



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

MSWwp News School of Social Work

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 d etroit de 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!

A Message from Dr. Robin Wright, Director



Welcome to the School of Social Work at the University of Windsor where we educate the social work leaders of tomorrow. Our Faculty is dedicated to generating knowledge and educating advocates for individuals, families, and communities around the world. Our faculty are internationally renowned for excellence in education, scholarship, research, and we take as our mandate the most vulnerable in society. Graduates of the School of Social Work are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dedication to make a critical contribution on a regional, provincial, national, and international scale to enhance the well-being of all citizens.

By combining leading-edge research with community engagement programs, the School of Social Work creates an exceptional learning environment for over 700 undergraduate and graduate Social Work students. With the help of more than 100 agencies and

government partners, over 300 students provide community services through field internship activities each year. The result is symbiotic benefits for students, not-for-profit organizations, and most importantly, the people they serve.

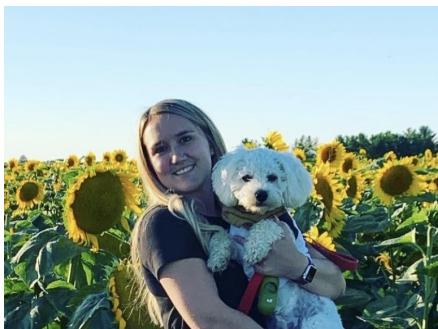
Today, the School of Social Work is a dynamic and engaged community, in a strong position to explore society's increasingly complex global challenges. We are embracing a leadership role in social work education and research as we implement the ambitious goals of our latest Academic Plan, "Thinking Forward...Taking Action."

In 2015, the School of Social Work moved from the University's main campus to the former site of the community's newspaper, The Windsor Star. The state-of-the-art new facility provides the School with valuable space while bringing staff, students, and faculty members physically closer to partner agencies and the constituents they serve. It is our hope that the School of Social Work becomes a center for community involvement in social programs. Its new location in a building designed for teaching, sharing information, and promoting public access will help to make this possible.

As we strive to move the School of Social Work forward, we are building on the solid foundation of an exceptional community of students, researchers, teaching faculty, field instructors, and alumni. The depth and breadth of their intellects and talents – along with the diversity of their experiences and backgrounds – promise an even brighter future.

Student Spotlight

Jordan Huerter



Jordan is in her second term of the MSWwp program. Prior to this, she obtained a BSW and child and youth care diploma. She currently works a full-time job in child protection, as well as two part-time jobs as an independent contract social worker.

Jordan has been interested in completing her Master's degree for a few years but did not see how it would be financially possible to leave her job and pay for an education. She is grateful to be able to continue her education online in the MSWwp program without having to give up her employment or time with her family.

Jordan is happy that all of the instructors in the program are supportive and enjoys remaining with the same cohort throughout the program because it helps her build and maintain relationships with other students!

When she is not working or in school, she is at home with her husband, two dogs and two cats. She also has 35 chickens and 7 quail to keep her busy!

Rain Chan

Rain (they/them) is a writer, organizer, facilitator, artist, and performer. They have worked with trauma survivors, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQI+, and newcomers in various



community settings. They are driven to work in communities that foster equity and utilizes anti-oppression and anti-racist framework. Rain embraces trauma-informed approaches, as well as restorative justice and transformative justice practices.

Rain is currently a registered acupuncturist and is excited to complete their Master's in Social Work. When not working or studying, Rain finds joy in doing astrology readings, cooking up a delicious meal, learning about nature, and watching comedies.

Asma Sleihat, Winner of the Arnold Morrissey Student Award



As a Master of Social Work Student at the University of Windsor, I was delighted to start my placement at the New Beginnings Clinic within the Mood & Anxiety Disorder unit at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). I came with a solid intention to implement positive change and reduce client settlement barriers. I have many years of experience working with refugees in a clinical setting, and I used to work at CAMH. My compassion and dedication to refugees with mental health concerns motivated me to return to do my placement at CAMH, and it was like returning home again.

As an immigrant woman, I had experienced settlement barriers, such as employment and housing, social isolation, and adjusting to a new culture. All these reasons motivated me to focus on refugees and mental health. I started my placement with curiosity and enthusiasm; I have learned about different approaches to assisting clients. I appreciated the fact that the core approach of the New Beginnings clinic is to provide culturally responsive care. I have learned about Cultural Formulation Interview (CFI) and cultural humility, and I went on a journey of self-discovery and engaged in self-awareness, self-reflection, and self-critique to address the power imbalance between the client, the institution, and myself. CAMH provided me with an opportunity for self-discovery, self-awareness, and self-critique while working with refugees. I am confident with the skills I have learned to continue professionally growing as a Social Worker.

I am incredibly honoured and grateful to be recognized as the Arnold Morrissey Student Award recipient based on an academic paper surrounding refugees and Mental Health based on trauma-informed, Anti-oppressive approaches, Cultural Humility, and Cultural Formulation interviews. This award motivated me to continue to be an advocate for the vulnerable population who have mental health concerns.

Instructor Spotlight

Charles Gyan

Charles Gyan is an Assistant Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at the McGill School of Social Work. He holds a Master of Philosophy degree in Social Work from the University of Ghana and a Ph.D. in Social Work from Wilfrid Laurier University.



Charles is a part-time instructor in the MSWwp program. His practice experience has been in the areas of community organizing, social policy analysis, and program development and evaluation.

He blends academic and research interests with his interest and commitment to social policy change, transnational social work practice, and community development. He is a fellow of several Canadian research centres including the McGill Refugee Research Group, the Social Work Research Centre (SWRC), the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa (TISCA) and the Manulife Centre for Community Health Research. As a Ghanaian, he likes his native food, but he does not like a lot of overwhelming spices. He likes to watch movies with his family or listen to some good Ghanaian music.

Bharati Sethi



Dr. Bharati Sethi utilizes participatory action research, arts-based methodologies, and intersectionality in her writing and research to highlight social determinants of health in immigrant and refugees' lives and capture its relevance to social justice. She teaches in the areas of community practice, policy, and transnationalism. Drawing on evidence-based research, field stories, and her own lived experiences she emphasizes the importance of bridging the micro-macro social work practice to serve the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Bharati supervises students from diverse universities and disciplines to help them explore areas of interest in-depth, expose them to different research methods, and develop skills in a scholarly area that may be useful in the future to pursue an academic career or another career path.

She is a co-investigator (and lead for London) in three SSHRC-funded multi-site community-based research projects (2015 -2019) totalling \$450,000 impacting immigrant/refugee adaptation in Canada. She is also a co-investigator (and the lead for the Transnational caregiving project and London) in a multi-site and multi-project SSHRC/CIHR funded \$1.5 million partnership grant (2018-2022) totalling to create Carer-Inclusive workplaces. Her research has earned her several prestigious communities and academic awards.

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.

Connect With Us!



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

Hi! My name is Katelyn and I am sad to announce that this is the last newsletter I am making for you all. However, I am excited to say I have accepted a position at Connections Early Years Family Centre as their Communications Coordinator! My time as the Marketing Assistant for the MSWwp program has been so great because it has provided me with so much experience and helped me develop so many new skills. Most importantly, I have loved reading and learning about what all the students have accomplished throughout my years in this position. Thank you for reading this edition of the MSWwp newsletter!



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