

# Celebrating Our Students: A Year in Review 2017-2018

## Student Achievements

### **Azahah Abu Hassan Shaari, Ph.D. Candidate**

*Classroom-Based Surveys of Teen Dating Violence: Possible Ways to Reduce Biases*

Azahah presented her poster presentation at the **Society for Social Work and Research 22nd Annual Conference: Achieving Equal Opportunity, Equity, and Justice** in Washington DC., January 10-14, 2018. Using a case study approach, this research paper examined implementation of classroom-based surveys on teen dating violence in four high schools. Data for the case study came from research staff meeting minutes, classroom rosters as well as records of consents/assents received and completed surveys.

Azahah also received the Nassau County NASW's Ph.D. Student Social Worker of the Year Award in the summer of 2017 for her tireless advocacy efforts for marginalized populations!

### **Dr. Joanna Contreras-Schwartz, Ph.D.**

*Workplace violence in substance use disorder treatment settings: Experiences of social workers and implications for policy and practice.*

Prior to her doctoral defense, Dr. Joanna Contreras-Schwartz presented a poster at the annual event at **New York Academy of Medicine** on April 16, 2018. As an important contribution in the category of social work practice and organizational policy, Dr. Contreras-Schwartz' presentation served a gateway to new knowledge.

### **Kimberly Garrett, Ph.D. Candidate**

*Who is the Complex Patient in New York State? Social Worker Opportunities in the Integrated Care Service Model* is the title of Ms. Garrett's workshop at **NASW-New York Chapter Social Work in the City: Challenges, Uncertainty and New Opportunities**. The workshop defined integrated care, providing a brief history of and discussion of two integrated care service models. Social determinants of health and socioeconomic conditions that contribute to poor service utilization among vulnerable populations were also discussed.

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## Joseph De Gearo, Ph.D. Candidate

Associate Professor, Dr. Elizabeth Palley, Ph.D. and Mr. De Gearno presented their research, *Title IX Implementation Challenges at the Local Level: Bridging the Criminal Justice System, Student Development, and Societal Expectations at the International Meeting on Law and Society in Mexico City, Mexico*. This research describes the implementation of Title IX gender based violence rules on college campuses.

Mr. De Gearo also presented his research *Title IX: Making Use of Implementation Theory in Student Conduct Practice* at the **Long Island Council of Student Personnel Administrators Annual Conference**. Policy implications and opportunities for policy change were offered.

## Dena Gassner, Ph.D. Candidate

Ms. Glasser presented her research on autism and/or was featured as a keynote speaker at several conferences throughout the year including **Autism and Love Conference** in San Diego, CA; **Autism Science Foundation** in NYC; **Marshall University's College Autism Program**; **ANANY Conference** at Adelphi University; and **Hudson Valley SW Continuing Ed**. Ms. Glasser's passion and devotion to this area of research is well respected within the Adelphi community and beyond.

## Warren K. Graham, Ph.D. Student

Mr. Graham published within several textbooks within this timeframe examining issues of culture, race and law. He also presented at numerous conferences including the **NASW annual conference**, the **National Organization of Forensic Social Work**, the **Society for Social Work and Research**, and the **Sixth Social Work Symposium of the Department of Social Work** at the University of Memphis, TN. Continuing to elevate hidden voices of minority scholars, Mr. Graham was also was an important contributor to the **Social Justice Event** in April of 2018.

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## Victoria Grinman, Ph.D. Candidate

Ms. Grinman was a panel participant at the **IFPE Annual Conference** where she discussed her current research on post-traumatic growth in parents of adult children with autism. She also presented *Yoga and Mindfulness Strategies for Children: Interventions for Traumatic Stress and Anxiety* at **Boston College School of Social Work**; and Lectured nationally through **Professional Development Education** on *Treating Traumatic Stress in Kids: Yoga, Mindfulness and Sensory Techniques for Self-Regulation and Attachment*.

