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Annual Report 2017-2018

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E01-4010-003-18 (18069)

Tell us about your journey! Email cswnews@utk.edu or send us a picture. Include your name, UT class year, and a note that says, “OK to use.”
Last fall, UT launched the boldest fundraising campaign in its history to transform our university and create an extraordinary student experience. With a goal of $1.1 billion, the Join the Journey campaign will propel UT towards its goal to become a premier public research institution.

The College of Social Work has already exceeded its campaign goal of $5.5 million, having raised over $7.7 million by June 30. Fiscal year 2018 was the best fundraising year in the history of the college as it received its single largest planned gift of $3.5 million, as well as a bequest of over $700,000.

Gifts of all sizes continue to build on our outstanding programs and to fuel the work of exceptional students, faculty and staff. Please join the journey at journey.utk.edu/socialwork.

Volunteers change lives. I know because they changed mine. Each day, I’m surrounded by people who challenge me to fulfill my potential.

–Seth Taylor ’18
From the Dean’s Desk

It has been a distinct honor to serve as the interim dean of the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, during the past year. This has been a time of important milestones as we celebrated our College’s 75th anniversary in 2017, and we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of our MSSW online program in 2018. I am also pleased to report that our College of Social Work is currently ranked 25th among all public universities according to the U.S. News & World Report's 2019 graduate school rankings.

Being recognized by U.S. News and World Report shines a spotlight on the excellence of our faculty, staff, and students. All of our academic programs incorporate cutting-edge research, a focus on critical thinking, and real-world applications to provide our students with an excellent educational experience. As you will see in this Annual Report, our six academic programs include a BSSW Program in Knoxville, MSSW Programs in Knoxville, Nashville, and online, an online Doctor of Social Work in Clinical Practice and Leadership (DSW), and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Social Work (PhD) in Knoxville. We also offer specialized certificate programs to students enrolled in the MSSW program, and several post-graduate certificates of specialization. Our Veterinary Social Work certificate program is one of the only programs of its kind in the country. Our College is also home to the nationally recognized Center for Behavioral Health Research and the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.

As our mission statement makes clear, the work of our College is grounded in our commitment to social justice, serving diverse and vulnerable populations, building knowledge by conducting groundbreaking research that focuses on solving social problems, and engaging with our communities through meaningful service. We are very proud of our long history of educating professional social workers who provide leadership and direct service in a majority of human service agencies across the state of Tennessee. Our faculty are engaged in important and impactful projects designed to improve the lives of the residents of Tennessee and beyond.

I am personally so grateful for our alumni and friends of the College. Your ongoing support is essential to our continued success. In this annual report, we are pleased to share with you a snapshot of the exciting and consequential work being carried out in our College over the past year. On every page of this report you will see how we are living out our vision and mission.

Sincerely,

David R. Dupper, PhD
Interim Dean
History

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Social Work was established in Nashville as the Nashville School of Social Work in 1942 as a consortium arrangement with Vanderbilt University, George Peabody College for Teachers, and Scarritt College. Master of Science in Social Work degrees were awarded through Vanderbilt University from 1944 through 1951. When the school became a part of the University of Tennessee, it expanded to Memphis in 1951 and to Knoxville in 1958. Since 1973, the Office of the Dean has been in Knoxville. The UT School of Social Work became a college in 1986, and the name was changed to the University of Tennessee College of Social Work.

In 2017, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the College, we revised its Vision and Mission statements to reflect the current priorities of the institution and the profession.

Vision

We envision a socially just world that prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable.

Mission

Grounded in social justice, we equip professional social workers with the skills needed to serve diverse and vulnerable populations. We build knowledge by conducting groundbreaking research that focuses on solving social problems. We engage with our communities through meaningful service.

