Social Work through an International Lens

Berkeley Social Welfare expands its worldwide reach through hosted and sponsored field learning experiences and internships throughout the globe.

BERKELEY SOCIAL WELFARE’S STRATEGIC PLAN
RESEARCH NEWS: AGING-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES, PREVENTION SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WELFARE, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOR REFUGEES IN THE U.S.
FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG
a letter from the dean

The first text on international social welfare was authored by Walter Friedlander, an early member of the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare faculty. The pioneering text, International Social Welfare (Prentice-Hall, 1975), traced the history and practice of international social welfare. Berkeley Social Welfare has its own long history of engagement — not only with local communities, but globally. Social Welfare at Berkeley’s cover story describes a number of our students’ recent international experiences.

At home and abroad we are preparing our students to become leaders for social change and innovation in our communities and around the world. We are very proud of our alumnus Dr. Fernando Cheung (PhD ’91) for his leadership in the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong and the key role he played in helping ensure peaceful protests in the face of police actions. At home, our students live true to the Berkeley tradition of taking constructive social action, as can be seen in the profile story on our current MSW students, Emily Higgs and Marta Galan, and their work on California’s End of Life Option Act.

The Walter Friedlander Endowed Lecture on International Social Welfare this year will be offered by University of Johannesburg Professor Leila Patel. Her lecture on April 4, 2016 will be part of an all-day symposium bringing together a number of prominent international and domestic social welfare scholars as well as former doctoral students of Professor James Midgley to celebrate his career. Professor Midgley will retire at the end of this academic year.

This continues to be a time of change in public higher education and at our School. As we experience multiple retirements we are also renewing our faculty and staff. Several pages of this magazine introduce you to many of the new faces at our School. You will also see the four new strategic goals we have developed in ensuring Berkeley Social Welfare’s bright future.

Enjoy the following pages. We hope you learn more about the diversity of Berkeley Social Welfare’s work and see how what we do here ripples beyond the walls of Haviland Hall to create change for a better world.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Edleson, PhD
Dean and Professor
Envisioning the next 3-5 years

Three years ago, Berkeley Social Welfare embarked on a transformative strategic planning process to focus our attention on identifying the elements of a more robust and sustainable future, not only for the School, but also for and with our community partners.

Over the course of 18 months, we held 36 meetings and events and consulted with 138 people, including faculty, staff, students, community stakeholders and leaders as well as deans from other professional schools on campus to get diverse perspectives on the needs, challenges and opportunities that may arise in our field in the next decade.

Our discussions guided the development of our plan Achieving Excellence, which contains four goals embodying our mission, vision and values as well as helps us maintain a leading role in the future of our society. These four goals create the foundation for a more vibrant and dynamic Berkeley Social Welfare in the coming years. Achieving Excellence details how Berkeley Social Welfare will achieve these goals and build a sustainable future in which we continue to lead, collaborate and impact change for the common good.

1. Lead discoveries that solve grand challenges facing our society in the coming decades.

2. Educate for impact by developing practitioners and scholars with the skills to become leaders in our communities, the courage to challenge conventional wisdom, and the creativity to find innovative solutions to our most pressing problems.

3. Ally with communities to organize social change at neighborhood, community, national and global levels.

4. Develop a sustainable community to maintain our leadership in discovery and transformative change for the common good.

To read the full version of Achieving Excellence, visit socialwelfare.berkeley.edu/achieving-excellence, or email socialwelfare@berkeley.edu to request a print copy.
Creating Aging-Friendly Communities

Professor Andrew Scharlach and Dr. Amanda Lehning (PhD ’10)

Berkeley Social Welfare Professor Andrew Scharlach and alumna Amanda Lehning (PhD ’10), assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, have published their latest examination of the needs of senior populations in the US in Creating Aging-Friendly Communities (Oxford University Press).

Drawing from numerous disciplines, including psychology, sociology, urban planning, demography, environmental gerontology and assistive technologies, Dr. Scharlach and Dr. Lehning’s new book focuses on the “interface between individuals and their environments and the ways in which communities can enhance individual and community well-being.” Among some of the concepts covered in the book are social as well as physical infrastructure characteristics and models of community change for fostering aging-friendliness. The publication also identifies practical implications for policies, programs and knowledge development designed to help communities become more aging-friendly.

Creating Aging-Friendly Communities is just the latest in Dr. Scharlach’s body of publications focused on promoting the well-being of older adults and their communities. In addition to holding the Berkeley Social Welfare Eugene and Rose Kleiner Chair in Aging, he is director of the School’s Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services. Following the completion of her doctoral degree at Berkeley, Dr. Lehning participated in a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Her research examines the effects of policies, programs and neighborhood infrastructure on older adults’ health, well-being and ability to age in place.

Center for Prevention Research in Social Welfare

Assistant Professors Valerie Shapiro and Paul Sterzing, Co-Directors

The Center for Prevention Research in Social Welfare (CPRSW) at UC Berkeley was established in 2013 to “serve as the intellectual home for researchers intending to intersect the aims of prevention science with the mission and opportunities of the social work profession.” Co-directed by Assistant Professors Valerie Shapiro and Paul Sterzing, CPRSW’s primary focus areas reflect the faculty’s expertise, including emotional, behavioral and mental-health problems in children, violence and bullying among vulnerable adolescent populations; and children’s exposure to family violence.

CPRSW has been excited to contribute to the knowledge base of prevention science in social welfare. Since 2014, the center directors have published 15 peer review articles, two chapters and two position papers and made 11 scientific presentations to research and practice audiences.

Among CPRSW’s active research projects is Dr. Shapiro’s examination of the implementation of social-emotional learning strategies in Bay Area schools. Supported by a grant from the Stuart Foundation, the study entails the collection of information from various sites to understand the naturally occurring variation that exists in implementation activities and outputs. It is being conducted with Dovetail Learning, Berkeley Unified School District, San Lorenzo Unified School District and the Deveroux Center for Resilient Children. Additionally, Dr. Sterzing is co-PI with Berkeley Social Welfare Dean Jeffrey Edleson on the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) study SpeakOut. The project is examining the familial pathways to polyvictimization for LGBTQ youth and has completed data collection of more than 1,000 sexual and gender minority youth.

Examining Refugees’ Economic Conditions to Improve Resettlement Programs

Rami Arafah, PhD Candidate

After spending several years working with refugee communities in Columbus, Ohio, following the completion of his MSW degree, current Berkeley Social Welfare doctoral candidate Rami Arafah decided to pursue a PhD due to a growing frustration at the lack of evidence-informed data behind the services provided. “There’s very little research on what works and why, and there are very few guidelines for the nonprofit contractors who actually deliver the services,” he says. “We were making things up on the fly and not asking the big questions about what we’re doing is in our clients’ or the public’s best interest. I wanted to be part of changing that.”

