

## **Biographical Information – Competitive Fellowships/Prizes**

### **Paige E. Cook, Jr. Fellowship**

Throughout his 53 years, Paige E. Cook, Jr. brought spiritual enlightenment, courage, and strength to all he encountered. Paige Cook received his master's degree from Columbia University's School of Social Work in 1974.

At the time of his death in September 1993, Cook was director of the New York City Regional Service Center for the Mediplex Group Inc., among the nation's largest chemical dependency and rehabilitation systems. Prior to joining Mediplex, Mr. Cook served for 10 years as Director of the Personal Services Unit at District Council 37, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. He was also a former Board member and Chairperson of the Human Service Providers Advisory Committee (HSPAC) of the New York City Central Labor Council.

In 1993, Mayor David Dinkins acknowledged Paige E. Cook's lifelong commitment to the human service field, "and his visionary leadership...in social work practice." In 1998, Mr. Cook's accomplishments were recognized by the CUSSW Alumni Association Hall of Fame, where he was a pioneer inductee.

The Paige E. Cook Jr. Scholarship was established in his memory by his family, friends, and previous employers such as Mediplex in order to continue his efforts in helping the social work profession to develop a heightened awareness of socio-cultural issues as they relate to clinical practice, service delivery, and the world of work. The Scholarship is a partial tuition grant which is awarded on the basis of excellence, with preference to a student with clear interests in the area of Mr. Cook's work.

### **Ito En Scholarship**

ITO EN Ltd. is a multinational drinks company and the largest distributor of green tea in Japan. The ITO EN group includes subsidiaries in Japan, the United States, and Australia, and annual sales total more than \$4 billion. CSSW's partnership with ITO EN came about through the School's longstanding friendship with Mr. Yosuke Honjo, President and CEO of ITO EN North America. Mr. Honjo has supported CSSW students for many years through the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation, the mission of which is to serve as a bridge connecting Japan with the world. He serves in leadership roles at the Japan Society, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Nippon Club in New York, and the U.S.-Japanese Council.

### **Benjamin and Agnes Louard Fellowship**

Benjamin and Agnes Louard, both distinguished graduates of the School of Social Work, have been recognized by the profession and community organizations for their outstanding leadership on many occasions.

Professor Agnes Louard received her master's degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work in 1948. For 25 years she was a professor at the School, retiring in 1992. Dr. Louard has served Columbia School of Social Work's alumni in many capacities: as a member of the honorary committee on the School's centennial, as co-chair of her class's 50th reunion, and as a member of the Alumni Association Board's conference planning and international committees. She is a past president and current board member of the Peninsula Counseling

Center, vice-president of the Pleasant Avenue Day Care Center and a member of the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women and Women's City Club of New York. She is also a trustee of the Schomburg Corp. and of Union Chapel, Oak Bluffs, Mass. She currently resides in New York City.

Her husband, Benjamin Louard, received his master's degree from CUSSW in 1954, and was President of the school's alumni association from 1969 to 1971. An administrator with the WINS Program for the Nassau County Department of Social Services, Mr. Louard was president of the Five Towns Community Council and an early member of 100 Black Men of Nassau County.

The Benjamin and Agnes Louard Scholarship was established by Agnes in memory of her husband, who died in 1986. It helps qualified individuals cope with the financial challenges of graduate study and advances the Louards' lifetime dedication to fostering education and social work expertise, particularly within African-American communities.

### **Overbrook Fellowship for Advanced Study in Clinical Social Work Practice**

Kathryn Graham was the daughter of Robert Claverhouse Graham, she grew up in Stamford, Connecticut, where she attended the Ethel Walker School from 1962 to 1965 and later attended Skidmore College from 1965 to 1969. She had one brother, Robert Claverhouse Jr., an art dealer who specialized in American and Asian art.

Kathryn Graham's family has long been associated with Columbia University, beginning when Helen Goodhart Altschul, Ms. Graham's mother, was a trustee of Barnard. This association with Columbia was strengthened when Kathryn herself attended Columbia, this time attending Columbia University's School of Social Work in the Fall of 1971. Her time at Columbia inspired her to pursue a career in benefiting the public, and her philanthropy has been concerned most often in reaching the sick, disabled, and disenfranchised.

A chair of the Overbrook Foundation, an organization whose primary interest is in education and the homeless, Kathryn Graham's advocacy, and that of her brother, was critical in establishing the Overbrook Scholarship at CUSSW. The scholarship is a partial tuition awarded to an outstanding second-year student in clinical social work practice.

### **Laura Rivera and Sor Rosa Scholarship**

Victoria Rivera McKinley, the donor of this scholarship, was born in the Central Cordillera of Puerto Rico, the youngest of ten children in a low-income family. She is one of the only members of her family to have the benefit of a formal education. After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico, she moved to New York City, where she worked in human services. She matriculated to the Columbia School of Social Work on a full scholarship funded by the Johnson administration's federal antipoverty programs, and graduated in 1972. Her career in social services spanned 45 years, during which she assisted thousands of individuals and families seeking help with environmental, familial, and mental health issues. She is the author of a memoir, *In Search of the Luminous Heart*. She is also the mother of two daughters, whose achievements give her great pride.

Ms. Rivera endowed the Laura Rivera and Sor Rosa Scholarship in honor of two of her sisters whose sacrifices made her education possible. Her sister Laura left school in the third grade to take care of the family, and did not have the chance to formally develop her own "brilliant mind, vivid curiosity, and love of books and learning." Her sister Emérita also took on caretaking responsibilities for her siblings, and took the name Sor Rosa when she entered a convent and

devoted her life to serving the poor. Ms. Rivera hopes this scholarship will “honor their exemplary lives of courage and abnegation” by supporting social work students who are determined to make a difference for others, particularly in the fields of mental health and wellness.

### **Mae L. Wien Prize**

Mae Wien was born in 1909 to Herman Levy and Roselle Linker, both recent immigrants to America. The Levy's lived in Manhattan, where Mae attended Washington Irving High School, art school, and Columbia University. She would look fondly back at her time at Columbia, and would become a great philanthropist to the school.

In 1928, Mae met Lawrence A. Wien, whom she would go onto marry. The couple had two daughters: Enid and Isabel Wien. Lawrence was involved with numerous New York City organizations and, together with his wife, the Wiens were generous donors to Brandeis University, Lincoln Center, New York City Ballet, and especially Columbia University and Columbia Law School. Lawrence sat on the Lincoln Center Board for many years, was a great patron of the School of American Ballet, and he was also a Trustee of Columbia University from 1966 to 1972. In addition to their donations to educational institutions, the couple gave also due to their concerns about social justice. For example, the Lawrence A & Mae L. Wien House is a 14-story, 100-unit facility for low income and elderly and mobility impaired peoples. When Mrs. Wien died in 1986, her husband and family established the Mae L. Wien Memorial Prize in her memory. The Prize, which is in Family Planning, Counseling and Population Control, provides an annual award to one or more students who demonstrate outstanding competence in the field of family planning, counseling, or population control.