2021 Online MSW Graduates

Emma E. Andeway
Lauren Baeth *
Travan Bell
Breanne Benson
Hannah Bond §
Elizabeth Victoria Brown
Sara D. Butler Shoop *
Melissa Leann Ginther*
Justin Hamilton *
Lucy Hoffman *
Joel Ivarson

Stephanie Ashley Lecci *
Samantha Magpie
Addie Martinez
Monica McWilliams *
Morgan Sue Newman
Ashley G. Parker
Tiffany Schliemann *
Abby Schueller
Allen Taylor
Courtney Vestal
Erin Wolter

Summer 2021 PhD in Social Work
Elizabeth Byram, MSW

Dissertation title:
Quality of Life of Older Adults with Intellectual Disabilities: The Role of Social Networks and Social Support

Committee:
Mercedes Bern-Klug (chair), Miriam Landsman, May Guo, Megan Gilster, Sato Ashida
Welcome:
Sara Sanders, PhD
Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Professor and former Director
School of Social Work

Presentation of Director's Awards
Mercedes Bern-Klug, PhD
Professor and Director
School of Social Work

Recognition of BA Students
Carolyn Hartley, PhD
Associate Professor and BA Program Director

Recognition of MSW Students
Stephen D. Cummings, MSW, LISW
Clinical Associate Professor
MSW Program Director
Distance Education Administrator

Recognition of PhD Graduate Elizabeth Byram
Megan Gilster, PhD
Associate Professor and PhD Program Director

Video message

- END -
**Special Distinctions & Awards**

**Director's Award** - Honorary award for graduating students who demonstrate outstanding scholastic achievement, creativity, leadership and service. The director selects recipients from those nominated by faculty. Thanks to the bequest of our former Director Frank Glick and his wife, Mary Belle Glick, the School is able to offer a monetary scholarship in conjunction with the award.

Iowa City BA: Ruth Kahssai  
Iowa City MSW: Megan Wood  
Des Moines BA: Margaret Boelman  
Tom Wills  
Des Moines MSW: Sabrina Sartori Rocha Chouinard  
Kylie Spies  
Online MSW: Melissa Leann Ginther

**Phi Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society**: Honorary society of social work students who have earned a grade point average of 4.0 or above for graduate students and 3.44 for BA students. Students who have earned this honor and requested membership are noted in the program.

**Undergraduate Honors in Social Work**: Undergraduate students who have met the minimum GPA requirement and have completed an honors project. This year's undergraduate Honors students are **Paisley Meegan** and **Sarah Smith**.

**Former Faculty Scholarship Award**: This award may be given annually to two social work students. Scholarships are funded by donations to the School in memory of deceased faculty or in honor of retiring faculty recognizing their contributions to the School during their tenure. Criteria includes creative activities that advance the profession of Social Work or a demonstrated interest in international issues. Recipients graduating this year are **Emma Johanson** and **Caroline Wagner**.

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**2021 Iowa City BA Graduates**

- Talia Rivka Aloush (T)  
- Matt Bauman  
- Maddilyn Boche  
- Paige Borders  
- Gabriel Bullock ©  
- Christie Cellman  
- Mariana Jaramillo Chavez  
- Mya Elise Christopher  
- Evelyn Curran  
- Kristyn Eaves (UH)  
- Evelyn Espinoza-Leyva (T)  
- Jordan Tayler Fraley * (T)  
- Olivia Gaul  
- Nigel Gawa  
- Max Goldberg  
- Jess Graham © (T)  
- Taylor Grider (T)  
- Enisa Imsirovic  
- Jade Irish  
- Melissa Ivy  
- Katie James  
- Meghan Jones  
- Amiya Jones  
- Ruth Kahssai  
- Malaika Kigen  
- Emma Jean Kolpek (T)  
- Kaitlyn Rose Kuker  
- Maeve Levy (T)  
- Lucy Lilienthal  
- Zoe Lynch  
- Jordan Marshall ©  
- Dayanna Stephanie Martinez-Soto  
- Chloie Elizabeth Masten  
- Cierra McArtor  
- Paisley Meegan (UH)(DH)  
- Jordyn Nicole Mudge (T)  
- Danielle Omerman (UH)  
- Carlyn O’Hearn  
- Natalie Paulson (T)  
- Livy Pollett ©  
- Jessica Putnam * © (A)  
- Jiselle E. Ramos ©  
- Madison Mae Roe  
- Lanie Smith  
- Sarah Smith (T) (DH)  
- Toni Stark  
- Ann Elizabeth Stubing  
- Autumn Tallman  
- Felicity Watson  
- Jacob Wenck