Arafah is progressing notably toward that goal. As a result of nearly 18 months of persistence that eventually involved a Freedom of Information Act request and direct assistance from the office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee (MSW ’75), he has garnered access to a secondary dataset from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, a division of the Administration for Children and Families. He plans to use the “treasure trove” of data to examine predictors of economic and adaptation success, such as job status and income, for refugees who have resettled in the country within the last five years. Housed within the US Department of Health and Human Services, the data is based on an annual survey of refugee households that includes a follow-up every year. Each year, anywhere between 1,000 – 2,000 randomly sampled participants are queried in their native language about a wide array of topics, ranging from household characteristics — such as size, language(s) spoken and ages of family members — to hourly wages, home ownership and self-sufficiency levels.

Arafah is primarily interested in examining the refugee populations’ economic conditions. “I want to identify what factors most strongly predict economic adaptation,” he explains. “For example, there’s information in the data about who receive job or English-language training, and we can try to figure out the relative predictive strengths of going through those programs. There are just a bunch of questions that have never been asked because the data has never been used in that way.”

Ultimately, Arafah hopes that his findings will be impactful at both national and local levels, informing how federal funding for refugee resettlement — money that trickles down to states, counties, cities and individual nonprofit agencies — is best allocated. “The vast majority of the world’s refugees are never permanently resettled, but the ones who do are split up among some 28 countries, with the US historically receiving the greatest portion each year,” he says. “The resettlement program in the US carries a budget of over $300 million. I really do hope my research has policy implications.”
Berkeley Social Welfare students immerse themselves in global social work practices to better understand the needs of diverse populations.

For Allyson Fritz, an MSW student in the management and planning concentration, it meant the opportunity to gain direct work experience in Uganda as part of her larger objective to pursue a career in West Africa after graduation. For Dennis Ho, an MSW student in the health concentration, an internship in Hong Kong provided the chance to polish his Cantonese language skills to help him better serve San Francisco’s large Chinese American population.

For Field Consultant Luna Calderon, who advises Berkeley Social Welfare MSW students focusing on community mental health, it meant re-establishing and continuing to grow the School’s decades-old Intercambio. Launched this year as Sin Fronteras, the program, which was on hiatus, is again sending students to a region in Mexico for cultural and linguistic immersion.

Dana Rosenberg, in the aging concentration notes that it meant enhancing her cultural acumen and ability to work with Russian and Russian-speaking older adult communities through time spent in St. Petersburg, while for Zimbabwe native Thabani Nyoni, it meant both coming to Berkeley to increase his knowledge about social work theory by earning an MSW in the management and planning program as well as spending more than two months in South Africa working in gender justice and public health rights as part of his fellowship program.

CIA IN ACTION

By several accounts, Berkeley Social Welfare students have been the driving force in bringing international service opportunities to the School and making them an accessible part of the academic experience.

Professor James Midgley recalls that nearly a decade ago, a group of MSW students first approached him with the request for international programs. The students dubbed themselves the Caucus for International Awareness, resulting in the tongue-in-cheek acronym of CIA. Since the group’s formation, Professor Midgley has served as the faculty advisor, and the student organization has remained passionate about making overseas learning opportunities for graduate students a reality.

Director of Field Education Greg Merrill explains that a turning point occurred a few years ago, when the CIA demonstrated to School administration that among the top 10 ranked schools of social work in the country, Berkeley lagged behind in international development of international student programs, including how academic or field credit could be applied.

“Those are students who have deep commitments to immigrant and refugee populations and want to serve those communities here in the US.”

programming. “That’s an example of students doing a small thing that had an extremely high impact,” says Merrill. “The response was, ‘We can’t let that happen.’”

“These are students who have deep commitments to immigrant and refugee populations and want to serve those communities here in the US,” he adds. “But they want to serve effectively by developing knowledge about the home culture.”

In 2011, the School of Social Welfare took one of its first steps in establishing a more robust international portfolio when Interim Dean Sam Davis appointed a task force, co-chaired by Midgley and Merrill, to explore programmatic options. The task force approved a small number of student proposals for overseas summer learning experiences, and the following summer the selected students received funding to help finance travel-and tuition-related expenses for their activities. Feedback from this pilot phase in turn helped inform the School’s development of international student programs, including the School’s decades-old Intercambio. Established by beloved former Field Consultant Joe Solls to provide students the opportunity to travel to Mexico to learn firsthand about the factors impacting migrant communities, the program’s first cohort went abroad in the summer of 1983. The program

This past summer, Berkeley Social Welfare significantly expanded access to international social work internships and learning experiences by sending 28 MSW students to engage in work, study and language immersion opportunities throughout the globe.

From Mexico to Hong Kong to South Africa to Russia, the diversity of experiences matched the rich variety of the students’ goals and ambitions in furthering their social work and cultural competency training.

What did an international field experience mean for those who participated?

“This is students who have deep commitments to immigrant and refugee populations and want to serve those communities here in the US.”

SIN FRONTERAS

Though the expansion of overseas service learning was implemented this past summer, an international program that has a long history at the School of Social Welfare is Intercambio. Established by beloved former Field Consultant Joe Solls to provide students the opportunity to travel to Mexico to learn firsthand about the factors impacting migrant communities, the program’s first cohort went abroad in the summer of 1983. The program
continued for several years, benefiting from the leadership of former Field Consultant Rafael Herrera, who took over for Solis after his retirement in 1995. Funding challenges, however, eventually interrupted the program, which was dormant for years despite student interest remaining high.

Renewed last year due to the dedicated efforts of current program leader Luna Calderon, the reinvigorated program is now known as Sin Fronteras. As part of the ongoing tradition of traveling to a region in Mexico to help develop a better understanding of the cultural, social and linguistic contexts of the populations that MSW students plan to serve, Calderon and 14 Berkeley Social Welfare students spent several weeks in Oaxaca this past summer.

Sin Fronteras students follow two activity tracks. More fluent Spanish-speakers spent two hours per week in a “technical” Spanish language class and another 16-20 hours performing service learning at a local organization. Those still developing their Spanish skills spent four hours a day attending language classes and engaged in service learning once a week. This year, the service learning project involved the entire group, who helped build stoves for families in the community of San Miguel del Valle.