Signature Pedagogy

Groundbreaking Research  Build Knowledge  Meaningful Service
Equip Professional Social Workers  Solve Social Problems  Serve Vulnerable Populations
Grounded in Social Justice  Engage Our Communities
SJII is a fund established in 2017 by longtime College of Social Work supporter Susan Cooper. Her vision is to stimulate a college-wide conversation surrounding social justice issues through rigorous research, public outreach, and innovative education. SJII offers a unique framework for understanding many of society’s most pressing issues and then developing avenues for addressing these issues. This year, four groups have been awarded grants through SJII for the development of ideas that challenge racism.

- **Challenge racism by promoting voting among Knoxville’s young adults of color.** This faculty/student group will partner with SEEED Knoxville and the League of Women Voters with the goal to understand motivation, overcome barriers, and increase civic engagement among racial and ethnic minority young adults in Knoxville. Primary project leaders are Shandra Forrest-Bank, faculty, and Darris Upton, student.

- **Challenge racism through the development of a black social workers’ alliance.** This group will partner with the Network for Social Work Management with the goal to increase diversity within the college and develop relationships with social workers of color in the Nashville community through a black social worker’s alliance. Primary project leaders are Carmen Foster, Kate M. Chaffin, and Kim Crane-Mallory, faculty.

- **Challenge racism by elevating the visibility of African American art and culture in Nashville.** This group will partner with Cumberland Gardens Neighborhood and the McGruder Family Resource Center. Primary project leaders are Kate Patterson, student, and Stacia West, faculty.

- **Challenge racism through encouraging bystander intervention.** This group will partner with the Theatre of the Oppressed, NYC, and NASW with the goal of teaching people how to safely and effectively address instances of racism and spread the message of challenging racism. Primary project leaders are Diane Smith and Charlotte Matthews, students, and Robert Mindrup, faculty.

For more information, see: http://tiny.utk.edu/sjii

Social Justice Innovation Initiative (SJII)
CSW Ranks Among the Best for 2017-2018

The UT College of Social Work’s Graduate School has been ranked in the top 25 among all public universities by U.S. News and World Report. The College sees the top 25 ranking as a step in building our national audience. This ranking is based on expert opinions about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school’s faculty, research, and students. U.S. News uses these measures to capture the various dimensions of academic quality at each college.

Our faculty and graduate students have increased publications and presentations at national conferences. We have hired and retained outstanding faculty who have produced groundbreaking scholarship focusing on neuroscience, trauma, immigration, poverty, environmental social work, and online education.

I truly felt prepared upon graduation to begin my career as a clinical social worker.

My eyes have been opened to the needs of our society through my learning in this program.
BSSW Graduates: Jobs and Education*

Jobs Within One Month Of Graduation

- 67%

Jobs - Six Months After Graduation

- 100%

Employment by Sector

- Private/For Profit: 14%
- Government: 29%
- Non-Profit/Non-Government: 57%

Fields of Employment

- Family Services: 36%
- Community Outreach: 9%
- Substance Use: 9%
- School Social Work: 9%
- Other: 36%

*Data based on survey completed by May 2017 BSSW program graduates
BSSW

Fifty-three BSSW students graduated this past academic year, including five inaugural graduates of the Honors Program, which began in Fall 2017. Senior-year honors students develop and administer an original research project, submitting a poster presentation at the university-wide Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EUReCA). Three of our BSSW honors students won college and university level awards for their outstanding research: Sarah Henson (1st), Abbey Geater (2nd), and Ashlie Seibers (3rd).

Sarah Henson, pictured right, was additionally awarded one of three Phi Kappa Phi Awards for the entire university competition.

The Volunteer Experience launched last fall in the BSSW program, one of the few majors that features a professional practice model of advising. Our innovative approach has received recognition across the university and among our academic peers.

Academic Advising

Student members of the Bachelor’s Social Work Organization (BSWO) organized a Glow Up for Mental Health advocacy walk on April 5 that raised more than $1,200 for the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network. (Pictured are Clay Culp, Robert Mindrup, and Rachel Sitton.)
Volunteer Spirit

Working with the students at West View has been awesome and amazing. I’ve gone on field trips to the zoo and to the farmer’s market and have gotten to know many wonderful children.