(T) Certificate in Resilience and Trauma-Informed Perspectives  
© Certificate in Critical Cultural Competence  
(UH) University Honors  
* Phi Alpha Honor Society  
(DH) Departmental Honors  
(A) Certificate in Aging and Longevity Studies
The Graduate Diversity Scholarship is an initiative through the University of Iowa Graduate College to aid in building and sustaining an inclusive graduate community at the University of Iowa, which is essential to enhancing the quality of the intellectual environment for all of our students and faculty. Students who are underrepresented in their field of study apply and are reviewed for previous academic success and potential contributions. Selected recipients receive tuition scholarships for up to two semesters. Students who have earned this honor are noted in the program.

The School of Social Work is honored by several alumni and friends who have made donations to the School to assist students financially and give faculty an opportunity to acknowledge these students’ accomplishments.

Janice Baumberback Scholarship Award: Janice Baumberback earned her MSW degree in 1971 from the School of Social Work and was a social worker for UI Psychiatric Hospital from 1971 until her retirement in 1986. This award is given to a second-year graduate student in the School of Social Work studying family counseling or mental health. Graduating this year is the 2020 recipient Laura Cain-Schreiner.

Cathy Houlihan Scholarship: Cathy Houlihan, a 1978 BA Social Work graduate, established this fund to support first-generation college students in the undergraduate social work program. The 2020 recipients who are graduating this year are Cierra McArtor and Kaylee Parris.
Special Distinctions & Awards

**Jean H. Winter and Robin Odem Winter Award:** Robin Winter Odem established this scholarship fund in memory of her mother, Jean H. Winter, to support an undergraduate social work student who is a resident of Iowa. The award is made in the student’s junior year and received in the fall of their senior year, to recognize academic excellence and aptitude for and commitment to the profession, as demonstrated in the student’s volunteer and/or work histories. Graduating this year is recipient **Taylor Grider**.

**Megan Sloss Memorial Scholarship:** Megan Sloss was a second-year MSW student at the University of Iowa when she died suddenly on September 18th, 2016. Megan is remembered for her kindness to all individuals, her passion for working with children and those affected by mental illness, and for her strong faith. Megan’s family was one of the most important things to her, and she was always using anecdotes from her small-town community to provide insight into different social work topics. To honor Megan, a scholarship has been created in her name, to pass on her legacy to aspiring social workers. Graduating this year is the 2020 recipient **Cindy Huerta**.

**Lola Moeller Zook & Leslie G. Moeller Community Service Award:** This fund provides annual scholarship support for a graduate student in Social Work who is studying, is active in, or intends to pursue employment in the field of community service. Preference is given to a student actively involved in community service. Graduating this year is recipient **Amber Alaniz**.

**Stephen and Lynnette Anfinson Scholarship:** Stephen Anfinson established a scholarship fund in memory of his wife, Lynette. This scholarship is to support an undergraduate social work student who exemplifies academic success, aptitude for and commitment to the profession as demonstrated in volunteer or work histories, and Iowa residency. Graduating this year is the 2020 recipient **Malaika Kigen**.

**John Craft Excellence in Research Award:** This award honors the memory of John Craft, former Professor of Research at the School of Social Work. Professor Craft was the author of a book on social work research methods and statistics that is used internationally, and he was published widely in the area of child welfare and protective services. John's widow, Professor Martha Craft-Rosenberg, maintains the award fund, which also receives donations from alumni. 2020 recipient **Amber Alaniz** graduates this year.

**Christine Coombs Zoulias Fellowship for Social Work Undergraduate Students in Field Placement:** Christine Coombs Zoulias, a 1974 BA graduate of the School of Social Work, established the fellowship to support undergraduate social work students in their field placements. Graduating this year are recipients **Kairee Bishop, Mariana Jaramillo Chavez, Jess Graham, Taylor Grider, Melissa Ivy, Ruth Kahssai, Malaika Kigen, Cierra McArtor**, and **Cristina Olson**.

**Dianne Orton-Howard & Stephen Grant Orton Scholarship Fund:** Stephen Grant Orton graduated from the University of Iowa in 1970 with a BA in Science Education. He had extreme allergies and asthma and died from an allergic reaction in 1973. His sister Dianne established this award in his memory. It is given to a second-year MSW student who shows interest in medical social work. Graduating this year is 2020 recipient **Rachel Slezak**.