In the program’s online blog, Social Work Sin Fronteras: Intercambio Oaxaca, a student writes of the service project, “This experience, and other experiences in Oaxaca, showed me that sharing meals is an important way of showing gratitude, welcoming strangers and creating friendships…” That relationship between food, gratitude and friendship is something I hope to bring to my work in the US. Can we encourage different boundaries between practitioners and clients? Can we give and receive food as a way to show gratitude, welcoming strangers and creating friendships…

Also a notable presence in Haviland Hall and helping to represent the School’s growing international reach is second-year MSW student Thabani Nyoni, a Zimbabwe native currently attending Berkeley Social Welfare through the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. Nyoni, who has spent eight years working in advocacy, outreach and political organizing in Zimbabwe, explains that he decided to further pursue his formal education when it “became clear what kind of degree program would be of best use” to his country. “I’ve been asked by quite a number of people if my MSW program is really relevant to my situation,” he explains. “I’d say 60 to 80 percent of what I did in my first year in terms of issues, topics, skills and processes are very much transferable.”

His interest in Berkeley Social Welfare’s master’s program developed through a relationship with School Dean Jeffrey Edidson, whom he met in 2009 while participating in an 11-month program supervised by Sudha Shetty at the University of Minnesota, where Dean Edidson was at the time serving as a professor of social work. “Over the years we have remained in contact, and the dean sent me information about the MasterCard Foundation program,” explains Nyoni. “There are schools that are part of the program, and you select the one you think is the best fit. For me it was Berkeley.”

Nyoni was also one of the 28 students to participate in a summer overseas learning experience, as he, along with fellow MSW student Miguel Becerra, received USAID’s inaugural Research and Innovation Fellowship, which supports research in developing nations. Nyoni spent two-and-a-half months in South Africa interning with Sonke Gender Justice, where he conducted program evaluation, needs assessment and research for the agency’s Refugee Health and Rights project. “I wanted to expand my lens to think about the social justice intent of economic and social justice rights,” he says. “Sonke does a lot of work around public health and rights and works with underserved groups. I thought it would be a great addition to my experience and allow me to explore how my research and work connects to these issues.”

Nyoni plans to enroll directly in a doctoral program following the completion of his MSW degree in the spring. His experience at Berkeley has been rewarding in many ways, and he is especially mindful of the campus’ reputation and global reach, which he hopes the School will continue to leverage as it expands its international programming. “Berkeley has an institutional influence that makes you unique when you go out in the world,” he says. “I experienced that in Sonke in how I was treated as a high-level intern. You could clearly see there is a lot of respect for the institution and therefore the people affiliated with it. I feel the School of Social Welfare could do a lot by intentionally seeking out international students from many different countries,” he adds. “Because of the societal issues addressed at Berkeley, it may be a better host for people who are struggling — not just to deal with issues in the countries they are coming from, but also to learn about struggles in the US setting and within American society.”

Professor Midgley, who has witnessed the growth of international programs at Berkeley Social Welfare from the very first request for their implementation, also expresses hope that the School’s efforts to increase international field placements will be impactful. “In the 1990s, the School’s faculty included Walter Friedlander, who wrote the first-ever book on international social welfare,” he says. “We have a long history in international social work, and supporting international field placements reaffirms our leadership.”

“Berkeley has an institutional influence that makes you unique when you go out in the world.”

— Thabani Nyoni (MSW ’16)
LEADING A MOVEMENT

From Immigrants’ Rights in Oakland to Pro-Democratic Protests in Hong Kong’s Umbrella Revolution,
Dr. Fernando Cheung (PhD ’91) Champions Justice

Fernando Cheung earned his doctoral degree at Berkeley Social Welfare in 1991 while serving as the executive director of the Oakland Chinese Community Council. His advocacy work on behalf of immigrant communities was so widely respected that the City of Oakland declared September 13 “Dr. Fernando Cheung Day” to mark the date that he left the Bay Area to return to his native Hong Kong, where he launched his political career.

Politics were not part of his original plan, as Dr. Cheung’s intent was to focus on teaching welfare policy and management courses. But after witnessing Hong Kong’s enormous income gap, high poverty rate and what he described as “the most unaffordable housing city in the world,” he decided to run for Hong Kong’s Legislative Council. Backed by the region’s social workers, he was elected to office in 2004 and has served continuously for the past 11 years.

Among the many causes he fiercely champions are disabilities rights and reforming the region’s subventuresystem — the mechanism through which non-governmental agencies (NGOs), which deliver the lion’s share of Hong Kong’s social and human services, receive financial support from the government. Dr. Cheung is concerned that as NGOs grow increasingly dependent on this funding stream, the more unstable and unreliable the subsistence scheme has become.

“NGOs are losing their capacity for advocacy,” he says. “They have become an executive arm of the government. Many have become contractors rather than vibrant, mission-led organizations. New resources are allocated mostly through competitive bidding, and NGOs are competitors. Social-work knowledge becomes proprietary, and social workers don’t want to discuss delivery systems with one another.”

True to his Berkeley education, Dr. Cheung has earned the nickname, “Longhair of the Social Service Sector.” He called for a more rebellious attitude among social workers, and the number of active protesters reached upwards of 100,000.

As the only child of an elementary-school teacher and a nurse, Dr. Cheung says that the helping professions were the only career path he has ever known or would have ever considered. “My parents encouraged me as a child to volunteer, and by engaging in these activities, I fell in love with the profession,” he explains. “I thought, ‘If I can devote myself to helping the needy and turn that into a vocation, I could have a fulfilled life’.”

True to his Berkeley education, Dr. Cheung has earned his doctoral degree at Berkeley Social Welfare because of the importance he places on practice. “I knew I shouldn’t go into a teaching position until I collected sufficient experience,” he says. “One of the problems of academia is that a lot of people who have gone through higher education immediately jump into teaching.”

It is through this lens that Dr. Cheung also approaches his political work. “I see my role here as a legislator as a way of macro-practice,” he says. “I am at all times a social worker.”

“Social work is an applied profession. Practice is everything.”

To him at the time in Hong Kong, he retained his role as head of the Oakland Chinese Community Council during his doctoral studies because of the importance he places on practice. “I knew I shouldn’t go into a teaching position until I collected sufficient experience,” he says. “One of the problems of academia is that a lot of people who have gone through higher education immediately jump into teaching.”

“I think that Hong Kong stands tall in our will and courage to be able to say no to Beijing,” he says. “We refuse any false or misleading type of democracy to be imposed upon us.”

“Younger generations of Hong Kong have become so discontent with the current regime,” he adds. “They’re impatient, and they no longer trust existing structures and avenues to represent them anymore.”

Dr. Cheung earned his undergraduate degree in social work from Hong Kong Baptist University and his MSW from California State University, Fresno. He decided to pursue a PhD in social welfare because it was an option not available

Facts from Occupy Central

The Hong Kong-based movement was initially dubbed “Occupy Central with Love and Peace.” Following the protesters’ use of umbrellas to protect themselves from tear gas, the occupation became interchangeably known as the “Umbrella Revolution” and the “Umbrella Movement.”

