at her current job, Sylvia has facilitated many successful reunifications, adoptions and other permanent lifelong connections for disadvantaged youths. Her desire to serve and help others through her career helps heal children and create a sense of permanency in their lives.”

Rachel Felber, MSSA 2007, has been named Director of Camp Wise, the Mandel Jewish Community Center’s residential camp near Chardon, Ohio. Felber, who served as the camp’s Assistant Director the past four summers, had been appointed its interim Director in February.

Agnes Akite, MNO 2009, MSSA 2014, was recognized by Global Cleveland as part of its National Immigrant Heritage Month celebration in June. Akite came to the United States from Uganda. When asked in the interview, “Why is it so important to welcome immigrants and refugees?” she responded, “This is the salad bowl of the world. America cannot be what it is without immigrants and refugees. This is where people go to be free and liberated.” Akite is currently a student at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland.

Jessica Kayse, MSSA 2011, recently accepted a position as Manager of Resident Engagement at Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC). In this position, she will lead the creation of CAC’s resident engagement strategy and manage day-to-day activities that better connect CAC with residents of Cuyahoga County (Ohio).

Annette Iwamoto, MSSA 2012, was named to the Cleveland Bridge Builders class of 2017. The Cleveland Leadership Center selects the Cleveland Bridge Builders classes yearly, drawing from leaders in the nonprofit, for-profit and public sectors. She was also nominated to be person of the month in May 2016 for cleveland.com.

Shavar Johnson, MSSA 2012, is now the HIV Prevention Coordinator at Recovery Resources in Cleveland, which is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping people with mental illness, alcoholism, drug and other addictions.
Alumni News continued

Diwakar Vadapalli, PhD 2012, and Assistant Professor Debby Jacobson, got together in Anchorage, Alaska, where he is Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the University of Alaska Anchorage Institute of Social and Economic Research. Dr. Vadapalli and his wife have a 4-year-old and a new baby.

Adair Hill, MSSA 2015, is writing for the Social Work Helper (socialworkhelper.com) news website.

Shelli Snyder, MNO 2016, was hit by a car in Montana while riding her bicycle to relocate from Cleveland to Seattle. The trip was also a fundraising effort for Bike Cleveland via Climate Ride. She was in a medically induced coma in Montana before hundreds of donations to a Go Fund Me effort made it possible for her to be returned to Cleveland for medical care and rehab.

Alumni gathered during the international Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Seoul, Korea, June 29, 2016. Left to right: Hyunsoo Kim, MSSA 2008, PhD 2012; Jungyai Ko, MSSA 2010; June-Yung Kim, PhD student; Ok Mi Baik, PhD 2011; En-Jung Shon, PhD student; Heehyul Moon, PhD 2013; Sung-Jae Choi, PhD 1984; In Young Han, PhD 1988, who chaired the conference; Jaehwan Kim, MSSA 2014; Meeyoung O. Min, PhD 2000; Seok-Joo Kim, MSSA 2007, PhD 2013.

Alumni News includes updates received between April 1, 2016, and September 30, 2016.

Tap Into Our Research

Attend colloquia in person or via livestream

2016-2017 Research & Training Colloquia are free lunch-and-learn events. Attend in person (and receive 1.5 social work CEUs) OR watch the colloquium via livestream wherever you are! This year’s colloquia spotlight our own groundbreaking researchers:

January 27: Use of Community Data by Nonprofits: Opportunities and Challenges

February 10: Consensus-Based Assessment Tool of Community Readiness and Capacity for Farmer’s Market Implementation

February 24: Navigating HIPAA, FERPA and the IRB: Leverage Big Data to Better Serve Children and Families

March 24: Cleveland Effective Neighboring Project

For more details, to register or to watch videos of past colloquia on sexual assault, the opioid epidemic or prenatal cocaine exposure, go to: msass.case.edu/research

Alumni News includes updates received between April 1, 2016, and September 30, 2016.
With sadness, the Mandel School announces the passing of our extraordinary alumni and friends. We extend heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

Ruth Dilley Sims, MSSA 1937, passed away July 26 at the age of 107 in St. Petersburg, Fla. Mrs. Sims was born in 1908 in Peking, China. She moved to Ohio to earn an undergraduate degree at the College of Wooster and later earned a nursing diploma and public health nurse certificate from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at (Case) Western Reserve University, all prior to receiving her MSSA. As a public health nurse in Cleveland, she cared for underprivileged families. During World War II, she was a U.S. Army nurse in England. After the war, she and her husband moved to St. Louis, where she worked to integrate a local public pool. During the late 1960s, she earned a guidance counseling certificate from the University of Texas El Paso. In 1971, she retired from teaching and moved to St. Petersburg to nurse her 94-year-old mother.

