

Simmons
UNIVERSITY

119th COMMENCEMENT

DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY
MAY 16, 2024



DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY

Order of Exercises

Academic Procession

The audience is requested to remain seated during the procession.

Degree Candidates

Social Work

Welcome

Stephanie Cosner, Ph.D., Provost, Simmons University

Student Speaker

Shawna Marie Aarons-Cooke, Doctor of Social Work Candidate

Faculty Speaker

Jacqueline Dyer, Ph.D., M.S.W., LICSW, Associate Professor of Practice and DSW Director

Presentation of Doctoral Hoods & Degree Reading

Presentation of Degree Candidates

Johnnie Hamilton-Mason, Ph.D., M.S.W., Interim Director of the School of Social Work and Professor

Degree Candidate Name Reader

Diane Grossman, Ph.D., Interim Dean, The Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities and Professor

Presentation of Hoods

Kristie A. Thomas, Ph.D., M.S.W., School of Social Work Ph.D. Program Director and Professor

Jacqueline Dyer, Ph.D., M.S.W., LICSW, DSW Director and Associate Professor of Practice

Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W., Associate Professor of Practice

Vanessa Robinson-Dooley, Ph.D., LCSW, CNP, Professor

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREES

The Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK (Completed January 2024 - May 2024)

Shawna Marie Aarons-Cooke, B.S., Boston University,
M.S.W., New York University

Dissertation Title: *BeLoved Black Men™ Academy: A Psychoeducational Wellness & Liberation Group Intervention for Black Men*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Abdul-Rasheed Oluwaseun Ajayi, B.S.W., M.S.W.,
University of Central Florida

Dissertation Title: *Wellness Approach to Out-of-School Time*
Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Apryl Monique Amerson, B.S., University of Phoenix,
M.S.W., University of Southern California

Dissertation Title: *Training Matters: Implementing worker centered training in child welfare to improve retention and its influence on client outcomes*
Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Kayla Charisse April, B.A., University of Florida, M.S.W.,
Florida State University

Dissertation Title: *Keeping It Black: A Guide to Becoming an End-of-Life Ambassador in the Black Community*
Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW

Terry-Jan Ashton, B.A., Temple University, M.S.W.,
M.B.A., Adelphi University

Dissertation Title: *Empowering Peers to Care: A training for caregivers with justice involvement to care for their peers*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Camille Melika Banks-Lee, B.A., Fairfield University,
M.S.Ed., Fordham University, M.S.W., New York
University

Dissertation Title: *Fertile Hope: Empowering mental health providers treating Black women experiencing infertility with mindfulness*
Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Christina Barksdale, B.A., Fayetteville State University,
M.S., North Carolina State University

Dissertation Title: *It Take A Village – Fostering Marginalized Youth: An Educational Podcast*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW

Felicia Denise Bennett, B.S.W., Talladega College, M.P.A.,
Columbus State University, M.S.W., Valdosta State
University

Dissertation Title: *Investing in Vulnerable Youth Ages 3-6: A Business Development Plan*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Rachelle Anne Blazic, B.A., Buena Vista University,
M.S.W., St. Ambrose University

Dissertation Title: *Supporting Mental Wellbeing Among BIPOC Youth: An Informational Website for Educators*
Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Elizabeth Catherine Braconi, B.A., University of New
Hampshire, M.S.W., University of New Hampshire

Dissertation Title: *Trauma-Informed Alternative Wellness Services: A Website Created for Service Providers, Service Users, and Survivors of Trauma*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Tracy Ellen Breen, B.A., *University of New Hampshire*,
M.S.W., *Boston University*

Dissertation Title: *Social Justice Informed Mental Health in Elementary Schools*
Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Kelsie Elizabeth Bromberg, B.S.W., M.S.W., *Bridgewater State University*

Dissertation Title: *McTeams: A Training for Mentoring and Empowering McKinney-Vento Students and Families*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Latrill W. Bryant-Bass, B.A., M.S.W., *Morgan State University*

Dissertation Title: *Mentoring the Aging-Out Foster Care Youth: A Business Plan for A New Mentoring Program*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

LaRhonda Michelle Bryson, B.S.W., *Western Carolina University*, M.S.W., *University of North Carolina*

Dissertation Title: *Homelessness in Higher Education- Changing Their Lived Experience: A Freshman Seminar Course*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW

Nicole Elizabeth Cabezudo, B.A., *Lehman College*,
M.S.W., *Fordham University*

Dissertation Title: *Five-Day Training Program: Understanding the Effects of Stress, Trauma, & Mental Health Parenting Practices for Foster Parents*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Andrea Leigh-Kerby Charles, B.S., *Lewis-Clark State College*, M.S.W., *Boise State University*

Dissertation Title: *The Rural Social Worker: Closing the Gaps Despite the Distance Podcast*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Sharnet Rowlan Chavis, B.S., *University of Maryland*,
M.S.W., *Howard University*, M.Ed., *John Hopkins University*

Dissertation Title: *3R Mindfulness Group Curriculum to Support Diverse Learners with Emotional, Behavioral, and Cognitive Adversities*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Landon Chinen, B.A., *University of Hawai'i*, M.S.W.,
Simmons University

Dissertation Title: *Ka Ho'okele 'ana i nā Honua 'Elua: Nā Mea Ho'olālā no ka Ho'oulu 'ana o nā 'Ōpio Maoli Alaka'i me ke Kāko'o 'ana mai o nā Hoa Komohonana. (Navigating Two Worlds: Strategies for Amplifying Indigenous Youth Leadership with the Support of Western Allies)*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW

Inger Sofia Christensen, B.A., *University of Puget Sound*,
M.S.W., *California State University*

Dissertation Title: *Critical Reflections on Clinical Supervision: A Social Justice Issue for Social Workers*
Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Elizabeth A. Christy, B.A., *Queens College*, M.S.W., *Long Island University*

Dissertation Title: *Promoting Trauma-Informed Leadership and Post-Traumatic Growth: The Need to Study the Effects of Trauma and Systemic Oppression in People Impacted by the Criminal Justice System*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Melonie T. Clarke, B.A., *Morgan State University*, M.S.W.,
University of Maryland

Dissertation Title: *Digital Ethics Education: A Master's-Level Course Educating Social Work Students on the Intersection of Ethical Technology Use and Social Justice*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW

Jennifer Michelle Cork, B.S., *University of Idaho*, M.S.W.,
Eastern Washington University

Dissertation Title: *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Autistic Children with Co-Occurring Anxiety Disorders*
Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Georgiana Jeanne Couden, B.S.W., M.S.W., *Brescia University*, M.P.A., *Rutgers University*

Dissertation Title: *Mental Wellness as Preventative Care: A Proactive Integrated Health Care Model*
Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Latoya Cummins, B.S.W., *Medgar Evers College*, M.S.W.,
Hunter College

Dissertation Title: *Bridging the Healthcare Gap for Black and Hispanic Women with HIV and Injected Drug Use Through Harm Reduction: A Five-Day Training for Healthcare Professionals*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

David Cuna, B.A., *University of Pinar del Rio*, Cuba

Dissertation Title: *The prevalence of mental health stigma among African immigrants*
Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Jessie Leigh Davis, B.S., *Milligan College*, M.S.W.,
University of Maryland

Dissertation Title: *Social Emotional Learning at Home: An Antiracist Social Emotional Learning Curriculum for Caregiver Implementation with 4th-6th Graders*
Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Leslianne Patricia Davis, B.S., *North Carolina Central University*, M.S.W., *Simmons University*

Dissertation Title: *Motherhood, Trauma, and Justice: A Critical Look at Black Women's Reentry Pathways*
Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Jody Lynn Detwieler, B.S.W., *Union College*, M.S.W.,
Walla Walla University

Dissertation Title: *Telehealth through a Social Justice Lens M.S.W. Course*
Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW

ThuyVy Vu Do, B.S., M.S.W., *The Ohio State University*

Dissertation Title: *Crossing Bridges: Honoring Our Pasts and Healing Our Futures — A Podcast Series on Intergenerational Trauma Within the Immigrant and Refugee Population*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Monica Echevarria, B.S.W., *University of Saint Joseph*, M.S.W., *Springfield College*

Dissertation Title: *LEAP: Life Skills Education to Achieve Your Potential 14-Week Course: Empowering First-Year College Students for a Successful Transition to Adulthood, Fostering Diversity and Adaptability in the Real World*
Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Kate E.H. Elie, B.S., M.S.W., *University of Maryland*

Dissertation Title: *Vets and Pets: A Program Development Plan for Inclusive Housing*
Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Samantha E. Ewart, B.S.W., M.S.W., *Rhode Island College*