—Natalie Crippen

Home

The students, faculty, and staff of the College of Social Work have adopted West View Elementary School in Knoxville as an ongoing service partnership. Activities there include mentoring, tutoring, reading buddies, and various after-school programs. Through the West View service project, the College is making a deep and positive impact on a diverse and impoverished population. Pictured above are LeaAnna Spurling, Manjot Panther, and Laura Miller, MSSW student volunteers at a Westview event, with Susan Bryant, CSW Director of Student Recruitment.

And Abroad

BSSW students Emily Williams and Amber Hale (standing right) participated in an exciting international service learning expedition to Costa Rica during spring break, led by Associate Professor Dr. Camille Hall (standing left).

Dr. Hall’s leadership has been recognized at the university where she has served for three years as chair of the Commission for Blacks, on the STRIDE (Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence) committee, and has been appointed by Dr. Joe DiPietro to serve on the University System’s Diversity Advisory Council.
This year marked the graduation of our first cohort in the Organizational Leadership Concentration, a market-responsive step in the evolution of a Macro Social Work curriculum. Prompted by an increasing prevalence of Macro graduates in nonprofit management, especially human service organizations, faculty saw a critical need to better prepare students for leadership in organizations. Extensive work by the curriculum committee resulted in the development of competencies to be taught in courses as well as field practice.

Student feedback on the curriculum change has been positive, and program measurement shows the goals for knowledge and skill attainment have been surpassed in every category.

This was also the first year the College used some new assessment tools, including the Social Work Educational Assessment Project (SWEAP) instrument. The CSW administered the SWEAP instrument to each student upon completion of the Generalist course requirements, and our students surpassed the national average for cumulative scores by 14%.

Changes in assessment strategies were also applied to the Comprehensive Exam for our MSSW graduating students. The MSSW program is happy to report that 100% of this year’s students passed the exam, a graduation requirement.

The face-to-face MSSW program in Knoxville is led by Fr. Ragan Schriver, PsyD, pictured above. The program is housed in Henson Hall on the main campus of the University of Tennessee. Our students this year have been involved in a number of challenging activities, including a trip in March to the United Nations for Social Work Day at the UN. The trip leaders were Macro Social Work Student Network executive board members Rosie Cross, Sarah Lepp, Amanda McClellan, and Marc Sloan. Twenty-two undergraduate and graduate students participated.

Master’s students Andrea Stedman, Randy Lunsford, Sarah Lepp, and Amanda McClellan attended the Humphreys Institute Campaign School for Social Workers in Connecticut. There they studied advocacy and the intersection of social work and campaigns for elected office.
“Quilts of Valor” Honors Female Veteran UT Grads

Linda Hinkle is an Army combat veteran who received her MSSW on the Knoxville campus this year. Through her field placement in the Veteran’s Resource Center on the UT Knoxville campus, Linda spearheaded a project to provide quilts from “Quilts of Valor” for all female veterans graduating from UT this academic year. After six months of planning and secrecy, Linda was able to surprise 15 of her fellow graduating female veterans with the beautiful, handmade quilts.

Top, Linda Hinkle, left, presents fellow MSSW graduate Tiffany Gordon with her quilt. Bottom, seven of UT’s graduating female veterans receive their Quilts of Valor.
In an exciting year for the Nashville program, a major search yielded not one, but two online field coordinators and faculty, Carmen Foster and Nicoll Hannaway. In addition, Nashville gained a new staff member, Meghan Garner.

Assistant Professor of Practice Sukey Steckel’s team has received grant approval for a Building Strong Brains Tennessee grant through the Department of Children’s Services. The team’s project, “Resilient Tennessee: Sustaining Resilient Organizations for Success” will support the work of a statewide initiative to prevent, mitigate, or help people recover from adverse childhood experiences.

