

SOCIAL WORK MAGAZINE



A LETTER FROM



LINARA DAVIDSON GREENIDGE
Senior Associate Dean
Development & Public Affairs

Dear CSSW Alumni,

I'm excited to share another issue of our *Social Work Magazine*, which is filled with alumni accomplishments and school news. Dean Begg's final Dean's Corner as well as Interim Dean Teitler's first Dean's Corner are available online. Please take a moment to read them when you are able.

As we begin a new academic year, we look forward to connecting with you at upcoming programs, events, and conferences.

Key highlights in this Issue

- NEW! LME professional development series in High Impact Leadership & Management
- Alumni Spotlight: Emily Ball Jabbour '06, Mayor of Hoboken, NJ
- SIG's new initiative: AI for Social Good and Society

We're already working on our December 2026 issue, so please remember to send us your news. Please also let us know if you've moved, have a new email address; or if you want to volunteer for any of our alumni initiatives at <https://bit.ly/4iIPbW>. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Warm regards,

Linara Davidson Greenidge
Senior Associate Dean, Development and Public Affairs

DR. JULIEN TEITLER, D'ELBERT AND SELMA KEENAN PROFESSOR, NAMED INTERIM DEAN OF CSSW



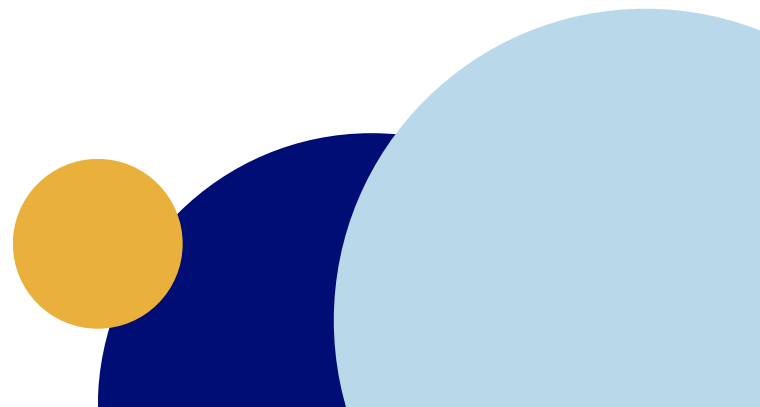
Congratulations to **Dr. Julien Teitler** who has been named CSSW's interim dean starting September 1, 2026. Columbia University President Jennifer Mnookin made the announcement in July.

Julien is a sociologist and demographer who has been a member of the Columbia community and the CSSW faculty for nearly 30 years. His research focuses on family well-being, maternal and child health, poverty, health disparities, fertility trends, and the social and economic factors that influence health, particularly among underserved populations. His work has been supported by major funders, including the National Institutes of Health

(NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and several private foundations.

Throughout his career at Columbia, Julien has held numerous leadership positions, including senior associate dean for academic affairs and research, chair of the doctoral program, chair of Columbia's Morningside Institutional Review Board, and co-director of both the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program and the Columbia Population Research Center. He also chaired the Provost's Tenure Review Advisory Committee during the 2025–2026 academic year. In addition to his research and administrative experience, he is widely respected as a teacher and mentor, particularly for supporting graduate students and advancing the careers of junior and mid-career faculty.

Julien's strong combination of scholarly achievement, institutional leadership, and commitment to the CSSW community are qualities that make him well suited for the interim role. We look forward to welcoming Julien as interim dean in September.



CONGRATULATIONS

The CSSW Office of Development and Alumni Relations is pleased to announce the following promotions:



As of July 1, 2026, **Gregory S. Jones** was promoted to Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations. Gregory has been Director of Development at CSSW for almost four years. Along with his development priorities, he will have alumni relations strategy and oversight in his new role.

Email: GSJ2109@columbia.edu



As of July 1, 2026, **Andrés (Andy) Garza** was promoted to Manager, Development and Alumni Relations. In his previous role, as CSSW's Development Associate, Andy primarily focused on the Annual Fund. In his new role, Andy will have additional alumni engagement responsibilities while continuing his fundraising efforts.