The largest public protest ever against the dictates of Beijing was directed at the Chinese government’s decision to pre-screen candidates for Hong Kong’s leadership election, with protesters demanding an open, fair election.

By the end of September, violent clashes between the regional police force and protesters resulted in international observers nicknaming the movement the “Umbrella Revolution” because of the students’ use of umbrellas to protect themselves from tear gas and batons. Dr. Cheung assumed a pivotal role as a negotiator between the two sides and is credited for helping restore the peace for the remainder of the protest.

The physical occupation and campsites along Hong Kong’s Admiralty waterfront district eventually disbanded in early 2015, but Dr. Cheung notes that the movement continues to have ramifications. “The awakening and rebellious attitudes have been planted in everybody’s mind,” he says. “Our government will surely continue to make these mistakes given that they are not accountable to the people. Something will happen, and there will be future acts representing the anger and upheld.”

As the only child of an elementary-school teacher and a nurse, Dr. Cheung says that the helping professions were the only career path he has ever known or would have ever considered. “My parents encouraged me as a child to volunteer, and by engaging in these activities, I fell in love with the profession,” he explains. “I thought, ‘If I can devote myself to helping the needy and turn that into a vocation, I could have a fulfilled life’.”

Dr. Cheung earned his undergraduate degree in social work from Hong Kong Baptist University and his MSW from California State University, Fresno. He decided to pursue a PhD in social welfare because it was an option not available in California State University, Fresno. He decided to pursue a PhD in social welfare because it was an option not available.
Berkeley Social Welfare Students Emily Higgs (MSW ’16) and Marta Galan (MSW/MPP ’17) Advocate for the End of Life Option Act in California

In Professor Jill Duerr Berrick’s Social Welfare Policy: Children and Families course, MSW students learn about local- and state-level policymaking processes, the importance of coalition-building and targeted advocacy as well as how to create policy messages and media campaigns to influence politicians and the public. To develop these skills, students are asked to select a bill under consideration and work on projects in support of the proposed legislation.

Emily Higgs and Marta Galan, two current Berkeley Social Welfare students who enrolled in Dr. Berrick’s class last spring, knew immediately where they wanted to focus their attention — California’s Senate Bill 128, The End of Life Option Act, which sought to allow terminally ill patients the right “to obtain self-administered life-ending medication.”

Higgs and Galan’s advocacy efforts on behalf of the bill have gone far beyond the classroom assignment, with a real-world reach helping raise awareness and affect public perception about the controversial legislation. In addition to creating a Facebook presence through the group Californians for the End of Life Option Act, Higgs and Galan worked with Compassion and Choices, an advocacy group dedicated to legalizing end-of-life options. The nonprofit gained widespread media attention last year in its close support of Brittany Maynard, a 29-year-old UC Berkeley alumna who moved from her native California to Oregon to avail herself of the northwest state’s landmark Death with Dignity Act (DWDA).

Maynard’s decision to take a physician-prescribed lethal dose of medication to end the pain caused by terminal brain cancer has both galvanized the country and spurred the debate of enacting death with dignity laws in states where they currently do not exist.

Maynard says. “It seemed really powerful to get those voices and faces out to show a different side.”

Beyond their advocacy efforts on social media, Galan and Higgs received invitations to provide testimony in Sacramento as the bill moved throughout the legislature as well as to participate in action teams in the Bay Area. Higgs also continued to meet with representatives from Compassion and Choices, including chief external affairs officer Nick Simmonds and Jacie Rowe, the Northern California campaign organizer.

Higgs says that the idea behind the posters is “to humanize and de-stigmatize the issue” and to demonstrate the diversity of its supporters. “Because we’re young and in school, our network is primarily younger people, which is not the demographic most associated with the issue,” she says. “It seemed really powerful to get those voices and faces out to show a different side.”

Higgs’ words and voice were also featured on a moving KQED Perspective titled, “Life and Death With Dignity.” In her public radio commentary she echoes her support for the End of Life Option Act, describing the bill’s safeguards designed to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized from potential abuses as well as sharing her family’s personal connection to the legislation.

In the Perspective, which was heard and supported by Maynard’s Bay Area-based widower, Dan Diaz, and brother-in-law, Adrian Diaz, Higgs notes, “My mother passed away in 2013. As brain cancer robbed her of mobility, intellect and personality, she asked to be released from her suffering. But the law did not support my mother’s right to self-determination, and the disease took her life on its own terms. No one should be forced to suffer through their last days, and the End of Life Option Act is an opportunity, not a risk.”

Higgs and Galan also assembled an informational packet featuring a snapshot of the bill that includes the guidelines of medical participation and pertinent data points from Oregon, where the state’s DWDA was passed in 1997 (e.g., nearly 98 percent of the patients who took the prescribed medication were able to pass away in their own homes).

Both Galan and Higgs’ dedication to shedding light on the End of Life Option Act and raising public awareness about the need and desire for medical aid-in-dying options in California are indicative of the students’ advocacy-focused educational and professional goals.

Galan is currently enrolled in a concurrent master’s program in public policy and social welfare, with an emphasis on management and planning. Her aim is to work in human-service policy, while keeping close to the communities most directly affected by those policy decisions. “If one day I’m going to be a policymaker or an informant to policymakers, I want to understand the populations, and the people who work with those populations, that human-service policy will be impacting,” she says.

Higgs, who notes she has “always gravitated to macro-level practice,” decided to pursue an MSW degree in management and planning because she felt limited by what she saw in other graduate programs. “Social work felt like the most expansive degree program that could allow me to explore my different interests without having to narrowly focus on any one issue or methodology.” Higgs also cites the profession’s commitment to social justice, as she plans to work within the “advocacy side of systems change.”

As for SB128, the bill ended up sailing through the senate in early summer before stalling in the Assembly Health Committee in July. On the day the bill was shelved, Higgs was in Sacramento to provide testimony at the Health Committee hearing with other Compassion and Choices advocates.

The End of Life Option Act, however, was reintroduced as AB-X2-15 via a special session in the California legislature, which officially approved the bill in September. Passed in the state senate by a 23-to-14 vote, the amended bill was signed by Governor Jerry Brown on October 5, officially making California the fifth state in the nation to approve Death with Dignity legislation.

“California was one of 28 states considering Death with Dignity legislation this year alone,” says Higgs. “The tide is clearly turning in favor of this important issue.”