Nashville faculty members were not the only ones gaining the spotlight. Students participated in the Nashville CARES AIDS Walk for the seventh year in a row, and the Nashville MSSW program won the Social Work Day on the Hill Policy Poster competition on March 20. The poster presentation addressed recently enacted legislation authorizing local school systems to create high schools where students can receive addiction treatment services while continuing their education.

Research on ‘Building Strong Brains’ shows that providing safe, stable, and nurturing relationships early in life can buffer the damaging effects of childhood adversity.

—Sukey Steckel, Faculty

New Hires for Online Field Coordinators and Faculty

Carmen Foster, Coordinator of Field Education, Online MSSW Program

Nicoll Hannaway, Coordinator of Field Education, Online MSSW Program

Kylan Hadley, Jillian Balser, Anna Arts, and Kaylie Passen’s winning policy poster examined the framework for creating rehabilitation and recovery high schools across Tennessee.
MSSW Online Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Online MSSW program is celebrating its ten-year anniversary, having graduated 595 students who have gone on to work throughout the state and country providing up-to-date, evidence-based social services to vulnerable populations. Many of our online graduates have now received licensure and some are working as our field instructors and liaisons.

The program began in 2008 with 13 students. This year 239 of the College’s MSSW students are studying in the online program. This program has made a graduate social work degree possible for people who work full time, who are working parents, and who live in rural areas far from our physical campuses.

Thecle Eubanks, a 2018 graduate of the online program, delivered the commencement speech at this spring’s Hooding Ceremony. Thecle was also the 2017 Day on the Hill winner and is one of the UT College of Social Work’s Grand Challenge honorees.

In a hallmark year for the online program, Associate Dean Dr. Sherry Cummings (r.) and Program Director Kate Chaffin (l.), along with GRA Allison Milam, completed a large study comparing online and face-to-face students over the past five years. This study has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Social Work Education.

“This was such an exciting study because it reinforced what we already thought to be true in terms of there being little significant difference between the online and face-to-face MSSW programs at UTK CSW. It is so rewarding to be a part of an amazing program that provides a quality and affordable MSSW education to those that cannot attend a traditional program!”

—Kate Chaffin, Director

BUILD KNOWLEDGE
Dr. Stacia West recently partnered with the Dollywood Foundation to evaluate the impact of the “My People Fund,” a program providing financial support to the survivors of the 2016 wildfires in the Gatlinburg, TN area. She will be expanding her work to look at how best to address persistent economic instability and inequality across the country.

https://tiny.utk.edu/stacia-west

Lisa Higginbotham, MSSW, works with other staff of the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) to facilitate a coordinated community response to homelessness. Through its Community Dashboard on Homelessness, SWORPS provides data to 20 organizations that serve those experiencing homelessness in Knoxville.

https://tiny.utk.edu/hmis

Dr. Lisa Reyes Mason’s multidisciplinary work with the UT Geography Department has been recognized by the university. Her work includes a collaboration with the National Weather Service to develop more effective strategies to protect the public in the event of nighttime tornadoes.

She co-leads the grand challenge network for “Social Responses to a Changing Environment.”

https://tiny.utk.edu/mason

A Vision for Diversity

In striving for excellence, our professional values, ethics, history, and future demand that social work educators, researchers, and practitioners are culturally competent and vested in responding to oppressive institutional, societal and political trends. Thus, the College seeks diversity.
MSSW student Jacqlyn Telfer used research compiled during her field placement at NASW TN to advocate for policy change at the state level. A state representative cited Telfer’s research while developing an amendment to a Tennessee bill (SB2196/HB2272). The bill would require one school social worker in every K-12 public school across the state.

https://tiny.utk.edu/telfer

At the Chancellor’s Honors Banquet, BSSW student Amber Hale received the Gene Mitchell Gray Pioneer Award for 2018. This award recognizes a student for promoting cultural diversity and enrichment on campus.

