

# IN HIS SERVICE

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

## “WHY ARE THEY ANGRY WITH US?”

Through events published on social media and in the press, we have seen and heard evidence of racism and intolerance that demands a response. Race remains such a volatile topic. Yet we have also seen courage, wise restraint, love, listening, calls for social justice, and hope for a better community. The wounds of some in our community, long hidden, are now open. These wounds of injustice will begin to heal only after we hear, we see, we acknowledge, we forgive, and we act together. The School of Social Work at Southern Adventist University is committed to social justice—an outflow of our faith and profession—and to the preparation of our students to be people with and for others.

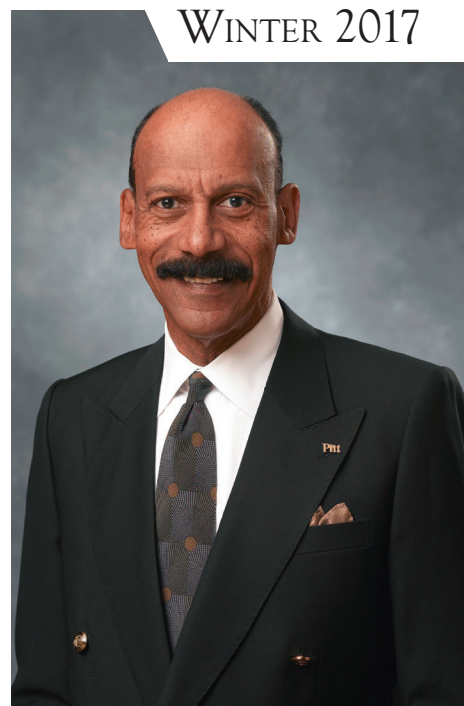
We are excited that Larry E. Davis, dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh, has accepted our invitation to come to Chattanooga for two days in March. On March 16, Davis will speak at

a university-wide convocation on campus at 11 a.m. Then, on the morning of March 17, he will conduct a three-hour training for our Chattanooga community. As the director and founder of the Center on Race and Social Problems and author of the book *Why Are They Angry With Us?*, Davis is well-positioned to address our community on the questions and conflicts about race that continue to plague our country and communities. We welcome guests for one or both of these events.

Clearly, our society is struggling with racial inequalities. The work ahead is challenging, but let's be steadfast in our commitment to moving our dialogue to action. Social workers are better situated than most professionals to assist our society with the amelioration of these difficulties. Together we can make space for listening to each other and asking hard questions.

—Kristie Wilder  
Dean, School of Social Work

WINTER 2017



Pictured above: Larry E. Davis, PhD



### SAVE THE DATE: Annual Field Instructor Appreciation

March 17, 2017 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Family Justice Center

*Students and Field Instructors: FREE Admission*

**Alumni: \$10**

**Community Members: \$15**

Contact Tricia Foster, [tfoster@southern.edu](mailto:tfoster@southern.edu), to pay ahead, or pay with cash on day of event. *CEUs will be provided.*

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

**M**y tenure as dean began in the fall of 2014, and what an eventful three years it has been. I continue to be invigorated by the energy and talent of our students and alumni, and I am reminded of what drew me to higher education here: the promise of our students to go and make a difference in the world.

Our work to improve well-being through achieving equity and social justice is a considerable endeavor, and it can only be realized through the support and participation of our faculty, students, alumni, and community partners. Our faith and profession call us to get up and go out into the world and show love to our neighbors. Love to those who are different from us. Love to those less fortunate than us. Love to the people with hate or sadness in their hearts. To women, people who are of the LGBTQ community, Muslims, Blacks,

Latinos, immigrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, and anyone who has been made to feel like they don't matter. Only when we work together can we build collective solutions that make a positive and sustainable difference.

As we strive to build a foundation for change, let's remember to reach out. Go to the mosque. Talk to the girls. Pray for the immigrant. Embrace our LGBTQ neighbors. Break bread with black sisters and brothers. We are all strangers in this strange, strange land, but we are not strangers to each other. We are not strangers to love.