Email: AG4867@columbia.edu

PRESIDENT MNOOOKIN APPOINTS MICHAEL ANDREASEN AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

Columbia University has appointed Michael Andreasen as executive vice president for university development and alumni relations, effective September 15, 2026. A seasoned advancement leader with more than 30 years of experience in higher education fundraising, Andreasen joins Columbia from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he served as vice chancellor for development and led the highly successful One Carolina fundraising initiative, helping secure \$606 million in donations in the last fiscal year.



Previously, Andreasen served as senior vice president for university advancement at the University of Oregon, where he oversaw a landmark \$3 billion fundraising campaign. His career also includes leadership roles at the University of Michigan, the University of California, Santa Barbara, the American Film Institute and the University of California, Irvine.



Selected following a national search, Andreasen was recognized for his extensive experience leading fundraising at large, complex institutions and his vision for advancing Columbia's philanthropic mission. The announcement also expresses gratitude to Susan Feagin, who served as interim executive vice president and provided steady leadership during the transition while supporting the search process.

OVER 125 YEARS OF SOCIAL WORK AT COLUMBIA:

HONORING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE

For more than 125 years, Columbia University School of Social Work (CSSW) has stood at the forefront of a profession rooted in justice, dignity, and community impact. As the first university-based social work school in the United States, Columbia has played a pivotal role in defining the field—educating generations of changemakers and leading research that shapes policy, practice, and progress.



Service

Social work begins with service—meeting needs, closing gaps, and standing with communities. Columbia's legacy of fieldwork, from Harlem to global humanitarian efforts, reflects its deep commitment to hands-on, responsive service.



Integrity

Academic rigor and ethical leadership are hallmarks of Columbia's approach. For 125 years, CSSW has held itself to the highest standards—developing practitioners who lead with transparency, reflection, and accountability.



Social Justice

CSSW has long been a force for equity, with faculty and alumni shaping anti-poverty policy, racial justice initiatives, and rights-based advocacy. The School's work is inseparable from the pursuit of justice for marginalized communities.



Competence

CSSW is committed to equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking needed to meet complex, evolving needs. From clinical intervention to policy design, competence is both a principle and a promise.



Dignity and Worth of the Person

Whether through trauma-informed care, direct clinical practice, or systems-level reform, Columbia's scholars and practitioners center the inherent dignity of every individual—championing person-centered frameworks in every facet of their work.



Human Rights and Scientific Inquiry

Columbia has pioneered research at the intersection of mental health, poverty, child welfare, and more—grounding practice in data and advocating for human rights through evidence-based innovation.



Importance of Human Relationships

From field placements to community partnerships, CSSW has modeled the power of relational practice. Its students and faculty are trained not just in theory—but in the transformative potential of trust, empathy, and connection.

CSSW WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO UPHOLD THE SEVEN CORE PILLARS OF SOCIAL WORK, GROUNDING ITS WORK IN THESE VALUES TO MOVE SOCIETY FORWARD.

LOOKING AHEAD: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE FIELD

At CSSW, we remain committed to preparing students for our complex, ever-changing landscape. Our programs emphasize academic excellence, hands-on field experience, and a values-based approach to leadership. If you know someone who is interested in attending CSSW, please share the following deadlines:

ADMISSIONS DEADLINES

Spring Available Program Options:

16-month Program (on-campus only); Part-time (online only); Part-time to Full-time (Extended) and One-year Residency for Working Professionals (Reduced Residency) Programs (on campus and online).

- September 15th of the preceding year - 16 Month
- October 31st of the preceding year - Part-Time, Part-Time to Full-Time, and One Year Residency

Fall Available Program Options:

Two-year, Advanced Standing, Part-time (online only), Part-time to Full-time (Extended), Transfer, and One-year Residency for Working Professionals (Reduced Residency) Programs (on campus and online) and the International Program (on campus only).