For more information, visit facebook.com/californiansforsb128.com.
Research Reproducibility: Crises and Solutions

John P.A. Ioannidis
Tripodi Lecture on Research Methodologies
January 20, 2016 • 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm • Haviland Hall

Stanford University C.F. Rehnborg Chair in Disease Prevention, Professor of Health Research and Policy and Statistics and Director of the Stanford Prevention Research Center John P.A. Ioannidis will present “Research Reproducibility: Crises and Solutions.”

There has been an increasing interest in the ability to reproduce research findings across different scientific disciplines. Reproducibility entails different types of re-analysis, replication and validation. Empirical evidence suggests low reproducibility in many scientific fields, including the social sciences. Many solutions for fixing the problem have been proposed, but few have been rigorously tested across different scientific disciplines. The pros and cons of some key proposed solutions will be discussed.

Gender and Social Welfare in South Africa: Lessons from the South

Leila Patel
Friedlander Lecture on International Social Welfare
April 4, 2016 • 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm • Social Research Library, Haviland Hall

University of Johannesburg (UJ) Professor of Social Development Studies Leila Patel will serve as the 2016 Friedlander Lecturer on International Social Welfare. Professor Patel was previously head of the UJ Department of Social Work, director-general of the national Department of Social Welfare and deputy vice-chancellor and vice-principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She played a leading role in the development of South Africa’s welfare policy after apartheid. Her research interests are social welfare, social work, social policy, gender, social protection and social development, and her publications include Social Welfare and Social Development in South Africa (Oxford UP Southern Africa, 2005), book chapters, journal articles and research reports.

University of Johannesburg (UJ) Professor of Social Development Studies Leila Patel will serve as the 2016 Friedlander Lecturer on International Social Welfare. Professor Patel was previously head of the UJ Department of Social Work, director-general of the national Department of Social Welfare and deputy vice-chancellor and vice-principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She played a leading role in the development of South Africa’s welfare policy after apartheid. Her research interests are social welfare, social work, social policy, gender, social protection and social development, and her publications include Social Welfare and Social Development in South Africa (Oxford UP Southern Africa, 2005), book chapters, journal articles and research reports.

Contact swevents@berkeley.edu for more information on upcoming Berkeley Social Welfare events.

Funded by Berkeley Social Welfare’s Field Instructor Recognition Fund, established by Shaaron L. Gilson.
On May 8, 2015, the School of Social Welfare hosted the Berkeley Social Welfare Alumni Dinner at UC Berkeley’s historic Hearst Memorial Mining Building. Current students and program graduates across all Social Welfare concentrations had the opportunity to meet, mingle and take photobooth-style pictures during the evening event.

Program highlights include Dean Jeffrey Edleson’s welcome remarks and School updates as well as a talk led by special guest of honor Professor Emerita Jewelle Taylor Gibbs (MSW ’70, PhD ’80), who discussed her latest book, Destiny’s Child: Memoirs of a Preacher’s Daughter.

Alumni Snapshot
2015 Employment Profile

Each year, Berkeley Social Welfare’s Career + Leadership Program conducts an annual survey with MSW program graduates. Here are some of the results from the most recent response.

- Education: 5%
- Management: 7%
- Administration, Policy or Research: 12%
- Direct Service: 74%
- Not Seeking ASW: 36%
- Seeking ASW: 36%
- Registered ASW: 51%
- MSW Licensure: 51%
In March, Berkeley Social Welfare once again honored its most generous and committed donors at the Dean’s Circle Dinner.

The annual spring tradition brings together School of Social Welfare supporters, including alumni, current and retired faculty as well as people who have established memorial fellowships for student support. Guests heard from Dean Jeffrey Edleson, who provided School updates and future plans; Assistant Professor Tina Sacks, who spoke about her research interests and work; and MSW student and fellowship recipient Jenny Nakata (MSW/MPH ’15).

Additionally, special award presentations were made to Professor James and Khadija Midgley, who received the Champion Supporters Award, and Cynthia and Peter Hecker, who were bestowed the Loyal Supporters Award.

For the second year in a row, the Dean’s Circle Dinner took place in a space known as Haviland Commons, located in the heart of Haviland Hall, the School of Social Welfare’s home. This year’s dinner immediately followed the 2015 Seabury Lecture, “Chasing the American Dream,” featuring Washington University George Warren Brown School of Social Work Professor Mark Rank.

Dr. Rank’s talk, based on his latest book, Chasing the American Dream: Understanding What Shapes Our Fortunes, examined the idea of the “American Dream” and the true cost in pursuing it. His scholarly analysis focused on the curious dynamic of the tension between the promise of economic opportunities and rewards and the amount of turmoil that Americans encounter in their quest to achieve the “Dream.”

For more information on becoming a member of the Dean’s Circle, please contact Dean Jeffrey Edleson at swdean@berkeley.edu or 510.642.4408.

Donor Spotlight: Cynthia and Peter Hecker

At this year’s Dean’s Circle Dinner, longtime donors Peter and Cynthia Hecker (MSW ’05) were presented the Berkeley Social Welfare 2015 Loyal Supporters Award. On receiving the honor, Mrs. Hecker modestly noted her hesitancy about being celebrated “for the pleasurable act of making annual donations to the School of Social Welfare.” She added, “We are glad to be able to put a few drops in the bucket each year.”

left to right: Dean Jeffrey Edleson, Cynthia Hecker (MSW ’05), and Peter Hecker
Joining Berkeley Social Welfare as the newest member of the field education team is Susana Fong (MSW ’88), who brings 26 years of experience in frontline casework, program management as well as administrative and clinical oversight to the School. An alumna of both Berkeley’s undergraduate and master’s programs in social welfare, she will work closely with MSW students in the health and aging services concentrations.

Fong shared details about her career trajectory, first-year goals as well as the joys of good friends and the challenges of teenagers.

**What interested you in the Berkeley Social Welfare field consultant position?**

Throughout my career, I’ve had the opportunity to supervise and mentor student interns. It’s been fun! Remembering my days as a student, I learned so much about what it means to be a social worker. At various points of my career, I’ve had great role models and mentors. They helped me learn not only about clinical practice, but the greater world of social work and cultural/societal impact on the individual. Most importantly, they helped me gain a better sense of my own identity and role as a social worker. I hope to have a similar impact on students as they prepare to go into the field.

**What do you look most forward to in your new role?**

I look forward to interacting with the students. I want to paint a realistic picture of what being in the field is like, but at the same time fuel their zeal and purpose as a social work professional. I want to walk alongside them on their journey.

**What are some of your immediate goals in working with the MSW health and aging services students?**

I have so many things to learn! One of my immediate goals is to get to know the students under my care. I need to familiarize myself with the supervisors and placements to be able to support the students and field instructors. I need to learn about the School of Social Welfare — now from a faculty’s point of view.