We hope this edition of *In His Service* builds a rich conversation that reflects who we are and what we value. We are on a journey for transformation, anchored in our faith, with social justice as a core value

and shared mission. The history of our faith never seems to move on a straight line but, rather, through suffering and hope, through loss and redemption, and through death and resurrection. That is the basis of our hope and the foundation of our love, made visible through our work.

I invite you to stay connected with us, to share your story and to join in our excitement about the mission of our School.

In His Service,



*God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*  
(Hebrews 6:10, NIV)

## DECEMBER 2016 GRADUATES



Faith Aguirre  
MSW-Child & Family



Olivia Cole  
MSW-Trauma



Atura Grant  
MSW-Trauma



Megan Henson  
MSW-Trauma



Jessica Hill  
MSW-Trauma



Kandace Hixson  
MSW-Child & Family



Katie Masters  
MSW-Child & Family



Danielle Miller  
MSW-Child & Family



Martin Pita  
MSW-Trauma



April Risley  
BSW



Otilia Schimbischi  
MSW-Trauma

## FIELD AGENCY FOCUS: CHATTANOOGA CARES

Chattanooga CARES has been a non-profit agency since 1988. Its mission is to reach, assist, and support people who are impacted by HIV through responsive delivery of services related to education, health, social, and advocacy.

Shannon Stephenson, executive director of Chattanooga CARES, would like readers to know that “The vision of CARES is to combat the current challenge of preventing and treating infectious diseases that affect our region. In 2005, we opened a primary care clinic and currently serve over 700 clients for HIV care. In 2016, our organization received a designation to open an STD clinic where we will be able to serve in treating and preventing other infectious disease, such as Hepatitis C and STI. Our goal is to impact the lives of our community and make positive strides to help them thrive independently. The people we serve have both significant health disparities and socioeconomic barriers that prevent them from gaining proper access to care. Over three-quarters of our clients live at or below the federal poverty level, and over a quarter of our clients continue to have no health coverage. Female and transgender clients have lower incomes than our male clients, and nearly one-fifth of our clients have tem-

porary or unstable housing situations.”

Thomas Carter, '14, LMSW, works as a mental health therapist for the agency and adds that CARES helps and serves everyone equally.

Chattanooga CARES has partnered with Southern Adventist University's School of Social Work for over 15 years, providing internship opportunities for BSW and MSW students. These students are able to select from a wide array of experiences, including case management, clinical assessments, and support group facilitation.

BSW Practicum student Sam Hamby reflected on his experience at CARES and the population served. He initially thought that his work on behalf of clients needing HIV care would primarily involve the LGBTQ community, but that was not the case. Sam has realized that the stereotype associated with HIV is just a stereotype and now knows that “It can affect anyone.”

When Sam was asked what he learned about advocating for clients while at CARES, he replied: “Advocating and making sure they [clients] have insurance is probably the biggest gift we could ever help them get, because it's ungraspable for some folks—they never thought they could grab it. Being able to pay off someone's medical needs, is amazing. A lot of people lose

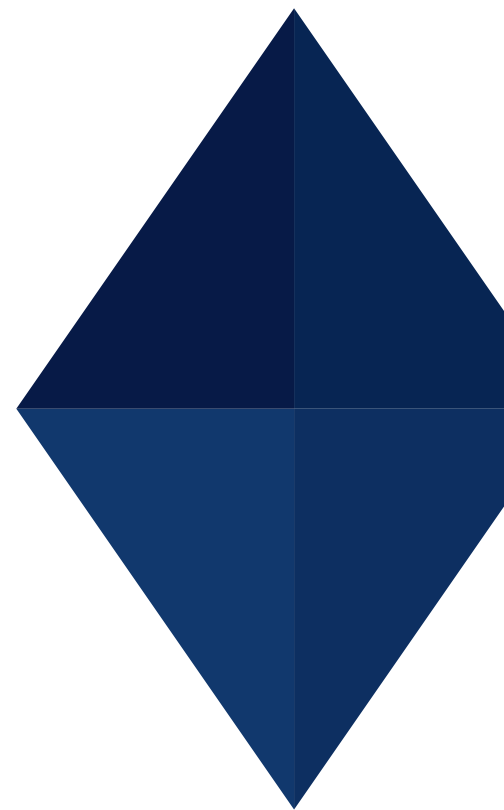
everything they have because they can't pay for their medical needs. CARES gives them the ability to have their medicines, dental, and vision covered. That is the best part of this experience.”

