

FALL 2023 SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER

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QUARTER REVIEW

- ››› The Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program welcomed 65 undergraduate social work majors this fall quarter.
- ››› 18 students began their senior year of their BSW degree.
- ››› The Seattle U Master of Social Work (MSW) program welcomed 33 students for their first year of the two-year MSW program.
- ››› 6 students from the Advanced Standing cohort joined second-year MSW students in the Advanced Practice curriculum for the fall quarter after beginning their program in the summer.
- ››› 84 Seattle U social work students from the MSW & BSW programs began their practicum field placements!



Congratulations, students on completing the first quarter of the year!

NEWS

Fall 2023



MSW PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

- View admissions requirements and learn about program options [here](#).
- Start your application today [here!](#)
- Submit all materials by January 20th, 2024 to be considered for the priority application deadline.



SOCIAL WORK CLUB WINTER GEAR DRIVE

Social Work club recently held a winter coat drive for Seattle's Union Gospel Mission. Stay tuned for more news and events from our social work club!

Still have extra winter gear or other to donate? [See a list of organizations to donate to in King County here.](#)



SCHOLARSHIP & HOUSING GUIDES FOR PROSPECTIVE MSW STUDENTS

Resource guides for scholarships and housing have been created for prospective MSW students. To receive these guides, email MSW@seattleu.edu. In addition, the resource guides will be available via the MSW website soon.



FACULTY NEWS

This quarter, we welcomed two new full-time faculty members to our social work department!

Dr. Tam Q. Dinh (she/her/hers), MSW Program Director & Professor

Tam Q. Dinh, PhD, LICSW, is the Director of the MSW Program at Seattle University. Dr. Dinh was recognized in 2021 with the National Association of Social Work -WA Educator of the Year Award.

Read more about Dr. Dinh in the faculty highlight starting on page six!



Professor Gabriela Hyre (she/her/ella), Director of Field Education in Social Work & Assistant Clinical Professor

Professor Gabriela A. Hyre, MSW, is the Director for Field Education and Assistant Clinical Professor for Seattle University's Department of Social Work.

Keep an eye out for a future faculty highlight with Professor Hyre next quarter!

FACULTY NEWS



Professor Sam Harrell - Workshop Presentation: "Three Activities to Promote Critical Engagement with History in the Social Work Classroom"

On October 27th, Prof. Sam Harrell, MSW (Mx./they) presented a workshop called "Three Activities to Promote Critical Engagement with History in the Social Work Classroom" at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)'s Annual Program Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Here is a brief description: "As local and

state governments continue to restrict and manipulate student access to historical data and analysis, social work educators must prepare students to engage critically with the profession's history. In this workshop, I use examples from my BSW and MSW teaching to demonstrate three activities educators can adapt to help students a) explore the politics of historical memory; b) situate themselves within a legacy or lineage; and c) articulate a vision for a more just society."

Prof. Sam Harrell - Roundtable and Book Launch: "Abolition and Social Work: Possibilities, Paradox and Praxis"

In January, Prof. Sam Harrell be participating virtually in a roundtable discussion at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)'s annual conference. The roundtable is called, "Abolition and Social Work: Possibilities, Paradox and Praxis" and will serve as a book launch for an upcoming publication that Prof. Harrell contributed to! [Pre-order information for "Abolition and Social Work: Possibilities, Paradox and Praxis" will soon be available here!](#)



MSW PROGRAM DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHT: DR. TAM Q. DINH



Describe your role as Director of Seattle U's MSW program. What drew you to this role?

As the MSW Program Director, I am responsible for the overall academic and administrative leadership of the MSW program. This includes oversight of the MSW program curriculum, assessment and planning, budget, and personnel. The other part of my job is to teach and engage in scholarship. What drew me to this role is the program's mission of advancing "equity access to excellent clinical social work practice for historically marginalized populations by preparing competent and effective practitioners". The most memorable times in my professional life have been my times working as a social worker in community-based settings.