- Priority Deadline: December 1st
- Final Deadline: February 15th



Rolling admissions will be considered for our part-time pathways (Part-Time, Part-Time to Full-Time, and One Year Residency).

For more information, view our listing of admissions events, or to start your application, visit our website at <https://apply.ssw.columbia.edu/portal/connectwithus>.

If you have any questions, you may contact us at cssw-admit@columbia.edu or 212-851-2400.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

EMILY BALL JABBOUR '06

Congratulations to alumna **Emily Ball Jabbour '06** on her election as mayor of Hoboken, NJ. Before running for mayor, Emily was an at-large member of the Hoboken City Council where she served for two terms, beginning in 2018. She built a reputation for collaborative governance and attention to local issues.

Always proud to say she is a social worker, Emily brings to the mayor's office a background that blends public policy, social work, and federal service. Upon graduation from CSSW, she served as a President's Management Fellow at the Administration for Children and Families with the US Department of Health and Human Services. This appointment led to a nearly twenty-year career in the federal government.

Emily has been an active alumni leader at CSSW since her graduation in 2006. While residing in Washington, DC, she hosted several regional alumni events and always answered the call to speak to alumni who were thinking of moving to the DC area or to prospective students who were considering CSSW for their master's degree. Upon moving to Hoboken, NJ, Emily attended CSSW programs and gatherings, and served on the Alumni



Association Board of Directors before becoming president of the association. Throughout, Emily has volunteered her time to support students and alumni through mentorship, career panels, and community-building initiatives. Most recently, Emily participated as a panelist in Social Work Month event focused on the impact of social workers on politics and policy, which was co-sponsored by the Sheila Y. Oliver Foundation.

Emily officially assumed office on January 15, 2026, becoming the 40th (and second female) mayor of Hoboken, succeeding Ravinder Bhalla. You can view her swearing in [here](#). We are proud to have Emily as an alumna of CSSW. We wish her well and look forward to all that she will do for the city of Hoboken.

COMING THIS FALL

CSSW'S NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES IN HIGH IMPACT LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

We are excited to share that CSSW is launching a new professional development series in High Impact Leadership & Management this fall.

Built for leaders and managers navigating today's fast-moving workplace, this program delivers practical, skills-based training designed to help you lead with clarity, agility, and confidence for high impact. Participants will receive a certification of participation for completing each course in the series. Seven NYSED Continuing Education Contact Hours will be awarded for completion of each course. Please visit socialwork.columbia.edu/certificates to learn more.

The Three Course Pathway:



TRANSFORMATIONAL
LEADERSHIP



COMMUNICATING
EFFECTIVELY AS A LEADER
OR MANAGER



KNOWING AND USING
YOURSELF EFFECTIVELY AS
A LEADER



PRACTICUM INSTRUCTORS NEEDED FOR 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

Are you interested in supporting social work students by providing an enriching practicum learning experience? The Office of Practicum Learning at CSSW is seeking agency partners, organizations and practicum instructors interested in supporting our MSW students during the **2026-2027 academic year** in the following locations:

- Atlanta, GA
- Boston, MA
- Washington D.C
- Northern California - San Francisco County, Alameda County, Santa Clara County
- Southern California - LA County and Orange County

As CSSW alumni, you have a wealth of knowledge, experience, and professional expertise to share with the next generation of social workers. Your involvement can make a meaningful difference in a student's professional development and practicum experience.

If you are able to host an MSW student for the 2026–2027 academic year, or if you know of a local organization that may be interested in partnering with CSSW and supporting practicum education, we would be grateful for your recommendation. Contact the Office of Practicum Learning: swpracticum@columbia.edu or [submit a placement request form](#).

Thank you for considering this opportunity to give back and support our students. We look forward to hearing from you!