CARES has become the leader in providing resources for people in our area infected with or affected by HIV, and the agency continues to focus on prevention as the best tool for fighting HIV. For more information regarding Chattanooga CARES, go to: <http://www.chattanoogacares.org>.

—Evie Nogales-Baker  
Associate Professor



*The Chattanooga CARES team poses at Christmastime.*





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JOHN AND MEGAN OLAORE

The School of Social Work at Southern Adventist University gave John and me the skills we needed in order to launch into the careers we always dreamed of having. After graduation, I went straight into the Advanced Standing program at The Ohio State University and graduated in 2015. John began a job in recruitment, using his people skills to recruit students at Newbold College in England. Not only did The School of Social Work help us to gain skills for our future careers, but also it helped us find one another. We got engaged a few months following graduation at Southern, and we were married in the summer of 2015. After settling in Dayton, Ohio, John began to work for Kettering Health Network as a health care recruiter. I began working as a medical social worker at Grandview Hospital. During my time at Grandview, I used so many of the skills acquired at Southern. Hospital social work cemented those interviewing skills. It is so fast paced that you must be engaging and let people feel heard but still be able to prioritize your work and get things done efficiently. In October of 2016, I transitioned to a job at a community mental health agency, South Community. I work as an in home family therapist for families with kids ages 10-17 who are on probation. I engage families in an evi-

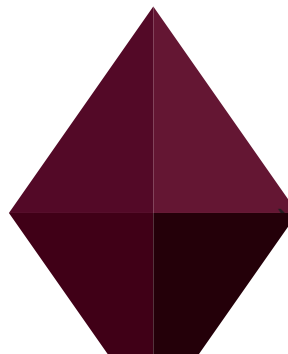


denced-based therapy called Functional Family Therapy (FFT), which has a very high rate of success for reducing kids' recidivism rates back into the legal system. This therapy utilizes a strength-based perspective for treating families, which correlates with my core values as a social worker. The School of Social Work at Southern also helped us solidify our love of Christ into our careers. John and I are so grateful to have been taught, overtly and by example, how to show the people we work with the light of Christ and carry out God's command to love others and help those in need.

-Megan (Pauls) Olaore, BSW, '14



*Pictured: John Olaore, BSW '14, and Megan (Pauls) Olaore, BSW '14.*



# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK UPDATES

## BSW Updates

### Welcome Back Party

Fall 2016 was another wonderful semester for the BSW program. In August, we hosted our welcome back party for students. They enjoyed deliciously barbecued veggie burgers and laughed while taking photos at our photo booth. Several enjoyed playing with a six-foot soccer ball, and the rest had a great time watching!

### View Southern/Open House

In September, we welcomed 24 guests who visited the School of Social Work during the View Southern event. During their time with us, they were able to learn more about this rewarding profession. On November 8, 2016, we hosted our fifth annual BSW Open House event for Cleveland State and Chattanooga State students. We love having guests visit our programs!

### Midterm Muffins

Midterm exams came all too quickly and along with them, students enjoyed our tradition of “midterm muffins.” Homemade muffins were delivered to each of our BSW classrooms as a reminder that their faculty/staff were praying for them.

### Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the School of Social Work joined the nationwide #PurpleThursday event by encouraging everyone to wear purple to spread awareness. On October 20, 2016, a #PurpleThursday photo booth was set up in the student center and students, faculty, and staff were able to take a picture to celebrate the survivors of domestic violence and express solidarity with those affected by domestic violence. Representatives of the Family Justice Center along with Collegedale’s mayor, Katie Lamb, also stopped in to support the event. We plan on doing #Purple Thursday next year as well.