Dissertation Title: *School Social Work and Anti-Racist Practices: an M.S.W. Course*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Alexa Lindsey Faria, B.S.W., <i>Simmons University</i> , M.S.W., <i>Rhode Island College</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>Looking Inward: A Critical Identity Development Training for P-12 Educators</i> Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Tierra S. Gregory, B.A., <i>University of Maryland</i> , M.S.W., <i>Virginia Commonwealth University</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>R.E.S.I.L.I.E.N.C.E. Prevention and Awareness Training for Military Sexual Violence Using and Intersectional Approach</i> Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD
Tera Harris, B.S., M.S., M.S.W., <i>Southern Connecticut State University</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>A Workshop for Us: A Professional Learning for Non-certified School Staff</i> Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW
Willie Adrian Hatch, B.A., <i>University of North Carolina</i> , M.S.W., <i>North Carolina Central University</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>Thriving or Surviving: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of BIPOC Individuals' Experiences Aging Out of Foster Care</i> Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM
Zaheera Kareema Hemphill-Azeem, B.A., M.S.W., <i>State University of New York</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>Sprint to the Stadium: A Grant Application for A 5-Day Comprehensive Kids Fitness Camp Supporting the Holistic, Peer-to-Peer, Interdisciplinary Needs of Childhood Obesity</i> Advisor: Laura Rice Stein, Ph.D., LCSW, MS.Ed
Delores Michele Hendrix-Giles, B.B.A., <i>Texas Woman's University</i> , M.S.W., <i>University of Houston</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>Facilitator-led Training-Strong Black Woman Schema: Implications of Intersectionality, Endorsement & Well-Being</i> Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Tierra LaShay Hereford, B.A.S.W., <i>University of Kentucky</i> , M.S.S.W., <i>University of Louisville</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>Reducing Black Mental Health Disparity: An Antiracist Curriculum for Graduate Level Social Workers</i> Advisor: Laura Rice Stein, Ph.D., LCSW, MS.Ed
Rhea N. Hill, B.A., M.A., <i>The University of Chicago</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>The Psychological Impact of Being First, A Critical Analysis of Mental Health Support for BIPOC Students, A Case for Social Workers</i> Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Ronald Kennedy Hinton, Jr., M.Div., <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> , M.S.S.W., <i>The University of Texas</i> , E.M.L., <i>Georgetown University</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>Power and Influence: A Social Work Curriculum Course Design</i> Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Kasey Nicole Jordan Hoskins, B.S.W., <i>Union College</i> , M.S.W., <i>Campbellsville University</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>Web-Based/Facilitator-Led Training: Challenges and Barriers Grandparents may face while Raising Grandchildren and the Value of Introducing a Nexus to Services</i> Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW
Shamyra Quintrell Howard, B.S.W., M.S.W., <i>Southern University</i>	Dissertation Title: <i>Sex and Social Work: A Sexual Health Literacy Podcast for Current and Future Social Workers</i> Advisor: Laura Rice Stein, Ph.D., LCSW, MS.Ed

Elise Howell, B.A., *Framingham State University*, M.S.W.,
Simmons University

Dissertation Title: *Anti-Oppressive Field Instruction Training Manual*
Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW

Rhonda N. Hughes, B.S.W., *University of Southern Maine*,
M.S.W., *University of New England*, M.H.S.A., *Saint Joseph's College of Maine*

Dissertation Title: *Social Justice: An Expanded View for Independently Practicing Clinical Social Workers*
Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Myrlene Jean-Venant, B.A., *University of Massachusetts*,
M.S.W., *Simmons University*

Dissertation Title: *Professional Development Training on Learner-Centered Approaches Through a Trauma-Informed Lens to Close Educational Gaps for Students with Disabilities*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Tanesha Johnson, B.S.W., *Texas State University*, M.S.W.,
The University of Texas

Dissertation Title: *An Intersectional Approach to Homelessness Staff Training*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Leah Josiah-Morris, B.S.W., *York College*, M.S.W., *Adelphi University*

Dissertation Title: *Improving Access and Outlooks: A Mental Health Resource Website for Black Men*
Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Sara Grace Kelly, B.S.W., *University of Saint Francis*,
M.S.W., *University of Wisconsin*

Dissertation Title: *Social Entrepreneurship in Graduate Social Work Education: Advanced Training & Knowledge Working From the Margins*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Destini Alma Ketchens, B.S.W., *Southern Illinois University*

Dissertation Title: *On Bro: A culturally inclusive therapeutic treatment group for ethno-racial trauma in Black and Latino male youth*
Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Nicole Gwendolyn King, B.A., *Saint Augustine's University*

