



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

MSWwp News School of Social Work Winter 2023

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 troits 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

Nompumelelo M'Cwabeni



My name is Nompumelelo M'Cwabeni, but everyone calls me Mpumi. It was a pleasure and enjoyable experience being a Student Representative for my section.

I currently reside East of Toronto in Peterborough. I participate in various extracurricular activities in my community, workshops, and training. Allowing me to learn in my field and keep current in a field that is always changing.

I presently work at Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society on the Family Preservation Team. I support families during access visits with their child(ren). I am also part of the Equity Council at

Kawartha Haliburton's Children's Aid. Ensuring that our organization's equality and anti-oppressive practices are upheld. In addition, the Equity Council enables me to provide positive changes through impacting policies and recognizing diversity to enhance outcomes for the families we serve.

I have 13 years of experience working in the social services field in various roles. My drive comes from the satisfaction of supporting individuals, families, and community agencies. I hold a bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Certificate in Autism and Behavioral Science, a Social Service Worker diploma, and a Bachelor of Social Work. I am Graduating from my MSW this fall. I look forward to pursuing graduate studies to enhance my critical thinking, to further my knowledge and practice within an anti-oppressive framework. I hope will help to support community members.

Ben Promane



Ben currently holds the position of Project Specialist at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto, where his work focuses on community engagement. His role involves the project management of a community-focused research study in the Rexdale and Jane/Finch areas, along with improving the volunteer experience of current Big Brothers/Sisters/Siblings. He also mentors a small cohort of middle school students in the Humber Summit area. Ben began this challenging work in January 2023 upon the completion of his MSW-wp practicum at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto in December 2022.

Prior to his work at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto, Ben enjoyed a robust career as a professional, classical musician and middle-school instrumental music teacher. His career as a trumpeter earned him a Juno nomination for "Best Traditional Jazz Album of the Year" with the Order of Canada Jazz Ensemble, along with multiple tours as an on-stage musician and singer across Canada, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. He continues to enjoy an active freelance career in GTA where he performs regularly with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Sinfonia Toronto, Toronto Concert Orchestra, Talisker Players, and other professional ensembles.

Ben taught instrumental music to middle year students for over 10 years at a prominent independent school in Toronto, where he developed and taught synchronous and asynchronous, inquiry-based music programming focused on best performance and leadership practices. He researched, created and delivered units specific to reconciliation through music in Canada, understanding historical and current systemic barriers including discrimination and sexism in jazz and hip hop. He also prepared students for music competitions, where his ensembles regularly won regional music festivals with invitations at the provincial and national levels. He recently retired from teaching in December 2022 after accepting his new role with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto.

Interestingly, Ben had a brush with fame when he was asked to coach actor Ethan Hawke for his portrayal of jazz trumpeter Chet Baker in the film "Born to be Blue" in 2015. He spent six weeks coaching the celebrity through technique, posture, and a few simple jazz tunes. Upon watching his "student" perform at the film's premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, he felt like a proud teacher.

Ben looks forward to his graduation from the MSW-wp program in the Spring of 2024. Although he continues to ponder where social work will take him, he will lead with curiosity and bring his background in music, education, and research to whichever rewarding opportunities come his way.

Instructor Spotlight

Natalie Beltrano



Hi I'm Natalie Beltrano. I am a fur-mum to Abby, a St. Berdoodle and Zoe, a labradoodle. I have lived and worked in Windsor all of my professional career. After obtaining my Bachelor of Social Work, I accepted a position in child welfare. I remained working in various positions with families and children for approximately 15 years. I returned to higher education, first to obtain my Master's of Social Work with a specialization in Leadership in Human Service Organizations from the University of Calgary in 2019. I subsequently left my full-time position in child welfare in September 2019 when I began my PhD in Social Work at the University of Windsor. My dissertation research is focused on child welfare worker decision-making and the potential influence of workers' characteristics, beliefs, biases and anti-Black racism which may result in differential responses and potential for overrepresentation of black families involved with child welfare. I recently earned my University Teaching Certificate through the Centre for Teaching and Learning at the University of Windsor. Through my love of research, I have had the opportunity to be involved in SSHRC funded studies which include understanding the impact of domestic violence on women and young children when there is shared parenting and program evaluations to improve logic models and evaluations to promote equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization through the University of Calgary.

I believe in high-impact teaching strategies, and I am passionate about Inquiry-Based Learning, flipped classrooms, and small group activities. I believe students learn best when they are actively involved in their own learning. I have been teaching asynchronously at Durham College, face-to-face at St. Clair, and most recently, accepted a sessional at the University of Windsor. I have started to engage in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and most recently presented a poster to use Inquiry-Based Learning to teaching Evidence-Based Practice at the 2022 Symposium for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at the Mokakiiks Centre for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at Mount Royal University.

Aman Ahluwalia-Cameron



Aman Ahluwalia-Cameron (she/her) is a registered social worker and PhD candidate (ABD) in Social Work at the University of Windsor. She obtained her Master of Social Work from the University of Toronto, with a specialization in gerontology.

I am one of three Field Learning Specialists (FLS) for the MSW for Working Professionals Program here at the University of Windsor. I see the practicum as one of the most important components of social work education; learning from preceptors in diverse placement environments will introduce you to a social work practice you may not have considered for yourself.

I am also a social work researcher focused on critical, community based mental health scholarship. I have expertise in critical realist qualitative research, mixed-methods, knowledge synthesis, and clinical social work practice for those living with severe and persistent mental illness.

My doctoral dissertation qualitatively explores structural and clinician stigma as it relates to social workers who provide care to people living with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). Through my research I hope to understand and address systemic barriers to care and improve mental health equity for historically marginalized groups.

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