https://tiny.utk.edu/hale

For the second year in a row, one of our BSSW students was awarded the NASW-TN Chapter BSW Student of the Year Award. This year, Ashlie Seibers was presented with this award at the annual Social Work Day on the Hill Conference in Nashville on March 20th.

https://tiny.utk.edu/seibers

Students, faculty, and staff of the UT College of Social Work joined with Vols from across campus for “United at the Rock,” a candlelight vigil to stand against racism and for unity in diversity, peace, and equality. (Also pictured on cover.)
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Elizabeth Strand Receives President’s Award

Elizabeth Strand, PhD, director of Veterinary Social Work (VSW) and clinical associate professor of biomedical and diagnostic sciences, is a pioneer in her field of study and works to educate veterinary professionals nationwide. Strand developed “veterinary social work” and is the founding director of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine’s VSW program, which is the first of its kind in the world.

Her initial vision went from the creation of programs focused on client grief and the importance of the human-animal bond to include comprehensive veterinary social work services and related education. In addition, Strand teaches veterinary teams how to manage compassion fatigue and stress. She recently launched SAVE (Suicide Awareness in Veterinary Education) to educate veterinary professionals and students nationally about mental health issues and raise awareness of available resources.

Mayor Madeline Rogero Honored by NASW

The National Association of Social Workers selected Knoxville’s Mayor Madeline Rogero to receive the NASW National Public Elected Official of The Year Award. College of Social Work former Dean Karen M. Sowers and Tennessee NASW Executive Director Karen Franklin nominated Rogero for the honor.

MSSW Knoxville Director Ragan Schriver was present at the Washington D.C. awards ceremony in June, which was part of the annual NASW conference.

The NASW Public Elected Official of The Year Award recognizes outstanding service and contributions. Of particular interest to the social work profession are policies that affect social justice, health care, education, civil and human rights, and social work practice. Read more at https://tiny.utk.edu/rogero

UT President Joe DiPietro (center) recognizes Dr. Strand (center right) with the 2018 President’s Award, representing excellence among the faculty and staff.
Karen M. Sowers Honored

Karen M. Sowers led the College of Social Work for 20 years, retiring last summer as the longest-serving dean at UT. In recognition of her leadership to the university, community, and nation, Sowers was named dean emerita and professor emerita.

Sowers’s many accomplishments as an educator, leader, and author span more than 40 years. Her service and innovative leadership have led to numerous personal and professional accolades, including being given the 2016 George Goodman and Ruth P. Brudney Mental Health America Social Work Award, which recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the care and treatment of people with mental illnesses.

Upon her retirement, the College honored Sowers by naming an office suite the “Dr. Karen M. Sowers Dean’s Suite.” She also received the inaugural College of Social Work Leadership Award, which recognizes an individual’s vision, determination, and creativity in advancing social work education and research. The Karen M. Sowers Endowed Graduate Fellowship was created to honor Dean Sowers on her retirement with gifts from members of the Board of Visitors, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College of Social Work.

Staff Member Sarah Browning Serves University Council

Sarah Browning, staff member at the College of Social Work, has been selected to serve on the university’s Council for Diversity and Interculturalism (CDI). The council is appointed by the Chancellor and advises the campus administration on creating and sustaining a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive campus climate to all groups.

A 2008 Clemson University graduate, Sarah has been at UT since 2014. She joined the College of Social Work in May 2016, and supports the College’s PhD and DSW programs.

As a first generation college student, the daughter of a Puerto Rican mother, and the mother of a 4-year-old daughter, Sarah brings a unique perspective to the subjects of diversity and interculturalism. She is honored and excited to expand her knowledge and understanding of these subjects by serving on CDI. Sarah also serves on the university council for the Pride Center.
Field Education

In social work education, we often say that the field placement is where theory is integrated with practice, but field is actually where new social work professionals are formed. Field is where students learn to integrate classroom knowledge, social work values, and the skills to address critical problems for our society.

