



GENERATING KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATING ADVOCATES FOR
INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

MSWwp News School of Social Work Fall 2022

We acknowledge that The University of Windsor sits on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. We respect the longstanding relationships with First Nations People in this place in the 100-mile Windsor-Essex Peninsula and the straits - les détroits of Detroit.

Hello! On behalf of the MSWwp Team, we all look forward to seeing everyone advance their education and profession. We love to see our students succeed, so please enjoy this newsletter featuring news and updates, plus student and staff accomplishments!

Student Spotlight

Valéry Brosseau



Valéry Brosseau is a passionate speaker, writer and mental health advocate. She spent years believing that if she tried harder, she could be better, different... "normal". Her lived experience with mental illness is what sparked her passion for mental health and her desire to build a career in this field.

She began volunteering with Distress Centre Durham in 2013, hoping to help provide a service she wished she knew existed when she was in her darkest place. Dedicating herself to the centre, she started as a crisis helpline responder and quickly became a trainer and supervisor. In 2017, DCD awarded her their Volunteer of the Year Award and in 2018, she won Distress and Crisis Ontario's Spirit of

Her involvement with DCD led her to seek out further education and training in mental health. She holds a diploma in Social Service Work from Humber College and has attended Ryerson University and University of Toronto as a psychology student. She has also completed countless certificates, such as the Applied Suicide Interventions Skills Training and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention. She is now in the University of Windsor's Master's of Social Work for working professionals program and is very excited about this next step in her career.

Valéry has her own business, offering speaking engagements, workshops and consulting. She also offers 1:1 peer counselling using her lived experience and education to raise awareness and equip people with the tools and language to support others and manage their own mental health. In 2019, she delivered a TEDx talk on the stigma surrounding suicide. She has also written for many publications and organizations such as the National Alliance for Mental Illness and the International Bipolar Foundation.

Outside of her career, Valéry is a dog-mom, a wife, a scuba instructor, a purple belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and a world traveler. She loves to write and has published a poetry book titled "Through".

Alison Park



Student Representative of Section 37

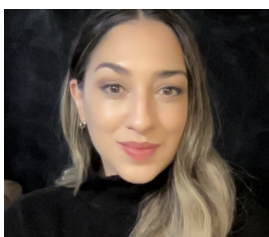
Alison is a first generation Korean Canadian and the first member in her family to obtain a University Degree and attend Masters Level Studies. She is in her final term of the MSWwp program and excited to start her placement within the Private Practice sector.

Alison is dedicated and motivated to create change and advocate for the needs and interests of vulnerable populations. Her educational journey thus far has sparked interest in child development and building mental wellness. Alison is committed to working from a strength-based approach and working with individuals where they are in their healing journey. She believes community health is achieved collaboratively with multidisciplinary professionals when they start by having more difficult conversations and continuously bettering one's practice. Alison hopes in being a Social Worker she will be able to support people of colour who have had similar life experiences as herself and understand no one is ever alone.

In her spare time away from school and work Alison enjoys baking, watching cheesy rom coms, traveling and creating new friendships.

Instructor Spotlight

Jasmine Ferreira



Jasmine Ferreira (She/Her) is a Registered Social Worker and has worked in non-profit settings over the past 10+ years across a variety of roles in crisis intervention, residential programs, health care, and youth unemployment. More recently she has focused on project delivery, policy, and social work education. In her current role at Humane Canada, she leads a 3-year national project funded by Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada to reduce systemic barriers experienced by women with

animals who are experiencing gender-based violence.

Jasmine holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Ottawa, an MSW from Wilfrid Laurier University, and is a Ph.D. Candidate at York University where her research focuses on animals, nature, and mental health in social work practice. Publications include: No pets allowed: A trans-species social justice perspective to address housing issues for older adults and companion animals (2020). She is happiest outside walking any trail with her two Samoyeds, Rufus and Rey.

David Firang



Dr. David Firang is an Associate Professor at Trent University's Department of Social Work. He also holds an appointment at Trent's Graduate Studies in the M.A Sustainability Studies (MASS) and Ph.D. IDSR programs. His research interest covers broad areas of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI); Immigrant Transnationalism; Housing and Homelessness; Environmental Sustainability; Anti-Oppressive Child Welfare; Afro-Canadian; and Social Policy. Prior to joining Trent University, Dr. Firang was an Assistant Professor (Ltd) at the University of Windsor's School of Social Work. He was the Curriculum Leader for the Advanced Social Policy, Comprehensive Social Policy, Advanced Indirect Social Work, and Community and Organizational Practice.

Dr. Firang also spent several years in community social work practice. He has worked in the field of child welfare in the Adolescent Specialty Team at the Children's Aid Society of Toronto for more than 13 years - conducting child protection investigations, developing and implementing service plans for children and their families, as well as attending family court to advocate for the children and families that he worked with. He has also worked at the Access and Equity Division at the City of Toronto assisting equity-seeking community groups to obtain grants to manage their community programs. Dr. Firang has received a number of competitive research awards and grants from the likes of Trent's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Theall Research Grant, Symons Research Foundation Grant, and External SSHRC Insight Development Grant (IDG). He has written several journal articles with the most recent popular ones among his publications including:

- *Do Black Lives Matter amid COVID 19 pandemic;*
- *The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on international students in Canada;*
- *Racial Discrimination in the Canadian Criminal Justice System.*
- *How Anti-Black Racism by the Toronto Police Harms Us All;*
- *"We Don't Only Live Here, But We Also Live There": Exploring Transnational Ties Among Ghanaian Immigrants in Toronto;*
- *Joining the call to incorporate Environmental Sustainability into the Canadian Social Work Profession;*
- *Exploring the influence of transnationalism on the immigrant integration process;*
- *Exploring housing careers among immigrants in Canada.*

Further, over the last 15 years, Dr. Firang has played an active leadership role in racialized and equity-seeking communities, especially the African community in Toronto and the Ghanaian Methodist community in North America.

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If there are any further questions, please contact us at msw@uwindsor.ca

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