**Tell us about your educational and professional background.**

I completed my undergrad education at Cal, double majoring in social welfare and linguistics. I also obtained my MSW with a concentration in direct practice in gerontology. After graduation, I worked at On Lok Senior Health for the next 13 years. For 13 years I did frontline casework, and the next six years I was a program manager, overseeing the clinical and administrative operations of one of the day health centers. I moved on to Adult Protective Services, first as a frontline protective services worker and eventually a supervisor. After five years, I was recruited to help develop and manage the integrated behavioral health program at Asian Health Services, where I’ve been for the past three years.

**Outside of your professional interests, what are your hobbies and favorite activities?**

I generally chill with my family when I don’t have to nag my teenager! We have a family “must-see-TV night!” I am also blessed with a group of great girlfriends. We don’t see each other much these days, but we have roll-on-the-floor fun when we get together.

**What are your hobbies and favorite activities?**

I generally chill with my family when I don’t have to nag my teenager! We have a family “must-see-TV night!” I am also blessed with a group of great girlfriends. We don’t see each other much these days, but we have roll-on-the-floor fun when we get together.
NEW FACES

Britta Kolb-Coughlin
Events Manager + Annual Gifts Coordinator

Britta Kolb-Coughlin, Berkeley Social Welfare’s new events manager and annual gifts coordinator, oversees the coordination and creation of the many research, alumni, and donor events sponsored and hosted by the School. Her priorities include maximizing alumni and students’ participation in the events, which serve as excellent networking and community-building opportunities. Kolb-Coughlin has a background in museum studies and previously worked at UC Berkeley’s Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life.

Andy Peterson
Instructional Technologist

Andy Peterson joined Berkeley Social Welfare as the School’s first-ever instructional technologist. In this newly created role, he will work with faculty in exploring technology uses in the classroom, manage hybrid and online course development, and oversee the implementation, support, and ongoing evaluation of the School’s educational online presence, including certificates and continuing education. Peterson’s previous professional experiences include serving as dean of education at Expression College for Digital Arts; SAE Institute’s national manager of learning technologies; film and production work at Jim Henson Productions and Skywalker Sound; and media outreach for the nonprofits Sierra Club and Human Rights Campaign.

Esmi Ramirez
Training and Evaluation Analyst, CalSWEC

Earlier this year, CalSWEC welcomed Esmirna (Esmi) Ramirez as a training and evaluation analyst for the Child Welfare In-Service Training Project, where she works on Common Core 3.0, the Quality Parenting Initiative Just-in-Time Training Project and other research projects supporting curriculum development. Ramirez’s previous experience includes the longitudinal evaluation of the Detroit Initiative, a partnership between community agencies and the University of Michigan.

Elizabeth Taing
Project Policy Analyst + Administrative Director for Field Education

As Berkeley Social Welfare’s new project policy analyst and administrative director for field education, Elizabeth Taing plays a pivotal role in the School’s strategic planning, data analysis and evaluation as well as in streamlining forms and processes, contributing to data-informed decisionmaking and updating the database system for the field education program. A recent graduate of the MSW/MPH program, Taing cites her time as a graduate student researcher for giving her “valuable insight into how to help drive productive change in the School of Social Welfare.”

Mauricio Wright
Distance Education Specialist, CalSWEC

Mauricio Wright joined CalSWEC’s Child Welfare In-Service Training Project as its new distance education specialist. In this position, Wright is involved in e-learning accessibility and e-learning modules for Common Core 3.0 as well as building the Just-in-Time training resources library as part of the Quality Parenting Initiative. Prior to his current role, he served as a production specialist and online learning course builder for the Berkeley Resource Center for Online Education.

Samantha Wong
Faculty Administrative Support

Visitors coming to Haviland Hall will likely be greeted by Samantha Wong, who, as faculty administrative support, provides assistance to students and staff along with faculty members. “The best part of my job has been working with everyone,” she says. “In this position, I hope to make other people’s work a little easier by assisting them with any projects or tasks as well as providing a positive experience for anyone visiting the School of Social Welfare.”

Alli Yates
Communications Assistant

Alli Yates has served as a student assistant in the communications department for the past four years and now works as part-time communications staff, specializing in graphic design. She graduated in 2014 from UC Berkeley with an undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary studies, specializing in queer/feminist theory and medical anthropology. Committed to supporting grassroots movements for racial, disability, and economic justice, she also works as an intern with Sins Invalid, a disability justice organization in the Bay Area.
Assistant Professor Adrian Aguilera received a three-year grant from the University of California, San Francisco Department of Psychiatry for a project incorporating digital health technologies into mental health services for low-income adults at San Francisco General Hospital.


Additionally, Professors Berrick and Eileen Gambrill have been ranked among the highest producing women of “citation impact scholarship” in the top schools of social work in the US, according to the article, “Citation Impact of Women in Social Work: Exploring Gender and Research Culture,” recently published in Research on Social Work Practice.

Professor Julian Chow gave the Lu Xue Yi Lecture on “The Challenges of Social Services Development in China: Experiences from the UC” at the University of Technology. He also made presentations at UC Berkeley’s International Conference on Transnational, Labor, Health, and Social Welfare, including “Needs of Migrant Workers for Social Service Interventions: A Case Study of Tianjin, China,” co-presented with Fan Wu. He gave the keynote address, “The Welfare of Middle Class Around the World,” at the Association for Public and International Affairs, and “Legitimacy of Decision Making in Child Welfare Services” at the Centre for Globalisation and Governance: Responses to Crisis, which took place at the University of Hamburg.

Assistant Professor Ana Manchikanti Gomez received a grant from the Society of Family Planning Research Fund to examine access to family planning and abortion in California’s Central Valley. Co-led with colleagues at California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, the project is using a community-based participatory research approach.

Professor Gomez’s recent presentations include, “What is the Role of Health Equity in Family Planning?” at UCSF’s Division of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences; “Promoting Reproductive Autonomy in Family Planning, Care and Programs” at San Francisco General Hospital’s Women’s Options Center; and “You’ve Had Me Over Here Instead of Me Having Control,” “Young Black and Latina Women’s Perspectives on IUDs” at the American Public Health Association Conference in Chicago. Additionally, Professor Gomez’s paper, “Do Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding Intrauterine Devices Predict Interest in Their Use?” was published in Women’s Health Issues.

Professor Jim Midgley published the entry “International Social Welfare” in the Oxford Bibliographies Online series published by Oxford University Press. He also spoke at the international symposium, Social Welfare in the Global South, at Germany’s University of Bielefeld and traveled to Spain’s Polytechnic University of Madrid for the launch of the Spanish translation of this book, Social Development: Theory and Practice.