Carroll D. Colby, MSSA 1941, passed away September 23 in Lacey, Wash. He served as a naval officer during World War II. After the war, he held social work positions in Indianapolis and Kansas City, Kansas, before becoming the Director of the Group Work and Recreation Division of the Community Chest of Hennepin County, Minn., and later Assistant Director of the Community Chest of Philadelphia Operations Division. From 1959 to 1969, he was the Executive Director of the Welfare Planning Council in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. During that time, he was also the first Executive Director of the Commission on Economic Opportunity in Luzerne County, Pa. He went on to be the Executive Director of the North Shore Health Planning Council in Peabody, Mass.

Robert H. Weiner, MSSA 1942, passed away June 1 at the age of 97 in Chevy Chase, Md. He had a long career in Jewish communal service, including 25 years as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. He was a founding board member of the Washington Community Music School, which served inner-city youth. After earning his master’s degree, he worked with at-risk youth in Indiana and Chicago. In 1958, Mr. Weiner became Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center of Washington. In 1980, Governor Harry Hughes appointed him to the Maryland State Commission on Ethnic Affairs, which he chaired in 1984 and 1985.

Marjorie S. Young, MSSA 1948
Edna F. Roth, MSSA 1952, of Eastham, Mass., received a bachelor’s degree from (Case) Western Reserve University’s Flora Stone Mather College in 1950 and a PhD from Smith College School for Social Work in 1969. In 2002, she was awarded the Day-Garrett Award for outstanding contributions to professional social work as a member of the Smith College School for Social Work educational community. She was also former faculty of the Mandel School, receiving the first Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 1975. During her time at the Mandel School, her nickname was “I” among her peers. She was also a Professor Emeritus of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work. Her best friend and life-long companion, Elizabeth “Betty” Lewis, PhD 1972, passed away in December 2015.

Antoinette (Stornellie) Shimer, MSSA 1952
David Louis Weingarden, MSSA 1953, passed away May 13 at the age of 90 in Bakersfield, Calif. He served in World War II and then earned his degrees at (Case) Western Reserve University using the Gi Bill. Over the course of 53 years, he was a school social worker, an adult protective services worker and psychiatric social worker. He also maintained a private practice for a number of years before retiring at the age of 80.

David Macarov, MSSA 1954
Bill Oshima, MSSA 1956, died September 26 in Las Vegas, Nev. After earning his master’s degree, he worked with inner-city youth in a settlement house in Cleveland. He and his family eventually moved to Boston, where he continued assisting inner-city minority communities. In the 1970s, he taught at the Boston College School of Social Work and earned a master’s degree in business. He later worked for programs aimed at increasing opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses to obtain government contracts.

Joanne M. Braucher, MSSA 1966, passed away March 12. She was a social worker for more than 40 years. She specialized in administration and working directly with neglected and emotionally disturbed children and youth.

Jean E. Serkownek, MSSA 1971, passed away August 5 in Euclid, Ohio. She was a dedicated social worker and a supporter of many causes, including social justice, women’s reproductive rights, animal rights and the environment. She worked at The Centers for Families and Children in Cleveland from 1983 until her passing.

Michael James Murphy, PhD 1974, died at the age of 82 on July 22 in Shaker Heights, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Air Force, retiring with the rank of Captain in 1967. He was a Professor at the Mandel School and was recently posthumously inducted as a member of the Mandel School Hall of Achievement.