UT social work students fan out across Tennessee and beyond to work with vulnerable populations; they are everywhere that people are experiencing poverty, oppression, and challenges to living full and productive lives.

This past year, our social work students made significant contributions to the safety and well-being of individuals, children, and families across the state.

Students are encouraged to establish plans for field work that include international opportunities. Sarah Crowley went to Cape Town, South Africa to work in Tembaletu School for children with disabilities in one of the townships. Sarah is pictured second to the right with the therapy team.

“...My supervisors did an excellent job of instilling social work values and ethics. I came into the program as a journalist, but I left with a strong identity as a social worker, and the field placements were a big part of that.”

—Clay Culp

SIGNATURE PEDAGOGY

The Council for Social Work Education named field education as the signature pedagogy of social work education. This was based on research regarding professional education that studied students’ integrated knowledge, values, and skills for their professions. In education, the signature pedagogy is student teaching. So, the signature pedagogy for social work is field because that is where students undergo a formation process for professional practice. I think we could also say that field is the heart of social work education. Students have consistently reported that field was their most significant educational experience.

—Rebecca Jackson, Director of Field Education
Montrobia McKissack, MSSW student in the Online Program, completed his Organizational Leadership placement at the national office of the International Rescue Committee in New York City, which responds to the world’s worst humanitarian crises. Montrobia’s field instructor credits him with being “instrumental in moving several program initiatives forward, including the procurement of iPads for intensive case management caseworkers, the formation of working groups among IRC’s intensive case management network, and the assessment of field office needs.”

Ashlie Seibers, BSSW Student, was placed at the TN Department of Children’s Services, working with children affected by abuse and neglect. Ashlie observed children spending hours at court, awaiting decisions by judges that would change their lives. She wanted to ease children’s stress, so she sought and received grant funding to develop a playroom at the Campbell County Courthouse. Now, children awaiting news of where and with whom they will live can experience the relief of play in a playroom just for them.
Since it began in January 2012, the DSW program has conferred the Doctor of Social Work in Advanced Clinical Practice and Leadership to a total of 84 clinicians from across the country. Over the course of the last year, DSW students, graduates, and professors have published or had accepted for publication five manuscripts, with a number of other articles presently under review. Additionally, two 2017 graduates have accepted tenure-track faculty positions, with a number of others serving in adjunct teaching positions and/or receiving clinical and leadership promotions.

The DSW program remains focused on a diverse mix of mid-career clinical social workers and boasts an 82 percent admission-to-graduation rate. More than 93 percent of DSW class of 2017 graduates rated the program very good to excellent.

"My research chair and other faculty have made my work in the DSW program a success. They have been helpful and have gone above and beyond to support me. They motivate me to dream big and reach as high as I can.

—Jomeka Downs, 2018 DSW Graduate"
PhD

In a extremely successful academic year, the following received a PhD degree in Social Work: Sarah Buchanan, Stefanie Pilkay, Tara Veerman, Jeff McCabe and Erin Story.

Dr. Pilkay (pictured below) received a University graduate teaching award. She has had peer-reviewed presentations accepted for the 2018 Society for Social Work and Research Conference, the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, and the 73rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry.

Dr. Pilkay also received a $13,000 post-doctoral grant to study under the supervision of Dr. Alicia K. Smith at Emory University.

Joe Strong, a 3rd year student, co-authored a paper with Dr. Terri Combs-Orme that was accepted for publication in the Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment.

Dr. Sarah Buchanan works for the Justice Initiative in the Knoxville Public Defender's Office and is exchanging ideas with the college about creating a certificate program in Forensic Social Work. See more at http://tiny.utk.edu/buchanan

Ten current PhD students presented peer reviewed presentations at the 2018 Society for Social Work and Research Conference, and five students presented at three additional national or international conferences. Six students have published or have publications pending in multiple journals across the spectrum of social work.