Professor Midgley organized the special session, “Tribute to the Pioneers” at the 15th Symposium of the International Consortium of Social Development in Singapore, where Berkeley Social Welfare faculty and alumni were well represented. Dr. Midgley co-presented on social enterprises and social development. Dean and Professor Jeffrey Edleson also delivered a virtual talk at the conference.

Professor Jennifer Skenes’ recently published articles include “Psychosis Uncommonly and Inconsistently Precedes Violence Among High-Risk Individuals” in Clinical Psychological Science and “Applicability of the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model to Justice-Involved People with Mental Illness” in Psychiatric Services. Additionally, she served on an expert panel for the United States Sentencing Commission’s meeting on the use of risk assessment in sentencing and presented a keynote on justice-involved people...
with mental illness at the 2015 District of Columbia Judicial and Bar Conference. Professor Skoem also served on the advisory board for the 2015 Annual Conference of the Robinia Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice.

FIELD CONSULTANT NOTES

Ayasse and Field Consultant Christina Feliciano were key organizers of the California Association of School Social Workers (CASSW) 2015 State Conference, which brought together practitioners to share strategies for closing the achievement or “equity” gap among children and families in schools.

Field Consultant Andrea Dublrow received the prestigious 2015 Faculty Mentor Award, which is bestowed annually by UC Berkeley’s Graduate Assembly to teachers who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to mentoring, advising and generally supporting graduate students. Dublrow’s nomination was submitted by students and graduates of the School’s management and planning program, including Ruvani Foneoka (MSW ’15), Emily Higgs (MSW ’16), Liz Taing (MSW ’14), Susan Thomas (MSW ’14) and Lisa Ginn Steel (MSW ’14).

As part of Berkeley Social Welfare’s annual Field Instructors Training Day — organized by Field Education Director Greg Merrill — the School received a gift from Helen Gareh’s Caregivers Gillian Fynn as the 2015 Field Instructor of the Year. Left to right: Field Consultant Susana Feng, Lifelong Medical Care’s Gillian Fynn and Director of Field Education Greg Merrill.

ACADEMIC RESEARCHER NOTES
Post-doctoral scholar Elizabeth Kim’s article, “Assessing Sustained Effects of Communities That Care on Youth Protective Factors,” co-authored with Assistant Professor Valerie Shapiro, was recently published in the Journal of the Society of Social Work Research. In it, California Child Welfare Indicators Project’s (CCWIP) Daniel Webster and Emily Putnam-Horwitz were invited by the Office of Child Protection to make presentations on “Critical Trends in Child Welfare System Outcomes” to community forums in each of five supervisory districts in Los Angeles County. Dr. Webster also delivered the keynote address at the All Hands Meeting of the National Capacity Building Center for States in Washington, DC.

STUDENT NOTES
Ariana Allenworth (MSW ’16) was named a recipient of the 2015-16 NASW Verne LaMarr Lyons Memorial Scholarship, which is presented each year to students who demonstrate an “outstanding interest or have experience with health-related health practice” and have “a commitment to working in African American communities.” Allenworth was also named a 2015-16 Emerging Arts Professionals Fellow. This nine-month fellowship is designed to enrich and expand the professional skillsets of emerging and mid-level leaders working in the Bay Area’s arts and culture field.

Tinh Biao (MSW ’15) and Lyndsay Hughes (MSW ’16) were selected as 2015 Human Rights Fellows by the UC Berkeley School of Law’s Human Rights Center. The fellowship program supports Biao’s work with the San Francisco Department of Public Health’s Transgender Health Services and Hughes’ work with Casa Alianza Honduras.

Berkeley Social Welfare undergraduate Josey Garcia was invited to join the spring joint class at the UC Washington Center (UCDC), a “multi-campus residential, instructional and research center that provides students and faculty from the University of California with opportunities to study, research, work and live in Washington’s rich cultural, political and international heritage.”

Doctoral candidate Leah Jacobs (PhD ’16) has received the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Graduate Research Fellowship in the Social and Behavioral Sciences. She is just one of five doctoral students nationwide to be granted the extremely competitive and prestigious award, which will support her research project, “More than Mental Disorder: The Effects of Neighborhoods and Treatment on Resilience for Probationers with Psychiatric Diagnoses.” Jacobs also was awarded a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship with Alcohol Research Group for 2015-2016.


Jenny Lai (MSW ’16), far left, and Trish Shang-Tau Yeh (MSW ’16), far right, are recipients of the Diana Ming Chan Bilingual Social Work Scholarship from the Asian Pacific Islander Social Work Council of the NASW California Chapter. The award recognizes current MSW students who “dedicate their passion and skills to the API community.” They are two of just three students statewide to receive the award.

Jenny McKenzies (MSW ’16), second from left, and Emily Myer (MSW ’16), third from left, received the Jim Fairy Fellowship Award, presented annually to UC Berkeley graduate students who demonstrate a deep commitment to combating domestic violence against women. McKenzies and Myer, along with three current Berkeley Law students, were honored at a ceremony last April in Boat Hall.

Alejandra Meza (BA ’16) was honored last spring at the UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Awards for Public Service. Meza received the 2015 Mather Good Citizen Award in recognition of her years of dedication to promoting issues of youth development, justice and civic engagement.

Barbara Weiss
Former Berkeley Social Welfare Field Consultant Barbara Weiss, who served generations of students in the community organizing and administration program, passed away on June 16, 2015. She was 84.

Weiss, a Brooklyn native, attended Cornell University and earned her MSW from Adelphi University. She launched her social work career as a youth leader for the World Assembly of Youth. She would go on to work at the League of Women Voters in New York City and as a social worker in Oklahoma City, Okla., at the California Health Department in San Francisco, and at Alameda County’s Anti-Poverty Program.

Weiss first joined the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare in 1966 and significantly expanded the fieldwork program. She met her husband, a social worker, at 30 years of age, Irving Kemish, while working on campus, where she had a 25-year career until her retirement in 1990. Described by friends and colleagues as a “tenacious, humanist and advocate of human rights,” she was especially focused on equal rights and employment opportunities for women.

She co-authored the book, Wise Choices Beyond Midlife: Women Making the Journey Ahead.

Weiss was preceded in death by her husband. She was a loving mother to Christy Kay and David Kemish, and Laurie and Lisa Kemish, a devoted grandmother to Autumn and Scott Gerlach, Joe and Jacob Kermish-Wells, and Matthew and Lauren Kohlman, a devoted great-grandmother to Christopher Gerlach, and a dedicated sister to Anne Reiff.