Shelly Jean Obert, MSSA 1974, passed away August 6 in Hudson, Ohio. She worked for 42 years at Portage Path Behavioral Health Center in Akron, Ohio, most recently as Director of Quality Improvement.
Michael Robert Williams, MSSA 1977, Director of the Cleveland State University Black Studies Program, died July 12 in Cleveland. He was a graduate of Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where he majored in sociology and was an All-American in track and field. He held a second master’s degree in public health and a doctorate in social work from the University of Pittsburgh. Later, he studied for a master of divinity degree at the Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. Dr. Williams joined the faculty at Cleveland State University in 1985 as an Assistant Professor of social work. He was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in 1991. In 2004, Dr. Williams was named Director of Black Studies and remained in that post until his death. He continued to teach social work classes while working diligently to make black studies a major. Due to his efforts, Cleveland State University now has a major and minor in black studies. He also counseled and mentored graduate and minority students in various settings, as well as individuals in undergraduate school, community mental health facilities and community-based organizations. Dr. Williams was active in the Association for Black Cultural Centers (ABCC) and Cleveland State received a salute from ABCC as the “100 Most Active Culture Centers” in 2010. He received numerous awards throughout his career. He was also affiliated with numerous local and national professional organizations and served on several boards throughout his career. He published and conducted research on such topics as culturally relevant treatment with African American populations, the political use of the concept of race and AIDS in the African American community. One of Dr. William’s great loves was the Jazz Heritage Orchestra, an orchestra-in-residence of the Cleveland State Black Studies Program. Under his tutelage, the orchestra recorded with nationally known artist Bennie Goldstein.

Martha Merrek, MSSA 1977, age 93, passed away February 22 in Kirtland, Ohio. She retired after 20 years at the VA Medical Center in Chillicothe, Ohio. After retirement, she spent several years as a volunteer in numerous organizations in the Cleveland area.

Jacqueline A. Beckwith, MSSA 1978, died April 16 in Atlanta. She was a clinical social worker and retired from the State of Georgia.

Mary Elizabeth Field, MSSA 1978, passed away July 1 in Willoughby, Ohio. She volunteered and helped individuals with mental health concerns while working at Neighboring Mental Health Services in Mentor, Ohio.

David W. McVay, MSSA 1981

Rebecca C. Stager, CNM 1988, died September 6 in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. She had retired from the nonprofit Home Repair Resource Center in Cleveland Heights as Marketing and Development Associate after 22 years.

Sylvia Strasshofer, MSSA 1989, passed away August 5. She was a social worker for Goodwill, Supervisor of Protective Services for Geauga County (Ohio), Child Support Administrator for Portage County (Ohio) and an Instructor for National College.

Joseph Donald Belair, MSSA 1990, died August 31. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army who was proud of having worked his way through college to earn his bachelor’s degree in social work from The University of Akron. He worked for 32 years in public service.

Poppy Mischler, MSSA 1999, passed away June 26 in Sandusky, Ohio. For more than 15 years, she counseled hundreds of families and couples as a mental health therapist and worked especially well with adolescent girls.

In Memoriam lists deceased alumni and friends for whom death notices were received between April 1, 2016, and September 30, 2016.

Rosemarie Juriga, MSSA 1992, died August 14. She was Executive Director of the Tri-County Independent Living Center in Akron, Ohio, for 26 years. The agency serves people with disabilities in Summit, Stark and Portage counties. During her tenure, the organization expanded from a grassroots initiative to a nonprofit advocacy and service agency. Described as a social justice warrior by those who knew her, she also served disadvantaged youth as director of 7001 Training and Employment Center and worked for the Akron Community Service Center, Urban League and Goodwill Industries of Akron. Among many other volunteer roles, she dedicated her time and energy as Co-Chairwoman of the Tuff Stuff Committee and as President and Vice President of the Community Welfare Forum.

In Memoriam continued
Make A Gift
to the Centennial Endowed Scholarship Fund

Make History

This is a once-a-century opportunity for MSSA, MNO, CNM and PhD alumni to give to honor a fellow alum, faculty member or nonprofit organization; in memory of a dear friend or colleague; to ensure future scholarship support; or to celebrate 100 years of MSASS excellence.

Make a lasting impact: The Centennial Endowed Scholarship Fund is a permanently endowed fund for student scholarships in perpetuity. The goal? To raise $100,000 for the 100th anniversary and shape the future for years to come!

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Contact Nora Hennessy, MNO 2004, at 216.368.2311 for more information or assistance with your gift.
Our students and all of us are profoundly grateful for your continued support of the Mandel School. Thanks to you, more change agents than ever are making this world a better and more just place for all people.

The 2015-2016 Generosity Report is online, featuring our honor roll of donors and supporters. Check it out: msass.case.edu/HonorRoll