How did you start your career in social work? What guided you to pursue social work?

I stumbled into social work. I came to the University of Washington as a pharmacy major. Quickly, I learned that I did not enjoy any of the science classes. It was a chore to go to class. That was until I randomly took Intro to Social Work to fill a core requirement. It was love at first sight and with each class session in Intro to Social Work, it became increasingly clear that I needed to change my major. But in hindsight, I have always done social work in my family and community. As a child of a refugee family, I was often called upon to interpret, find resources, and help navigate the system for those around me. I didn't know I was doing social work until I took the Intro to Social Work class.

Tell us a bit about your social work areas of interest and practice!

For the last 25 years, my passion, whether it is in my professional or community work, is to increase diverse representation and equitable access and outcomes for marginalized communities. Prior to my academic work, I have worked as a social worker in clinical and community settings, specifically with youth in gangs, elders in need of home health care, and individuals with schizophrenia.

You've been involved in projects and causes to support Asian-American communities in Seattle, including serving as President and Board Member for [Friends of Little Saigon](#). Can you tell us more about this work and your involvement?

I was asked to join the Friends of Little Saigon board 8 years ago when it was a working board comprised mainly of business owners in the Little Saigon neighborhood. During my tenure on the board, we went from no budget to a \$500,000 annual operating budget, from zero staff to 6 full time staff, and from no office space to our Little Saigon Creative space on Weller St. We recently secured \$11 million dollars from the City of Seattle, King County, and the federal government to build a cultural and economic center and to further our work in preserving and enhancing Little Saigon's cultural, economic, and historical vitality. We recently bought a plot of land on 10th and Jackson and hope to break ground soon.



Are you involved in any other service or work outside of your role in the MSW program?

It is important for me to be of service to the community that I am in. And because I have a hard time saying "no" and because I have a lot of different interests, I find myself being involved in many different areas. Besides Friends of Little Saigon, I have been a School Board Director for the Mercer Island School District for the last four years. My term ends this year. I am also a part of the AAPI Community Advisory Committee with the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling. As part of the social work team for the Medical Education Exchange Teams, I provide continuing education for college students and health professionals in Can Tho, Viet Nam. This year, I am also the team manager for my youngest soccer team :)

Can you tell us a bit about your previous research endeavors and areas of interest?

My research centers on the mental health and service needs, gaps, and disparities in our community. I also conduct research and present workshops and training around intergenerational trauma, cross-cultural factors, and religiosity from an equity, diversity, and inclusionary lens. My research process is grounded in community-driven and community participatory research methods where the community is authentically engaged from the very beginning and benefits from the results of the findings.

Therefore, I prioritize the dissemination of the findings to those who would benefit from it the most, the community members themselves. I continue to present training and workshops to educate those who are most impacted by systemic injustices, barriers, and challenges.

MSW PROGRAM DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHT: DR. TAM Q. DINH (CONTINUED)



What do you feel is the most rewarding part of your work?

Teaching and learning from students are the most rewarding part of my work. No matter how tired I might be to start with, I always feel exhilarated after I teach. It is also rewarding to see students transform from being passionate, caring students to ethical, culturally humble professionals with tangible knowledge and skills to impact their world at a micro, mezzo, and macro level.

What challenges you the most about social work?

I often operate faster than the system that I am in. My desire for change, to reduce barriers, to integrate systems, to eliminate the *isms are hindered by the inertia of the status quo, system gaps, political climate, etc. I know that sustainable, systemic change takes time, but I am still impatient and frustrated by the rate of change.

Do you have a teaching philosophy or any values that particularly influence your work as Director of the MSW program?

Everything we do is in service to the community, to contribute to a more just and humane world. Social workers, especially advanced clinical social workers grounded in social justice and community-based practice, are critical to the betterment of our community, especially to those who are most marginalized and vulnerable.

