

A Message from our Director:



This is a wonderful time of year as we begin the fall semester. We are excited to welcome our new and returning students!

We would like to thank everyone who joined us for our inaugural "Alumni Appreciation Event". We welcomed all alumni past and present as well as new faculty. We celebrated our PhD students who presented their research. This event was a success and we invite you to see some event photos [here](#).

Please also keep in mind OASW's Fall Networking event September 28th, also held in the Pitt-Ferry building. Please keep an eye out on our website for future events!

Sincerely,

Robin Wright, MSW, Ph.D.,
Professor & Director, School of Social Work

Upcoming Events:

[O.A.S.W. \(Ontario Association of Social Workers\) Fall Networking Event](#)
Thursday, September 28th - Doors open at 5pm, Panel: 5:30-6:30pm,
Networking: 6:30-7:30 pm,
First Floor, 167 Ferry Street

Faculty News:

Please join me in welcoming our new faculty to our School:

Dr. Jijian Voronka, Associate Professor

Dr. Wayne Ambrose-Miller,
MSW for Working Professionals Program
Field and Academic Learning Advisor,

Dr. Oscar Labra, Visiting Scholar

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff:

Dr. Irene Carter for her promotion to Full Professor
effective July 1, 2017

Dr. Nazim Habibov for his promotion to Full Professor
effective July 1, 2017

Dr. Dana Levin for her promotion to Associate Professor
effective July 1, 2017

Ms. **Mary Medcalf**. Mary recently celebrated 25 years of service at the
University of Windsor

Faculty News

Congratulations to **Dr. Adrian Guta** for receiving a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant (\$72,525) to explore constraints on political advocacy in Ontario's charitable sector. Dr. Guta also received a National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) fellowship (\$20,000) and a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Planning & Dissemination Grant (\$15,900). Dr. Guta is also a co-investigator on several recently funded SSHRC grants: 1) an Insight Development Grant examining Ontario's updated sexual health curriculum (\$61,431), 2) a Partnership Development Grant examining violence and trauma informed outreach (\$199,990), 3) a Partnership Development Grant examining LGBTQ+ workers' experiences in manufacturing (\$199,916), and 4) an Insight Grant examining the inclusion of community-members in research (\$187,000). Finally, Dr. Guta is co-investigator on a CIHR Collaborative Centres of HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research Grant which will support the research activities of the Aboriginal HIV and AIDS Community-based Research Collaborative Centre 2.0 (\$1,500,000).

Congratulations to **Dr. Connie Kvarfordt** for her recent publication. Please see the abstract below:

Kvarfordt, C. L., Sheridan, M. J., Taylor, O. (2017). Religion and spirituality in social work curriculum: A survey of Canadian educators. *British Journal of Social Work*, 0, 1-19

Abstract

While attention has been given to religion/spirituality in social work practice, only a handful of studies from various countries have examined the views of faculty. Findings from this first national, cross-sectional, online survey of Canadian social work educators teaching across the curriculum ($N = 190$) suggest an overall favourable view towards religion/spirituality in social work practice, and general support for including content on the topic within social work educational programmes. However, only one-third reported such content is included in their BSW or MSW curriculum, with most indicating inclusion at instructors' discretion. Discriminant function analysis revealed two predictors of support for a specialised course: attitudes towards the role of religion/spirituality in practice and agreement with a rationale that content on religion/spirituality is relevant to human existence and behaviour. The greatest concerns about inclusion of this content were the possibility of faculty or students presenting their own biases and faculty lack of knowledge and experience. Implications include the importance of considering contextual issues in developing curricula, including the overall religiosity of the country and the diversity of religious/spiritual perspectives within the population, especially among marginalised groups. Another implication highlights the need for students gaining the necessary knowledge and skills to work effectively across religious/spiritual differences.

PhD Student News:

Congratulations to our PhD Graduates:

Dr. Jenni Hotte accepted an Assistant Professor position with St. Thomas University, New Brunswick.

Dr. Akin Taiwo accepted a Lecturer position with King's University College, Western University.

Congratulations to **Ms. Amy Alberton, PhD Candidate**. Her scoping research review was accepted for publication in *Policing: An International Journal*: "Contact Stronger Predictor of Attitudes toward Police than Race: A State-of-the-Art Review." It will be advance access published soon.