CLASS NOTES

Class Notes is a place to share your news and accomplishments. **Congratulations** on all of your achievements, milestones, and personal celebrations. We invite you to stay connected, celebrate one another, and keep us updated on what's happening in your lives and careers by submitting a note at <https://bit.ly/4ilPlbW>.

60's

- **Ann Whitford Paul '65** has been working as a children's picture book writer and is thrilled to announce that her 9th book in her IF ANIMALS series titled "If Animals Loved Books" was published in August 2025. In January 2026 *If Animals Said I Love You Mama* was published. Ann writes, "Greetings to my fellow classmates. I have fond memories of our time in the beautiful Carnegie Mansion and cherish my time as a social worker, however brief it was."

Spanish and French. Philip is also the Vice chair of the Board of Trustees for the Louis Armstrong House Museum.

- **Lorna Hines-Cunningham '75** is a psychotherapist, consultant, and author with a recently published book, *Straight Talk From A Wise Woman: Tears, Trauma And A Healing Path*.
- **Jill Epstein Jones '79** is a psychotherapist in Hartford, CT.

70's

- **Norman White '72** says that "after 25 years in social work and supervisor of CSSW grad students, I became an ordained pastor for Lutheran Church Metro New York in White Plains." Norman is chair of the Rotary's Social Justice Committee where he works with undocumented people along with city groups serving Spanish speaking residents. Norman is also chair of a committee that supports a mission church in Puerto Rico.
- **Philip Berry '75** is president of Philip Berry Associates LLC, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He has been selected to Marquis Who's Who in America, and his book *Being Better Than You Believe: 8 Steps to Ultimate Success*, which is available in Amazon and Kindle in hard and soft copy as well as other booksellers, is now available in

80's

- **Janine Barsky-Arceri '83** is director for Rockland Psychiatric Center, White Plains Service Center in NY.
- **Margaret Polinsky '83** is a retired social work researcher and consultant in Santa Barbara, CA. She writes, "After my house burned down in the Eaton Canyon Fire last January, I moved to a wonderful, senior living community called Vista del Monte. I am very happy here and surrounded by loving, intelligent, and engaged people."
- **Carol Ciacchi '84** is a psychotherapist in NY and incorporates clinical hypnosis in her practice.

CLASS NOTES

Howard Blas '89 is senior advisor, National Ramah Tikvah Network for Camp Ramah. He and a team of contributors are delighted to announce the publication of *A Different Spirit: Creating Meaningful B'nai Mitzvah for Children with Disabilities*, in February 2026. Howard continues to teach students with disabilities for b'nai mitzvah, bring people with disabilities to Israel on Birthright Israel trips and write for many publications.

90's

Becky Garrison '92 is a freelance writer in Greater Portland, Oregon. Her ninth book *Gaslighting for God; A Satirical Guide to Save Yourself From Spiritual Narcissists* will be published by Lake Drive Books in January 2026.

Russell Baptist '94, LCSW, is a senior lecturer at CSSW and recently published his second nonfiction book, *Built By the Ancestors: A Legacy of Black Institutions and Their Enduring Power*. This work examines six historic institutions that have shaped the social, cultural, and civic life of Black America for more than a century — including the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, the Prince Hall Masons, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Divine Nine, the NAACP, and the National Urban League.

Angelo Ortiz '96 is founder, CEO, and clinical director of Ortiz Psychotherapy Services, in the Bronx, NY. Angelo married Tara Yvonne Jefferson, who is a Barnard alumna from the Class of 1992, on July 26, 2025.