The three words that are influencing my work as the MSW Program Director are community, service, and action. It is important to recognize that students, faculty, and staff are part of the social work community, within the larger Seattle University community and the larger surrounding communities. To be in community is to be in recognition that our action impacts others, that we are each other safety net, and that our wellbeing is dependent on each other

To be of service within a community means you must go beyond yourself, your comfort zone, and sometimes your needs to provide a service or fill a gap for others. To be of service is also to recognize and rejoice in your skills, talents, and gifts, for they are the treasured currency or balm that others may be in need of.

Finally, let's stop processing and act, put our values into action, and work towards turning our vision into reality.



If you had to give one book, reading, or media recommendation to students related to social work, what would you recommend?

I have too many. I don't know where to even start...

Lastly, what advice might you give to current Seattle U social work students? (Both undergrad & graduate, or a piece for each!)

Having this moment is a privilege. This moment that you have, whether it is listening to your professors, having coffee with your classmate, or saying hello to your client is a privilege. There are indeed a lot of life issues that we are all going through, and they may seem to get worse day by day, but whenever you can, choose to make the most of the moment, even if it is a dull, frustrating, or tiring one. It is in these moments, coupled with your gratitude and insights, that you will grow the most as an individual and as a professional.

These two years, or one year for some, go by very quickly and so make the most out of it. Whatever you do, be present and enjoy the now. Do not look so far away that you forget where you are and what you have. There is no end destination to happiness or purpose. Happiness and purpose are how you chose to make meaning of the moment.

Thank you to Dr. Dinh, and welcome to Seattle U!

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES



MSW APPLICATION DROP-IN Q+A

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2023
12:00-1:00 PM PT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2023
5:30-6:30 PM PT

RSVP TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK

MSW Application Drop-In

Q+A:

Friday, January 12th, 2024

- 5:30-6:30 pm PT ([register here](#))
- RSVP to receive Zoom link

MSW Virtual Info Sessions

Thursday, January 11th

- 12:00-1:00 pm PST ([register here](#))

Thursday, January 18th

- 5:00-6:00 pm PST ([register here](#))





2024-2025 PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE

2-YEAR AND ADVANCED STANDING MSW PROGRAMS

01 MONTH **20** DAY **24** YEAR

2023-2025 Priority Application Deadline for 2-Year and Advanced Standing MSW Programs: **January 20th, 2024**

- No application fee
- All application materials should be submitted before the priority deadline to be considered first for admission and scholarships
- [View program options and application requirements here](#)
- [Start your application here!](#)



BSW STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: MARIA REYNA JOHNSON

Hometown: Seattle, WA.

Favorite Seattle Spot: Home

Current Practicum Placement:

Department of Children, Youth and Families.

Are you involved in any on-campus groups, clubs, or activities and/or are you involved in any research?

I am the treasurer of the social work club. Currently, I am doing honors research on a bill, HB 1227: "Keeping Families Together Act," which became effective on July 1st, 2023. HB1227 made fundamental changes to the front end of the dependency court system process.



Have you received any awards or scholarships?

We want the details!

I have been on the Dean's List for the College of Arts and Sciences at least three times. The awards are Washington College Grand, Achievement Scholarship Continuing, Redhawk Grand Continuing, and Seattle University Retention Grant, which cover 85 % of the total tuition.

Describe your role at your current practicum and what population you work with.

I am interning at the DCYF (Department of Children, Youth, and Families) investigating the CPS cases.

We work primarily with children under 18 years old and their families.

BSW STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: MARIA REYNA JOHNSON



What inspired you to go into social work, and why did you choose Seattle University's program?

I immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 1995 and have experienced struggles firsthand. I know a little about the need to advocate for immigrants so that the transition upon arriving in this country is relatively easy for them since the institutions in the United States are

very complicated, complex, and very different from those in their countries.