We are proud of our social work majors!

### Social Work Club

Our Social Work Club has been hard at work this year! Last semester, we had vespers and a joint bonfire vespers with the Psychology Club. Then we participated in Fall Festival to help raise money for our club, along with a fundraiser raking leaves. For a community service event, the club members attended the Samaritan Center to help sort the donated goods. At the end of the first semester, the Social Work Club also hosted a Christmas party to help celebrate the end of finals. Thank you to all who came and supported us. It would not

have been possible without you!

## MSW Updates

### Donation Drive for Partnership

This fall, the MSW Coalition officers held a donation campaign for Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults, a social services agency in Chattanooga. Rather than collecting traditional gifts, the coalition invited students and faculty to donate greatly needed items for the Partnership. The collection included paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies, sanitary items, wrapping papers and bows. Ashley Pelham, the coalition president, is employed by the Partnership working with senior citizens.

### LMSW Licensure Workshop

In December Rhonda Edwards and Matt McUmbler facilitated our second social work licensure preparation workshop. Nine individuals, including current students, alumni, and community members, attended this workshop. The workshop reviewed current LMSW licensure processes and requirements for Tennessee and Georgia as well as other states. They reviewed test-taking strategy strategies and skills, exam content, sample questions, importance of licensure for career development, and test resources. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we plan to facilitate another licensure workshop in May 2017.

## Professor Research

### Professor Baker

Evie Baker presented “Field Instructor Practices and Attitudes About Social Media and Social Work Ethics” at the Counsel on Social Work Education Annual Program in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 3. Her research described the personal and professional social media used among social work field instructors and task supervisors; discussed the ethical challenges of social media that field instructors and task supervisors find worthy of concern, and identified supervision practices and gaps in the integration of social work ethics and policies of social media with social work interns and staff. Baker will be continuing this research by gathering a larger sample size to reach a wider range of social workers. This research will be moved toward publication when completed.

### Professor Wilder

Kristie Wilder presented “Ethics in a Digital Age” at the Tennessee Association of School Social Workers in Chattanooga, Ten-

nessee. Her presentation described the risk management of online social services, student use of technology at school and home, and personal and professional pitfalls to avoid when using social media.

### Professor Racovita-Szilagyi

During the past school year, Laura Racovita-Szilagyi has been working in an interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) with professors from the School of Nursing. The goal of this collaboration is to prepare nursing and MSW students enrolled in the trauma and emergency management emphasis to respond to community emergencies. Students get the opportunity to practice their skills in a safe environment with a real-life scenario; nursing students practice their triage and urgent care/response skills, while the social work students provide crisis intervention for the pseudo-victims and their families. After participating in the exercise, students complete a survey and participate in a focus group that allows the organizing team, led by Ronda Christman (School of Nursing), to gain knowledge of the students’ perceptions regarding different aspects related to the exercise, their individual response, and their preparedness to intervene in a mass casualty community situation. As a result of this research study, professors Racovita-Szilagyi, Christman, and Mioara Diaconu presented at the Council on Social Work Education’s 62nd Annual Program Meeting, held in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 3–6, 2016. Their presentation was titled “Teaching Crisis Intervention Through Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Disaster Simulation: A Case Study.” The team reported on the challenges and opportunities encountered in the planning of this type of IPCP experience, as well as on the students’ perception of their level of preparedness to respond and to lead in the aftermath of a disaster. Slightly more than half agreed or strongly agreed that they felt prepared to respond (52 percent) and to lead (58 percent) in case of a community emergency. Students stated that the emergency preparedness exercise helped to sharpen their skills and understand the responsibilities that such situations require. Cross training together with future nurses allowed social work students to understand and appreciate the medical aspects of emergency response that go hand in hand with the psychological, crisis response for which they trained. Overall, the IPCP exercise helped students gain more confidence in their skills and the theoretical knowledge they acquired through their education.