## Gary Kwok, Ph.D. Candidate

Mr. Kwok is the recipient of a pre-doctoral fellowship in Behavioral Sciences Training in Drug Abuse Research Program for 2018. He is currently working with Dr. Gregory Falkin from New York University. He also presented his important literature review of Asian American Literatures titled *Discrimination within Inner Circle* at the **Diversity Challenge Conference: Race, Culture, & Criminal Justice throughout the Lifespan** at Boston College, MA. in the Fall of 2017. Mr. Kwok also participated in a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Workshop on health disparities, health inequities, and vulnerable populations in summer of 2017.

## Kristina Monti, Ph.D. Candidate

Ms. Monti presented at the Annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Summer 2018. Her presentation focused on the crisis response and outreach for people with behavioral health conditions in New York City, identified systems and provider level challenges in coordinating crisis responses, and identified key metrics used to define success in similar models. Ms. Monti was also invited to present the Mount Sinai Hospital's Department of Social Work Social Work Grand Rounds.

## Kari Tabag, Ph.D. Candidate & Gary Kwok, Ph.D. Candidate

Ms. Tabag and Mr. Kwok presented their research *Exploration of disparities in academia: A literature review on Chinese and Filipino Americans* at the **American Psychological Annual Convention** in Washington D.C. in the summer of 2017.

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This important collaboration highlights two of current Adelphi students' innovative endeavors.

### **Bernadine Waller, Ph.D. Candidate**

*Exercising agency: Help seeking among African American IPV victims*

Bernadine presented this conceptual paper at the **International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference** in Portsmouth, NH, July 15-17, 2018. Her presentation illuminated the creative ways that African American women intimate partner violence (IPV) victims utilize their power to counteract their abusive partner's tactics.

### **Social Justice Event with Alumni and Current Students**

On April 4th 2018, with the encouragement and guidance of Dr. Subadra Panchanadeswaran, Director, and the support Dr. Andrew Safyer, Dean, seven Adelphi alumni and current students came together along with others from the doctoral community to share thoughts, feelings and inspiration. Rich discussions defining and making meaning of recent events and issues of social justice and were at the center of this *party with a purpose*. In a year of national political unrest, scholarly voices can serve as an advocating presence for underprivileged individuals and groups. Building from an exercise led by Dr. Rani Varghese, Associate Professor, a panel of Adelphi Alumni and current students responded to several questions addressing how scholars can link research with current and relevant social justice principles. Participants joined in the discussion, creating a community of compassion, strength, and commitment to move forward in incorporating principles of social justice in our scholarship.

### **Graduates**

On April 26, 2018, Dr. Joanna Contreras-Schwartz defended her qualitative phenomenological study, *Workplace Violence in Substance Use Disorder Treatment Settings: Experiences of Social Workers and Implications for Policy and Practice*, on April 26, 2018. In depth interviews of 21 participants were audio recorded, coded and analyzed for the study. An in depth understanding of how social workers' experience of workplace violence manifests, as well as these social workers' responses and coping strategies is revealed. Essential knowledge at micro, mezzo and macro level are discussed.

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On November 30, 2017, Dr. Theresa Danielle Flowers presented her qualitative thesis, *Pathways to Success: Black Women's Perspectives on Successfully Completing Doctoral Education*. Dr. Flowers study describes the lived experiences of first generational Black Women in a doctoral program and uncovered important knowledge that amplifies the voices of these hidden voices. Several recommendations for academic institutions are offered as a result of this critical research.

On March 28, 2018, Dr. Kathleen Werner presented her quantitative research, *Social Workers' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Use of Evidence Based Practices for the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in Older Adults*. This important study utilized a 44 question survey of social workers in the field of addiction and substance use, exploring whether there are correlations between these workers attitudes toward evidence based practices relates to the implementation of these practices with older adults. Valuable implications for future research and social work theory are offered.