A career in social work had caught my attention for a long time, but I had not had the privilege of returning to school. My priority as a single mother was raising my children. While raising my children, I worked at different non-profit organizations. During those 20 years, I worked with the community in various capacities as a volunteer and community organizer in the Latino community with at-risk youth and families, which has been challenging and transformative. These jobs allowed me to see how many immigrants became part of marginalized communities almost immediately upon arriving in this country.

Do you volunteer or do any social work activities outside of school?

I am volunteering at the Seattle Union Gospel Mission.

What has been the most rewarding or meaningful part of your time in the BSW program and/or social work in general?

I believe it is important to integrate the social justice aspect in the social work curriculum.

During my time at Seattle University, I have been fortunate to meet great professors who have positively impacted my life (in no particular order), such as my honors advisor, Dr. Harrell, Dr. DeFilippis, Dr. Derr, Professor Woon-Chen, Dr. Brennan, Professor Hyre, Dr. Cristofalo, Dr. Cardenas, Dr. Kidder, Dr. Lieb, Dr. Arvidson, Dr. Hainze, and of course my classmates who during all courses allowed me to learn from them.



BSW STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: MARIA REYNA JOHNSON

What would you like to do in social work after graduation?

I am going to apply for the advance social worker program and have my master in 2025. One of my goals is to finish my BSW degree and apply to the advanced social work master's program. Obtaining a master's degree in social work will help me continue participating at the macro level to advocate for immigrants, poor, and marginalized communities.

What's one piece of advice you would give your younger self or future students if you could?

Don't worry there will be a lot of big bumps in the road and you going feel that you can't do it anymore, but keep in mind that you are MEX-I-CAN and you can overcome all those obstacles.

What personal qualities are you proud to bring with you as a social worker?

Experience, knowledge, empathy, active listening, and problem-solving skills.





MSW STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: KIM-HUYEN MAI



Current Program/Year: MSW c/o 2024

Hometown: Bến Tre, Vietnam

Favorite Seattle Spot: Boiling Point

Current Practicum Placement:

Comprehensive Life Resources

Are you involved in any on-campus groups, clubs, or activities and/or are you involved in any research?

It is not an on-campus activity per se, but I am part of the Social Work Community Advisory Committee where I represent my cohort as

the student representative in discussion about the policies, practices, and direction of SU social work department. In addition, I represent the educational needs of the cohort in conversation with the MSW Program Director. Although I'm not involved in on-campus groups, clubs, and activities, I do try to be a part of the campus community by attending events and utilizing the green space on campus.

Have you received any awards or scholarships? We want the details!

I am a recipient of the Ballmer Behavioral Health Scholarship and the Graduate Scholarship that fund my whole two-year program. Both make it possible for me to pursue an MSW degree without financial burden.

Where did you get your undergraduate degree and what did you study?

I went to Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. I double majored in Women's and Gender Studies and Environmental Studies, and I also completed a minor in Hispanic Studies.

Describe your role at your current practicum and what population you are working with.

I am currently at Comprehensive Life Resources as a clinical intern in the WISe program. I am learning to work with Medicaid-eligible youth and family as a mental health clinician to address and work through concerns and barriers that are impacting the home, school, and community. The clinician is part of a team of care coordinator and youth partner who together, provides individualized care, 24/7 crisis support, and mental health services.



MSW STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: KIM-HUYEN MAI

What inspired you to go into social work, and why did you choose Seattle University's program? (Feel free to talk about it here if you have prior experience in social work!)

Originally, after my undergraduate studies I planned on pursuing a PhD in Women's and Gender Studies. For many reasons, I ended up working as a crisis advocate at a homeless shelter in Seattle. It was there that I realized that I wanted to be in the helping professions and more specifically, a social worker. Also, it was my experience working at the shelter that I learned about the needs for institutional changes. As a result, I decided to go back to school to get an MSW degree so that I could have the knowledge and skills to make the change that I want to see. Quite frankly, I chose SU because of the scholarships that I received and because of the department's emphasis on social justice and community in social work practice.