The team of Jayme Walters, Omotola Akinsola, Aaron Brown, and Aubrey Jones (pictured right), developed and co-led an independent, cohort research project about social workers’ job satisfaction, burnout, and intention to leave, generating a sample of nearly 2,000 participants utilizing social media as the sole recruitment tool. They had three presentations accepted for the upcoming academic year and they are developing four manuscripts that are expected to be submitted for review by Fall 2018.
CSW Certificate/Licensure Programs

The College of Social Work has seen increasing interest in specialized areas of practice. We have developed the areas of greatest interest into opportunities for students to attain graduate certificates or a path to specialty licensure. All certificate programs are based in the values and ethics of the profession, feature coursework and field work, and provide the student with documented, formal training to offer potential employers.

Gerontology

As the U.S. senior population has “boomed,” so has the need for targeted senior services. Our gerontology program affords students an opportunity to combine coursework and fieldwork to earn a specialized designation demonstrating their mastery of knowledge and skills related to the interdisciplinary field of practice with older adults. Earning this certificate affords our graduates the opportunity to demonstrate to employers that they have formal training in working with seniors.

School Social Work Licensure

Recent news reflects the growing need for qualified and well-trained school social workers. Through study and a school-based field placement, students gain practical experience grounded in solid theoretical concepts that prepares them to sit for state licensure in school social work immediately upon graduation.

Trauma

Since the release of groundbreaking research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), much attention has been placed on providing services to those who have experienced trauma. Students learn concepts related to the physiological, emotional, and cognitive impact of trauma as well as targeted interventions to help clients overcome and survive. Program graduates report that the certification is opening doors for job placements.

Veterinary Social Work

The Veterinary Social Work Certificate Program is one of the first in the nation. The program offers a comprehensive foundation in arenas involving animal assisted interventions, pet loss grief recovery, impaired professional service, and other intervention needs involving animals.

Pictured are the 2018 VSW Certificate Program intensive students.

The most rewarding part of earning my Veterinary Social Work Certificate is being able to help those that I look up to so much (veterinarians and techs) and that have helped me and my animals. I love this program, and I am so glad I was able to be a part of this community.
In Fiscal Year 2017, the academic programs of the college had available resources of $6,312,390 in restricted and unrestricted funds.

**Revenue**
- 71% - Recurring College Budget
- 3% - Summer School Revenue
- 22% - Distance Education
- 4% - Field Fees

**Expenses**
- 57% - Faculty Salaries
- 5% - Graduate Assistant Salaries
- 5% - Professional Salaries
- 2% - Summer School Salaries
- 6% - Clerical, Technical & Maintenance Salaries
- <1% - Student Salaries
- 18% - Operating Expenses
- 7% - Administrative Salaries
UT’s land grant mission has three goals: educate, discover, and connect.

As part of the University of Tennessee’s land grant mission, our college supports two centers that make a significant impact in the lives of Tennesseans and around the globe.

Center for Behavioral Health Research

Vision: Improve the lives of at-risk children, adults, and families.

The center studies the epidemiology, prevention, and treatment of substance use disorders as well as HIV/AIDS and psychiatric disorders.

The center also investigates Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), text-delivered and web-based treatments within healthcare, college campus, and community mental health service settings.

John Wodarski, Professor in the College of Social Work, has served as a principal investigator on multiple projects funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and foundations. He is currently the lead investigator on the following projects:

- Tennessee Residential Treatment Program for Pregnant and Postpartum Women
- Tennessee’s Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment
- Tennessee HIV/AIDS Related Substance Use Disorders and Mental Disorders Services Program
- Tennessee’s Homeless Family Services in Supportive Housing (CABHI)

Three of these projects are a joint venture between the UT College of Social Work and the Helen Ross McNabb Center.

Michael Mason, Betsey Bush Endowed Professor in Children and Families at Risk, and his staff conduct exciting research in adolescent and young adult substance use prevention and treatment, social and environmental risk factors, and using mobile technology to address public health. They study the intersection of peer networks and environmental settings and how these factors contribute to healthy and risky behaviors.