00's

- **Amy Kaplan '00** is director of Root Causes, LLC, in Redlands, CA. She recently provided consultation to a major midwest university's Family History Department and graduate school of social work professors. This spring, she presented a workshop to both departments. The 1,500 first year family history students will learn how to handle sensitive information - both their own, and potential clients. The social work students will learn how to appropriately introduce genealogy research in clinical practice. More projects are in the works.
- **Ernst VanBergeijk '00PhD** participated in a citizen science expedition from January 6-22, 2026 in Antarctica studying things such as sea star wasting syndrome, an epidemic that has killed billions of sea stars along the Pacific Coast of North America. While there, Ernst also unfurled the Columbia pennant at the stern of the *Governoren*, the southern most scuba diveable shipwreck in the world.
- **Bronley Luhrman '01** is a major gifts officer at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, ME.
- **Kenia Maldonado '01** is executive director, housing initiatives for NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS). The ACS Housing Academy Collaborative was awarded the NYC Excellence in Customer Service Award in October 2025. Under the leadership of Kenia, the department, which is responsible for processing housing applications and identifying housing for

CLASS NOTES

00's Continued

youth aging out of foster care and reunifying families, was able to surpass a critical housing deadline which was shortened by 2 months. As a result, over 150 youth were able to secure housing vouchers.

- **Katie Potocnik Medina '07** transitioned from her role as a middle school social worker about three years ago and now works at Smith College School for Social Work in various roles. She also practices part-time with Inside Psychotherapy NYC alongside a fellow CSSW alum. Recently, Katie began providing clinical supervision for school social workers, a role she deeply enjoys.

10's

- **Alexandra Butler '10** joined Cerebral this year as a psychotherapist. She also teaches writing at Sackett Street Writers and will lead a memoir and personal essay retreat this summer at Clos Mirabel in the French Pyrenees. She is the author of a memoir on caregiving, *Walking the Night Road*, which she published with Columbia University Press in 2015.
- **Morgan Boecher '13** is marketing director of creative content for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in NY. Morgan's second book, a graphic novel titled *Chicken Heart*, arrived February 2026, from Street Noise Books. The hand-drawn story follows a comedian who is transgender and doesn't know how to confront that part of himself. His aunt's funeral spurs his travel to a woodland refuge for transgender folks, but as a city kid struggling with his identity and grief, fitting in is not so easy. Through the power

of humor and acceptance, he is able to make space for himself. *Chicken Heart* can be ordered online.

- **Ryan Dritz '13** is a social worker at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. He was appointed to the Board of Directors of Also Known As, Inc., an organization that fosters community, cultural understanding, and dialogue on identity among adult international adoptees. He leads a mental health support group for adopted men, focusing on how adoption impacts the masculine self while addressing urgent personal challenges such as loss/grief, anxiety, and depression.
- **Jenny (Ensi) Jenish Kyzy (Tszie) '14** transitioned from spearheading innovation at the United Nations to the private sector and now serves as product owner at MBank, Kyrgyzstan's largest bank. Jenny leads MBank Junior, integrating EdTech into FinTech using social enterprise principles to strengthen financial literacy and digital learning for children and families.
- **Clare Pemberton '17** opened her psychotherapy and breathwork practice, Ember Wellness HK, in September 2025, in Hong Kong. Clare tells us, "I never thought I'd be my own boss, but after experiencing burn out in stable jobs that paid bills but cost me my wellbeing, I dove head first into solo-preneurship and am loving it so far!"

CLASS NOTES

10's Continued

- **Tamieka Welsh '18** is a writer who merges mental health and wellness throughout her work. Her latest pieces include a feature for *Essence* on Black women's mental health after a breast-cancer diagnosis; a BlackDoctor.org article on depression prevention in Black youth; a Mindbodygreen piece on loneliness; and an Apartment Therapy piece on Mel Robbins' six-step routine.
- **Annie Siegel '19** is an analyst for Fidelity Investments in Jersey City, NJ. She welcomed her baby boy, Bruce, on June 24, 2025.
- **James Young '19** completed his MPH at Brown University, focusing on Medicare billing integrity and skilled-nursing oversight. He also earned his LCSW in Rhode Island and is now completing an MA in Christian Spirituality at Fordham University, pursuing mocha as a Sephardic Modern Orthodox Jew, and continues serving through public health research and veteran advocacy.
- **Ariana Rosenberg '20** was recently promoted to senior provider success manager at Tava, where she works to improve their tech platform for the providers who do the important clinical work behind it. Ariana says, "I've had a career full of pivots from clinical practice to nonprofit management in refugee resettlement to, now, mental health tech, improving how technology is built for providers. I'm navigating working parenthood with the [birth of my second child!](#)"
- **Joshua Sanchez '21** is thrilled to share that in May 2025, he launched his private practice, Archway Psychotherapy. His practice focuses on process-based and behavioral science approaches for anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and OCD-related disorders, depressive and bipolar disorders, trauma, and life encounters.
- **Madeleine Dopico '22, LCSW**, launched Two Point Oh Therapy in February 2026. Her private practice will be known for direct, energetic, insight-driven care that blends depth with practical tools. She also founded The Mental Health Party, an event series using mental health principles to spark connection. Madeleine is a singer, writer, and live performer, with music on all platforms under her artist name, DOPICO.