Dissertation Title: *Beyond Aesthetics: A Business Plan on Integrated Therapy and Hair Care Services to Address Women's Mental Health and Self-Image*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Silvitra Lawanda Kirksey, B.A., *University of Louisville*,
M.S.W., *Spalding University*

Dissertation Title: *Combating Compassion Fatigue in BIPOC Social Workers*
Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Meredith Anne Kolodze, B.A., *Plymouth State University*, M.S.W., *University of New Hampshire*

Dissertation Title: *Supporting the Mental Health of Dementia Caregivers*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Mara Larkin, B.A., M.S.W., *University of Southern Maine*

Dissertation Title: *Political Social Work: how to decolonize running for office for M.S.W. students*
Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW

Carol A. Leanzo-DeJesus, B.A., *Montclair State University*, M.S.W., *Rutgers University*

Dissertation Title: *Advancing Health Equity: Implementing a Comprehensive SDOH Training Program*
Advisor: Laura Rice Stein, Ph.D., LCSW, MS.Ed

- Zoe Rae Leary, B.A., *Green Mountain College*, M.S.W.,
Simmons University
- Dissertation Title:** *Caring About Yourself, Caring About Others, Caring About Compassion*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD
- Jolene R. Lespes, B.A., *The City University of New York*,
M.S.W., *Adelphi University*
- Dissertation Title:** *A Culturally Inclusive Approach for Black Women Impacted by Intimate Partner Violence – A Treatment Manual*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.
- Cynthia Deanne Lowe, B.A., M.A., M.S.W., *California State University*
- Dissertation Title:** *Communities Enhance Connection and Hope Through Outreach: A Training Program to Build Community Resilience Against Loneliness*
Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW
- Amelia Anne Mahan, B.S.W., M.S.W., *The University of Georgia*
- Dissertation Title:** *Transformative Practice for a Changing World: An Ecosocial Work Curriculum for M.S.W. Students*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.
- Jeanie Marino, B.S., *Worcester State University*, M.S.W.,
Springfield College
- Dissertation Title:** *Lifting the weight of PTSD through NETPower: A comprehensive group curriculum to support law enforcement officers*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.
- Kimberly A. Mathews, B.A., *University of New Hampshire*, J.D., *University of Illinois*, M.S.W., *Simmons College*
- Dissertation Title:** *Sustainable Dissemination of Community Power Building: An Article to Dismantle White Saviorism and Advance Health and Racial Equity in Food and Nutrition Security Programming, Policy, and Reserarch*
Advisor: Laura Rice Stein, Ph.D., LCSW, MS.Ed
- Randee McLain Malone, B.S., *San Diego State University*,
M.S.W., *University of Southern California*
- Dissertation Title:** *The Justice Involved Female Veteran*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW
- Rebekah Ann McNattin, B.S.W., *University of Wisconsin*,
M.S.W., *Augsburg University*
- Dissertation Title:** *The UnJournal: Narrative Exploration for Reflective Supervision*
Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW
- Marsha Belle Montano, B.S.W., M.S.W., *Metropolitan State University of Denver*
- Dissertation Title:** *Reducing Barriers to Special Education for Spanish-speaking Families in Colorado*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD
- Johnola T. Morales, B.L.S., *Mount Ida College*, M.S.W.,
Fordham University
- Dissertation Title:** *Faith in Action Podcast: Mental Health and the Black Church*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.
- Valerie Ruth Mostyn, B.S., *State University of New York*,
M.S.W., *Nazareth College*
- Dissertation Title:** *Beyond the Books: A Training to Evolve the Role of Social Work in Libraries*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW
- Tonya Deon Myles-Day, B.S.W., M.S.W., *State University of New York*
- Dissertation Title:** *Advancing DEI in Academia: Anti-Racist Strategies for Breaking Down Implicit and Explicit Racism*
Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW

Robert James Nesbitt, Jr., B.A., *Long Island University*,
M.S.W., *New York University*

Dissertation Title: *Brainwaves of Faith: Breaking Stigma, Enhancing Brain Health, and Finding Spiritual Rhythms*

Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW

Catherine Barisua Nwileh-Ibeagha, B.A., *University of Port Harcourt*, M.S.W., *University of Illinois*

Dissertation Title: *A Training Program on Addressing Systemic Barriers and Unmet Needs in Marginalized Cancer Patients*

Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Jennifer Thomas Outlaw, B.S., *University of Maryland*, M.S., *Capella University*, M.S.W., *University of Southern California*

Dissertation Title: *Housing as treatment: Intensive residential services in the provision of care for individuals with severe mental illness*

Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Jasminet Castano Pathak, B.S., *Liberty University*, M.S.W., *Our Lady of the Lake University*

Dissertation Title: *Embracing The Maternal Journey, A Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Maternal Behavioral Health Program*

Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Rachel Phelps, B.S.W., M.S.W., *Park University*

Dissertation Title: *Liberated Leadership: A Course Design for K-12 Liberated Educational Leadership*

Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Janelle Demetria Posey-Green, B.S.W., *The University of Texas*, M.S.W., *University of New England*

Dissertation Title: *Just for Us: Treatment Group for Black Women Healing from Gendered Racism*

Advisor: Laura Rice Stein, Ph.D., LCSW, MS.Ed

Nicole R. Randall, B.S., *Husson University*, M.S.W., *University of New England*

Dissertation Title: *Destigmatizing Personality Disorders: A Master's Level Course for Emerging Social Workers*

Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Alicia Elizabeth Raphalian, B.S.W., *Boston University*

Dissertation Title: *Informed Intersections: What K-12 Education Personnel Need to Know About Child Welfare; An Online Training*

Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Christiana Nicole Redeaux, B.A., *The University of Louisiana*, M.A., *The University of Texas*

Dissertation Title: *Check Your Bias: A Web-Based Curriculum Designed to Reduce Implicit Bias Among Healthcare Workers*

Advisor: Laura Rice Stein, Ph.D., LCSW, MS.Ed

Clairissa Ginise Richardson, B.S.W., *Florida State University*

Dissertation Title: *Canes in the Margins: A Critical Discourse Podcast Approach to Reenergize the Mental Health Needs of People With Blindness or Visual Impairment (BVI)*

Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Tara Serena Riley, B.S.W., *Bowie State University*, M.S.W., *Simmons University*

Dissertation Title: *Re-Envisioning Social Work Curriculum: Anti-racist pedagogy through the lens of the Afrocentric Perspective, a scholarly article*

Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Michael Robinson, B.S.W., *University of Mississippi*, M.S.W., *University of Tennessee*

Dissertation Title: *Integrating Social entrepreneurship into Social Work Practice: A 14-Week Curriculum*

Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Deborah Rodriguez, B.S.W., *Westfield State University*,
M.S.W., *University of Connecticut*

Dissertation Title: *Project TEA: Therapeutic, Emotional-Support and Access to Care; A Mental Health Training for Beauty Industry Workers*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Christy Michelle Rogers, B.A., *Meredith College*, M.S.W.,
University of North Carolina

Dissertation Title: *Death Education in Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Classrooms: A Course Design*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Kathleen Rogers-Healion, B.S., *Cortland University*

Dissertation Title: *An Advanced Experiential Practice Course: Enhancing Emotional Intelligence; An Anti-Racist Approach*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Anne S. Rosenfeld, B.A., *Eastern University*, M.S.W.,
University of Pennsylvania

Dissertation Title: *Grief and Loss through an Anti-Racist and Social Justice Lens: An MSW Course*
Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Nancy Beth Rotkowitz, B.S., M.S.W., *University of Maine*

Dissertation Title: *Empowering Social Work Students: Current Issues in Child and Adolescent Mental Health*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Kimberly A. Sautner, B.A., M.S.W., *Rutgers University*

Dissertation Title: *Culturally inclusive, evidence-based suicide prevention training program*
Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Juan Pablo Sazo, B.A., M.S.W., *University of Houston*

Dissertation Title: *Somatic Liberation: A Master's Course Educating Clinical Student-Practitioners to Provide Somatic Interventions with a Critical Framework Lens*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW

Joanne Severe, B.S., *Mercy University*, M.S.W., *Stony Brook University*

Dissertation Title: *Addressing Racial Disparities in Fibroid Treatment: A Trauma Informed Approach*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW

Sirivanh Kongbouakhay Shuffer, B.A., M.S.W., *Fresno State University*

Dissertation Title: *Dismantling Health Disparities: The Use of Cultural Care Navigators to Improve the Perceptions of Palliative Care Among Black Patients*
Advisor: Folusho O. Otuyelu, Ph.D., LCSW

Kismyth E. Shuler, B.B.A., *Berkeley College*, M.S.W., *New York University*

Dissertation Title: *Lived Experiences Matter: Community Behavioral Health Providers Using an Intersectionality Framework Working with Black Women*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Blair Sisisky Sherman, B.A., *Tulane University*, M.S.W.,
Florida State University