Memorial contributions can be made to YEMAI, 1914 University Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709 and The Transition Network/Home, P.O. Box 83954, San Francisco, CA 94131.
The Honor Roll lists donors who contributed in July 2014 to June 2015, with the following representing gifts made to Berkeley Social Welfare during the 12-month period. We apologize for any inadvertent omissions or other errors and ask that you contact the School’s communications office at socialwelfare@berkeley.edu with any questions.

Berkeley Social Welfare thanks you for your generous support.

## 2015 New Giving Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Recognition</th>
<th>Donor Spotlight Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Dean’s Circle</td>
<td>Invitation to annual luncheon with the dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Invitation to annual luncheon with the dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Visionary</td>
<td>Invitation to annual luncheon with the dean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Donor Spotlight: Lillian Wurzel (1912-2013)

The estate of Lillian Wurzel, who graduated from UC Berkeley’s social welfare credential program in 1954 before the School was even formally established, has bestowed $685,000 to Berkeley Social Welfare, adding to her family’s endowment of nearly $1 million for her fellowship program.

Lillian Wurzel, who graduated from UC Berkeley’s social welfare credential program in 1954 before the School was even formally established, has bestowed $685,000 to Berkeley Social Welfare, adding to her family’s endowment of nearly $1 million for her fellowship program.

Lillian Wurzel was born the third of seven children in Idaho. She joined the Navy WAVES after high school, serving from 1945-1946 during World War II as a telegrapher for the US War Department. She attended the University of San Francisco on the GI Bill, earning an undergraduate degree in social welfare before eventually going on to the MSW program at UC Berkeley. She received a fellowship to support her work in rural areas and began her social work career in Redding, Calif. She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

A generous bequest of $400,000 from the estate of Lillian Wurzel (MSW ’53) to Berkeley Social Welfare will assist current and future generations of MSW students planning to pursue careers serving children and families.

### Silda “Sid” Covington (1919-2014)

A generous bequest of $400,000 from the estate of Silda “Sid” Covington (MSW ’53) to Berkeley Social Welfare will assist current and future generations of MSW students planning to pursue careers serving children and families.

Covington was born the third of seven children in Idaho. She joined the Navy WAVES after high school, serving from 1945-1946 during World War II as a telegrapher for the US War Department. She attended the University of San Francisco on the GI Bill, earning an undergraduate degree in social welfare before eventually going on to the MSW program at UC Berkeley. She received a fellowship to support her work in rural areas and began her social work career in Redding, Calif. She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

A generous bequest of $400,000 from the estate of Silda “Sid” Covington (MSW ’53) to Berkeley Social Welfare will assist current and future generations of MSW students planning to pursue careers serving children and families.

Covington was born the third of seven children in Idaho. She joined the Navy WAVES after high school, serving from 1945-1946 during World War II as a telegrapher for the US War Department. She attended the University of San Francisco on the GI Bill, earning an undergraduate degree in social welfare before eventually going on to the MSW program at UC Berkeley. She received a fellowship to support her work in rural areas and began her social work career in Redding, Calif. She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

A generous bequest of $400,000 from the estate of Silda “Sid” Covington (MSW ’53) to Berkeley Social Welfare will assist current and future generations of MSW students planning to pursue careers serving children and families.

Covington was born the third of seven children in Idaho. She joined the Navy WAVES after high school, serving from 1945-1946 during World War II as a telegrapher for the US War Department. She attended the University of San Francisco on the GI Bill, earning an undergraduate degree in social welfare before eventually going on to the MSW program at UC Berkeley. She received a fellowship to support her work in rural areas and began her social work career in Redding, Calif. She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

A generous bequest of $400,000 from the estate of Silda “Sid” Covington (MSW ’53) to Berkeley Social Welfare will assist current and future generations of MSW students planning to pursue careers serving children and families.

Covington was born the third of seven children in Idaho. She joined the Navy WAVES after high school, serving from 1945-1946 during World War II as a telegrapher for the US War Department. She attended the University of San Francisco on the GI Bill, earning an undergraduate degree in social welfare before eventually going on to the MSW program at UC Berkeley. She received a fellowship to support her work in rural areas and began her social work career in Redding, Calif. She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

A generous bequest of $400,000 from the estate of Silda “Sid” Covington (MSW ’53) to Berkeley Social Welfare will assist current and future generations of MSW students planning to pursue careers serving children and families.

Covington was born the third of seven children in Idaho. She joined the Navy WAVES after high school, serving from 1945-1946 during World War II as a telegrapher for the US War Department. She attended the University of San Francisco on the GI Bill, earning an undergraduate degree in social welfare before eventually going on to the MSW program at UC Berkeley. She received a fellowship to support her work in rural areas and began her social work career in Redding, Calif. She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

A generous bequest of $400,000 from the estate of Silda “Sid” Covington (MSW ’53) to Berkeley Social Welfare will assist current and future generations of MSW students planning to pursue careers serving children and families.

Covington was born the third of seven children in Idaho. She joined the Navy WAVES after high school, serving from 1945-1946 during World War II as a telegrapher for the US War Department. She attended the University of San Francisco on the GI Bill, earning an undergraduate degree in social welfare before eventually going on to the MSW program at UC Berkeley. She received a fellowship to support her work in rural areas and began her social work career in Redding, Calif. She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

A generous bequest of $400,000 from the estate of Silda “Sid” Covington (MSW ’53) to Berkeley Social Welfare will assist current and future generations of MSW students planning to pursue careers serving children and families.

Covington was born the third of seven children in Idaho. She joined the Navy WAVES after high school, serving from 1945-1946 during World War II as a telegrapher for the US War Department. She attended the University of San Francisco on the GI Bill, earning an undergraduate degree in social welfare before eventually going on to the MSW program at UC Berkeley. She received a fellowship to support her work in rural areas and began her social work career in Redding, Calif. She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.

She eventually moved to Chico, Calif., where she spent 23 years with the Children Homes Society, helping place more than 300 children in adoptive homes throughout the state.
Your gifts to Berkeley Social Welfare’s fellowship and scholarship programs help develop the profession’s future leaders. Support the next generation of social work practitioners, educators, researchers and advocates.

socialwelfare.berkeley.edu/make-gift

Social Welfare at Berkeley is going paperless! As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, future editions of the annual magazine will be delivered electronically to our alumni and friends.

Register your current email address with the Cal Alumni Network at cal.berkeley.edu or email your information to socialwelfare@berkeley.edu to be included on the Berkeley Social Welfare news and events e-mail list.

left to right: Stephanie Franco (BA ’17), Nirvana Felix (BA ’16), Jena Woodfork (BA ’16) and Natasha Johnson (BA ’17).