20's

- **Keanu Jackson '20** is the founder and leader therapist for Homebody Psychotherapy in Brooklyn, NY. In October, 2025, Keanu successfully completed his training with the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy's 2-Year Sex Therapy Certificate Program.

CLASS NOTES

20's Continued

- **Bixia Chen '24** is care manager supervisor for Sunset Terrace FHC at NYU Langone, in NY. Bixie tells us, "I worked as a care manager since 2022 in the same clinic while attending Columbia School of Social Work under the Reduced Residency program. It was a long journey and I was so excited when I graduated in 2024. It felt like a great achievement and I also had a sense of relief after a big accomplishment. I am grateful for the opportunity offered through my program that serves clients with Serious Mental illness (SMI) diagnosis. This allowed me to grow clinically and I was promoted to a care manager supervisor in June 2025."
- **Sarah Vazquez '24** recently celebrated one year as a clinical social worker at Connecticut Children's in Hartford!

OBITUARIES

We remember with gratitude the alumni and members of our community who have passed away. Their lives, accomplishments, and lasting connections to our school remain an important part of our shared history. To let us know of alumni who have recently passed away, please [click here](#).

April Aaronson-Avilla '87

Marcia S. Baum '77

John T. Bowles '52

Tommie Florence Brown '84PhD

Rosetta Brownlee '79

Diane Braue Carter '72

Frederick J. Chaffee '70

Steven K. Chough '78DSW

Annette Marie Dyer '96

Helen Feinberg '92

June Feldman '62

Barbara M. Fitzsimmons '85

Emily M. Flint '67

Samuel Grossman '57

Adelaide Jacquet '70

Virginia Bruno Kops '83

Carol J. Leach '90

Alvita Liktorius-Barsky '78

Bonnie Markey '70

Caroline Merriam '62

Donna D. Morgan '67

Reverend G. David Sears '76

Rita E. Shawn '67

Nancy B. Spannaus '67

Susan Xenarios '82



UPCOMING EVENTS

NETWORKING

Thursday, October 15, 2026

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Details to follow.

ATLANTA RECEPTION

Friday, October 23, 2026

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Location and RSVP to follow.

SAN FRANCISCO RECEPTION

Friday, January 22, 2027

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

Location and RSVP to follow.

Interested in getting alumni together in your area? Email us at sswalumni@columbia.edu to partner with us.



PAST EVENTS

COMMUNITIES OF COLOR NETWORKING

At the start of the fall semester the CSSW community gathered for an evening of conversation, food, and celebration at our annual Communities of Color Networking event, held at a local restaurant in Harlem, NY. With the space reserved exclusively for the group, the event created a welcoming and intimate environment for members of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community to connect and build relationships. Attendees enjoyed meaningful exchanges, raffle prizes featuring CSSW-branded items, and left with new and valuable connections.

The event was hosted by the offices of Career Management; Student Affairs; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and Alumni Affairs.



L to R: Laura Galeano Cardozo, Kelsey Reeder, Vice Dean Ana Abraido-Lanza, and Joanna Cresswell Baez. Not pictured Jennifer Kenney.

