



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 wish everyone a prosperous new year. We look forward to seeing you all grow throughout the year. Please enjoy this newsletter featuring news and updates, as well as 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

Sabitra Bistathapa



I am a Student Representative in the Master of Social Work Working Professional program at the University of Windsor. I have studied English Literature from Tribhuvan University Nepal and Early Childhood Education from George Brown College Canada. I also have one-year social entrepreneurship training from Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development.

I have worked in Community Matters Toronto, YMCA of GTA, Auntie Amal Community Center, SKA: NA Family Learning Center, and several other agencies in GTA. I am interested in advocacy for holistic self-care by sharing insights I have gained from monographs and current peer-reviewed articles about human psychology, CBT, neuro-linguistic programming, and other self-help resources.

If classmates have concerns, they can contact me, and I can highlight these in student representative meetings. I also share overviews of each meeting to ensure my fellow students are aware of the status of the program.

Anneliese Surmann



My name is Anneliese, and I am a student in my last semester of the Advanced Track 16-month MSWwp Program. Prior to beginning my MSW, I completed my Honors Bachelor of Social Work from Laurentian University in 2018, and I have been working full-time in the field since. I have worked in various capacities at both Youth and VAW shelters, community mental health agencies, and currently at a psychiatric hospital on an inpatient unit.

As the pandemic impacted my life and job, the MSWwp program was the perfect fit to allow me to continue working and serving my community full-time, while simultaneously completing full-time graduate studies. Through this program, I have met lifelong friends and gained invaluable knowledge to progress within my field and advance my skills as a practitioner.

Outside of my career and studies, I am an avid reader and outdoors enthusiast. Skiing, cycling, and hiking with my dogs are my favourite forms of self-care that allow me to escape reality in a fun and adventurous ways, especially during COVID.

Mpumi Nompumelelo



My name is Nompumelelo M'Cwabeni, but everyone calls me Mpumi. I currently reside east of Toronto. I have just completed my first semester of the Advanced Track 16-month MSWwp Program. I also have a bachelor's in psychology and an autism graduate certificate.

I participate in various extracurricular activities in my community, workshops, and training, allowing me to learn in the field and continually keep current in the field.

I am amazed at the discussions that I have in the class. The group work in the classes has been the best part of this experience. I am really enjoying the discussions with like-minded individuals. I look forward to enhancing my critical thinking, to further my knowledge.

Gurjot Sohi



Hello! My name is Gurjot Sohi - an MSWwp program candidate. I joined the University of Windsor in 2020. Currently, I am currently in my Advanced year and the student representative for my cohort.

I have spent my higher education career both in India and Canada. My social work career began with several volunteering roles as an immigrant in Canada. After a few months, I was offered a job position as Newcomer Connections Program Coordinator where I helped newcomer individuals with their settlement needs and smooth transition in the Canadian society. Recently, I have completed a research placement with the University of Windsor. It was a great learning experience to advance my social work field knowledge and skills.

Generally speaking, I am passionate about staying healthy and always open to learning self-care practices. My interests include - music, books, movies and travelling. I am excited to continue my journey and looking forward to accomplishing great things in 2022!

Alumni Spotlight

Barbara Locke Billingsley



I hold a Bachelor of Health Science Specialization from the University of Western Ontario, a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Victoria, and now an MSW from the University of Windsor. During my time completing the Working Professionals MSW at the University of Windsor, I served as a student rep for my program. I will be convocated this coming June 2022, after being part of one of the first classes to complete the entire MSWwp online via asynchronous learning.

Due to the ever-changing environment of Covid-19, I started my own private practice to support my clients. I practice under BLB & Associates in my hometown of London, Ontario and operate here in Windsor out of Barron & Associates office. My main goal is to support clients with their healing journey.

My educational experience, enhanced by my personal wealth of knowledge from various life experiences, enables her to view perspectives from different lenses. Some past work experience includes Crisis Outreach Worker with Chippewa of the Thames First Nations, Field Manager for the insurance companies and a Public Appointed Council member for the College of Registered Psychotherapists. My past volunteer experience includes being a leader for Girl Guides, Instructor for Pleasure Craft Operator Card, and support persons for Middlesex-London Victim Services.

I enjoy spending my free time on her boat sailing Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and the North Channel, with my husband of 24 years, two children (young adults), and rescue boxer, Lexi. I spend part of my summer sharing these adventures with friends, relaxing, laughing and having a good time, all while embracing nature.

What is next for me? I care deeply about Indigenous people and their rights, or lack thereof. As an ally with Indigenous people, I will continue to fight and support people for what is right. Did someone say Ph.D.? It is yet to be told, but a Ph.D. is not out of the question. Being able to motivate students to make a change, coupled with research, would be an amazing opportunity. However, only time will tell.

Until then, may everyone have fair winds and following seas.

Meet Some of our Field Education Team!

Wayne Ambrose-Miller



My name is Wayne Ambrose-Miller and I coordinate the field program for the MSW for Working Professionals. I have been in this position for over 4 years now and have been teaching in the MSWwp for about 8 years. When I'm not teaching or coordinating field, I'm probably chasing after my three dogs and my grandson!

Taylor Fast



Taylor Fast earned an undergraduate and master's degree in Social Work at the University of Windsor. She has worked in a variety of environments including a women's shelter, in-patient and out-patient hospital settings for mental health and substance abuse, a supportive school setting for youth, and within a health centre for youth and young adults. She has been working as a Field Learning Specialist within the University for a year now and has truly enjoyed working with students as they progress towards their MSW.

Renee Gilliam



Hello! My name is Renee Gilliam and I am a Field Learning Specialist with the MSWwp off-campus program. I have been with the School of Social Work for approximately one year and am so enjoying the opportunity to coordinate and support students with their practicums. I have been extremely impressed with the skills and knowledge of our students and the tremendous dedication our Field Instructors from various agencies across Ontario have demonstrated to our students.

I am a proud graduate of the University of Windsor with my BA, BSW, and MSW. I have spent many years practicing as a Social Worker in direct practice and/or administrator role in the fields of children and youth mental health, health care, and private practice. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, reading, and going for walks.

COVID-19 Updates

The University of Windsor has announced its vaccination policy:

"As per the policy, all UWindsor employees, students, and visitors must be partially vaccinated and awaiting eligibility for their second dose, fully vaccinated, or have an approved exemption from the vaccination policy by October 7, 2021." Please read more about the University of Windsor's vaccination policy by following this link: [Vaccination Policy | Return to Campus \(uwindsor.ca\)](#)

Connect With Us!



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

Hi! My name is Katelyn and I am a 4th-year Business student, specializing in Marketing. I am the Special Projects Marketing Assistant for the MSWwp program, and I would like to thank you for reading this installment of the MSWwp Newsletter. If you have achieved success in the field/program or have any information about an upcoming event that you would like to see highlighted in our next newsletter. I would love to chat with you about how we can make it happen! Please feel free to email me at jacquesk@uwindsor.ca



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