Dissertation Title: *Don't Snooze on Snoezelen: A Business Proposal to Enhance Dementia Care in Acute Care Hospitals*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Tyler Ray Smathers, B.S., M.S.W., *University of Wyoming*

Dissertation Title: *Wellness for Mental Health Professionals Living with a Mental Illness: An Online Community of Support*
Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Paulette Simone Smith, B.S., *Bowie State University*,
M.S., *University of Maryland*, M.S.W., *Morgan State University*

Dissertation Title: *Cannabis Prohibition and Racial Injustice: Unveiling the Urgency for Social Justice Reform*
Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Redmond Smith, B.S., *The University of Maryland*, M.S.,
California University of Pennsylvania, M.S.W.,
Fayetteville State University

Dissertation Title: *A Critical Policy Analysis: Examining the Challenges with DODD 7050.06 The Military Whistleblower Protection Act*
Advisor: Anthony Nicotera, JD, DSW, LCSW

Gardan Speights, B.A., *State University of New York*,
M.S.W., *Columbia University*

Dissertation Title: *Walk the Talk: Disrupting the Traditional Training of Practicum Supervisors*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

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Boston College

Dissertation Title: *Dismantling Bias in Child Maltreatment Screening Practices: An Anti-Racist and Decolonized Training for Pediatric Healthcare Professionals*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Martin Stieglitz, B.A., *State University of New York*,
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Dissertation Title: *ARCTIC: Anti-Racist, Collaborative, & Trauma-Informed Integrated Care. A Facilitator-Led Professional Development Training For Primary Care Professionals*
Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

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Dissertation Title: *An Intersectionality-based Social Welfare Policy and Advocacy Course Design for Bachelor of Social Work Students*
Advisor: Kendra Flores-Carter, DSW

Hiroko I. Swanigan, B.S.W., M.S.W., *University of Southern Mississippi*

Dissertation Title: *SPEDucation: Web-based Training for Special Education Teachers on Creating a Culturally Responsive Learning Environment for Racial Minority Students*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

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Dissertation Title: *Birth Equity Warrior Podcast Series*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Kimberlee Thomas-Seales, B.A., *Baruch College*, M.S.,
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Dissertation Title: *Bridging Social Work and ABA: Five-Day Training Program – A Person-in-Environment & Cultural Competence Focus*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Tamara Idette Thorn, B.S.W., *University of North Carolina*, M.S.W., *University of South Carolina*,
M.S.P.A.S., *King's College*, D.M.Sc., *University of Lynchburg*

Dissertation Title: *EmPOWERed Mentor Program (EMP): Addressing the needs of young Black-identifying males* with an in-person facilitator-led training and development program*
Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Claudia Litza Vanegas Mejia, B.A., *Merrimack College*,
M.S.W., *Boston University*

Dissertation Title: *Changing Minds, Changing Lives: Foundational Restorative Justice Training for Schools*
Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Sara Anne Vazquez, B.S.W., *Florida Atlantic University*,
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Dissertation Title: *More Than Meets The Eye: A Podcast on Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intersectionality, and Special Education*

Advisor: Raquel Ellis, Ph.D., M.S.W.

Silvia Vernaza, B.A., *Universidad Autónoma de Occidente, Colombia*, M.S.W., *Simmons University*

Dissertation Title: *Memory Keepers: A Podcast for Social Workers and Allies of ADRD Latinx Caregivers*

Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

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Dissertation Title: *Whole Person Advocacy: Narrative Resistance in Criminal and Family Defense*

Advisor: Jennifer Meade, Ph.D., M.S.W.

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Dissertation Title: *Understanding and Addressing Vicarious Trauma: A Mutual-Aid Group for Child Welfare Professionals*

Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

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Dissertation Title: *Foundations for Hope and Influence: Building Capital in LGBTQ+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness*

Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

Nicole Christine Wheeler, B.A., *Saint Joseph's College of Maine*

Dissertation Title: *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training for Direct Support Professionals in Maine*

Advisor: So`Nia Gilkey, Ph.D., M.S.W.

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Dissertation Title: *Equipping Future Social Workers to Engage in Social Justice and Advocacy Policy Practice*

Advisor: Aisha R. Mitchell Washington, DSW, LCSW, CCM

Candace Nicole Ziglor, B.A., B.S.W., *University of Windsor, Canada*, M.S.W., *University of Toronto, Canada*

Dissertation Title: *Grace in the Shadows: A Faith Leader's Guide to Mental Health*

Advisor: Jennie Sucilsky, Ph.D., LCSW-R, BCD