Philip Green, PhD, conducts culture and climate analyses for child welfare organizations using the center’s Organizational Social Context Measure.

The opportunities available to research assistants supplement our undergraduate and graduate curriculums, and help prepare us for careers in research and education.

—Matthew Moore, CBHR Research Assistant

The opportunities available to research assistants supplement our undergraduate and graduate curriculums, and help prepare us for careers in research and education.
Social Work Office of Research and Public Service

Vision: Better outcomes for individuals, families, communities, and organizations.

For over four decades the Social Work Office for Research and Public Service (SWORPS) has been contracted to provide program management, survey research and program evaluation, data collection and analysis, database development and hosting. SWORPS serves clients on local, state, and national levels ranging from the Knoxville Community Action Agency to the Tennessee’s Department of Human Services and Department of Housing and Urban Development. They partner with organizations such as the Signal Centers, Inc., the Knoxville City Government, and the state Department of Education to carry out service and research projects.

SWORPS has had direct outreach impact through 30 contracts that support a variety of initiatives including:

- Building Strong Brains, to prevent and mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Improving child care, through assessment and training.
- Helping non-custodial parents meet their child support obligations.
- Providing an empirical window into homelessness in Knoxville-Knox County through KnoxHMIS.
- Child abuse prevention and training.
- Pet Health Equity, to improve access to veterinary care for families with limited means.

Michael Blackwell, DVM
Director, Pet Health Equity
As the college looks to the next year, Interim Dean David R. Dupper states, “I am very proud of our many accomplishments over the past academic year and I look forward to a number of important events during the 2018-19 academic year.”

- The college’s Social Justice Innovation Initiative will focus on a new theme for 2019.
- Our college is preparing for its reaccreditation visit scheduled for Spring 2019.
- Starting Fall 2019, the BSSW Program will feature a new online program specifically designed for transfer students.
- In partnership with the UT College of Law, we are launching a forensic social work certificate program in Fall 2019.
- Our online MSSW continues to grow, and the substantial decrease in out-of-state online tuition (from $1,687 per credit hour to $761 per credit hour) should extend our national reach.

“Looking to the Future

The well-being of our society can be lifted by building concrete capabilities to demonstrate respect for the humanity of every person. The College of Social Work at UT has the vision and dedication to invest in working toward social justice, and I fully support their efforts in the Social Justice Innovation Initiative.

—Susan Cooper, Founding Donor of SJII

Students pictured left to right: Rauelle Kelly, Marquita Dortch, Abbey Geater, Rayna Erasmus, Emily Williams, Cole Hoffman, Amber Hale, and Ruth Hagler.
Last fall, UT launched the boldest fundraising campaign in its history to transform our university and create an extraordinary student experience. With a goal of $1.1 billion, the Join the Journey campaign will propel UT towards its goal to become a premier public research institution.

The College of Social Work has already exceeded its campaign goal of $5.5 million, having raised over $7.7 million by June 30. Fiscal year 2018 was the best fundraising year in the history of the college as it received its single largest planned gift of $3.5 million, as well as a bequest of over $700,000.

Gifts of all sizes continue to build on our outstanding programs and to fuel the work of exceptional students, faculty and staff. Please join the journey at journey.utk.edu/socialwork.

Volunteers change lives. I know because they changed mine. Each day, I’m surrounded by people who challenge me to fulfill my potential.

–Seth Taylor ’18

Highly Ranked, Award-Winning Social Work Programs
BSSW, Face-to Face & Online MSSW, Online DSW, & PhD
Certificates/Licenses in Trauma, Veterinary Social Work, Gerontology, & School Social Work
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Robert Mindrup—Interim Director, BSSW Program
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Tell us about your journey! Email cswnews@utk.edu or send us a picture. Include your name, UT class year, and a note that says, “OK to use.”