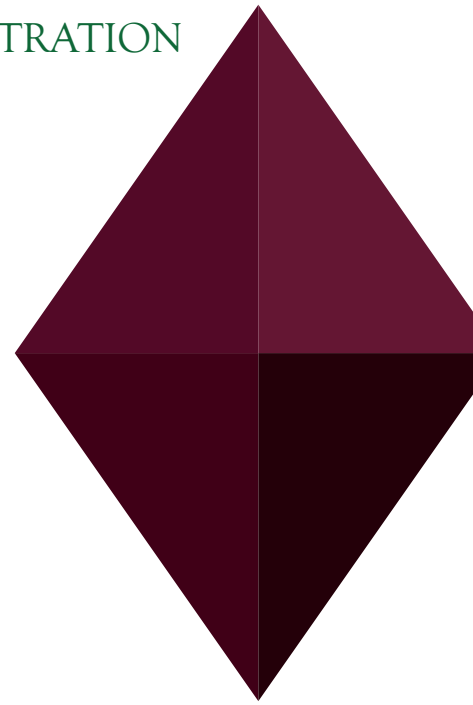
# BSW AND LONG-TERM CARE ADMINISTRATION

On December 8, 2016, the School of Business and the School of Social Work held a joint convocation that highlighted career options in Long-Term Care Administration for social work and business majors. Three alumni from Southern Adventist University explained what long-term care administration involves and how they chose a career in long-term care.

Long-Term Care Administration career options are most beneficial to students who have an interest in using their social work education in healthcare settings. There are paid internships and ample job growth in the field of long-term care. Life Care Center of Collegedale and Life Care Center of Ooltewah both currently offer internship positions available to students of Southern

Adventist University. Near the end of the convocation, students had the opportunity to ask questions. If students have inquiries regarding career options in long-term care settings, please feel free to contact Annette Heck, BSW Program director, at [aheck@southern.edu](mailto:aheck@southern.edu).

–Christian Brown,  
English Major



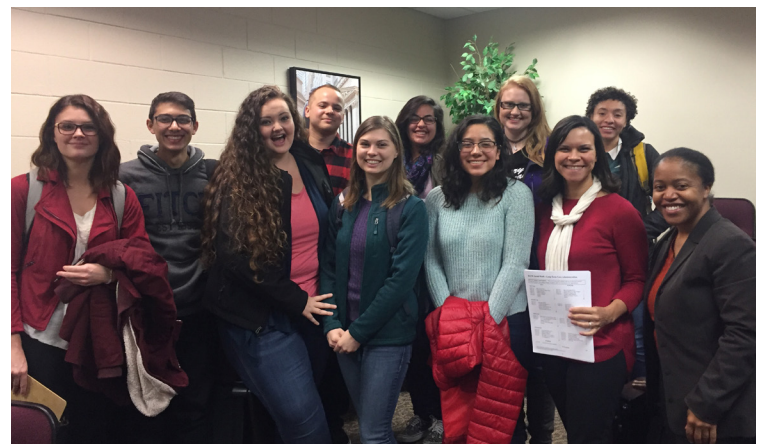
Franklin Farrow and Shari McQuistan share their experience in long-term care administration.



Long-term care presenter Steve Martin shares his experience in administration.



Convocation attendees learn about opportunities in long-term care.



Social work majors and faculty pose for a photo after convocation.



# SOCIAL WORK HAPPENINGS



1. Collegedale Mayor Katie Lamb poses with social work majors at a photo booth promoting domestic violence awareness. 2. Martin Pita celebrates with faculty after successfully defending his portfolio. 3. Students stop for a photo during the New York Study Tour. 4. Professor Evie Baker passes out midterm muffins with her son Evan. 5. Students Anissa Monteso, Sarah Stollenmaier, and Darcee Christensen receive certificates after presenting on Campus Research Day. 6. Wendy Jenkins, MSW '11, of the Family Justice Center, Dean Kristie Wilder and Ed Lamb stand in front of the entrance to the Center for Living and Thriving, housed within the Family Justice Center in Chattanooga.



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Corneliu Rusu  
Kristie Wilder

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