Do you volunteer or do any social work activities outside of school?

As a student, I currently do not volunteer or do any social work activities outside of school because it is part of my self-care to dedicate certain hours of my day for social work and certain hours for relaxation. I see that changing upon graduation because I am interested in policymaking so I would like to volunteer in places where I can learn more about it and to offer my skills as needed.

What has been the most rewarding or meaningful part of your time in the MSW program and/or social work in general?

The most rewarding part of it all is seeing clients/participants thrive in their lives and being able to use learned skills to sustain a good life as they define it.





MSW STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: KIM-HUYEN MAI

What would you like to do after graduation?

Immediately after graduation, I would like to go on vacation. But on a serious note, aside from volunteering in places where I can learn about policymaking, I would like to work at a community behavioral health agency and more specifically, work as a clinician in the WISe program serving youth and family.

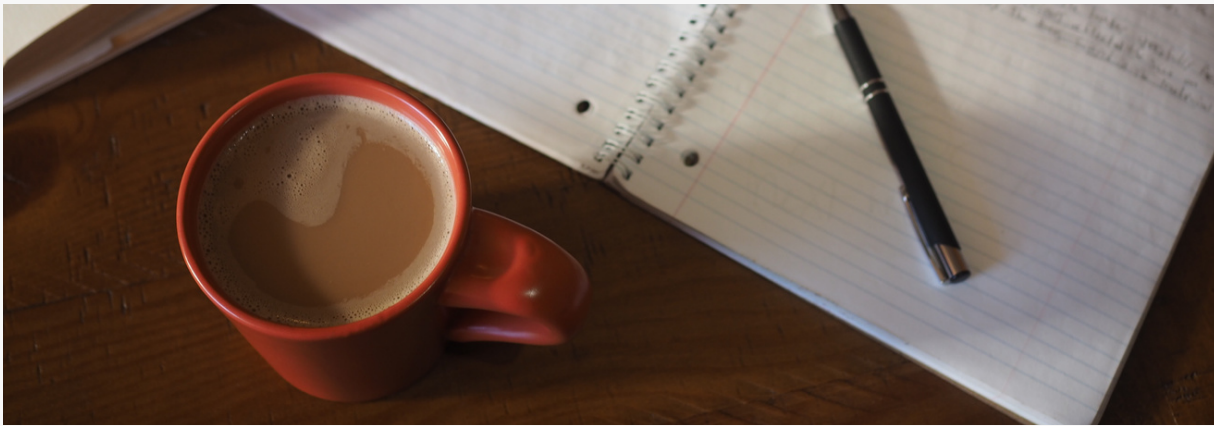
What's one piece of advice you would give your younger self or future students if you could?

It is okay to not know everything. You are doing just fine. What is more important is engaging in a lifelong process of learning to promote social justice and unlearning oppressive thinking and tendencies.

What personal qualities are you proud to bring with you as a social worker?

I am proud that I can bring my compassion, empathy, patience, and willingness to be a lifelong learner with me as a social worker.





Latest MSW Student Blog

“WHY SOCIAL WORK? WHAT SETS APART A SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM FROM OTHER SIMILAR GRADUATE PROGRAMS?”

READ



Employment Alerts

Sign up for weekly employment alert emails! Each Tuesday, we will send you a weekly email with a list of relevant employment opportunities. Employers, please send your employment opportunities to SocialWorkJobs@Seattleu.edu

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We publish social work department newsletters in the fall, winter, and spring quarters.

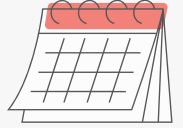
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Save the Date:
Commencement 2024



June 9th, 2024

Climate Pledge Arena

More information to come in January!

**National Association of Social
Workers Virtual Career Fair:**

January 30th, 2024

7:00 am-1:00 pm Pacific

>> REGISTER HERE



Have something to share in
future newsletters?

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