ALUMNI RECEPTIONS AT CSWE AND SSWR

Receptions for the CSSW community at the annual conferences of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) were hosted by Vice Dean Ana Abraido-Lanza in Denver, CO., and Dean Melissa Begg in Washington, DC respectively. The gatherings were an opportunity for attendees to network with each other, speak with Dean Begg and Vice Dean Abraido-Lanza, as well as with other faculty and staff of the school; hear updates; and (re)connect with the school.

In their remarks, Dean Begg and Vice Dean Abraido-Lanza updated participants on the new initiatives and successes of the school; faculty accomplishments; and alumni recognitions including **Jennifer L. Kenney '14PhD**, **Johanna Creswell Baez '06MS**, doctoral student and alumna **Kelsey Reeder '15MS**, and master's student **Laura Galeano Cardozo '26** at CSWE.

We look forward to hosting these receptions at conferences next academic year in Atlanta, GA and San Francisco, CA. If you are interested in helping to plan these events, please email sswalumni@columbia.edu.

PAST EVENTS

NETWORKING NIGHT AT THE COLUMBIA CLUB

This spring, the CSSW community in the tri-state area came together in Manhattan at the Columbia Club of New York for the Alumni Association's annual Networking Night. In total, more than 140 alumni, students, faculty, and staff came together to talk about career paths and aspirations, life after graduation,, and the excitement of the upcoming commencement exercises. Student attendees noted that it was "interesting to hear about the varied career paths of alumni, especially of those whose trajectories were not so linear." Several alumni said that this was their "favorite event of the year because they get to meet future colleagues."

A highlight of the evening was hearing Dean Begg talk about the importance of social work and the pride the CSSW community has in addressing the pressing needs of today.

This event was co-sponsored by the CSSW Alumni Association and the offices of Career & Leadership Management and Student Life.



Photo credit: Brandon Vallejo

PAST EVENTS

POLICY AND POLITICS: HONORING NJ LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHEILA J. OLIVER

CSSW celebrated Social Work Month, in part, by bringing together four CSSW alumni in the policy and political arena in honor of the life and legacy of the late Sheila Oliver, New Jersey's first African-American lieutenant governor.

Moderator **Charles Lewis, Jr. '02PhD**, was joined by panelists **Mathylde Frontus '15PhD**, **Emily Ball Jabbour '06MS**, and **Dr. Ashanti Jones '18MS**. Central to the discussion were Ms. Oliver's career and accomplishments as well as her commitment to using compassionate, community-centered social work principles in governance.

Students, faculty, and staff attended the event, which was recorded and can be found on our YouTube channel. The program was co-sponsored by the Sheila Y. Oliver Foundation.



PAST EVENTS

*FINAL LECTURE WITH PROFESSOR ADA CHAN YUK-SIM MUI: CELEBRATING A CAREER OF GLOBAL IMPACT TO SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY

In May, CSSW alumni **Li-Mei Chen '02PhD** and **Duy Nguyen '07PhD**, co-chaired an event honoring and celebrating **Professor Ada Chan Yuk-Sim Mui**, who was retiring after 35 years.

Professor Ada Mui's scholarship profoundly shaped the field of gerontology with a focus on the mental health, well-being, and service needs of older adults, particularly within immigrant and minority communities. Her research advanced understanding of aging across cultures, highlighting the intersections of health, family, and social support systems. As an educator, she has mentored generations of social workers, instilling compassion in work with older populations. Her legacy is reflected not only in her work, but in the countless students and professionals who carry forward her commitment to dignified, culturally responsive aging.

Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends joined in celebrating Professor Mui's remarkable work and accomplishments. An endowed legacy fund established by Professor Mui and her husband, the Ada and Peter Mui Social Work Fellowship, will support and empower social work students—including international students—as they pursue their professional journeys.

****Final Lecture** serves as a retirement tradition where a professor delivers a last, often reflective, public lecture before ending their tenure. It frequently acts as a formal farewell ceremony recognizing their career-long contributions to their field.*

