



# Cardinal Connections

ISSUE 2 | MARCH 2021

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## NEXT MONTH

In April, we recognize and honor several important issues including Child Abuse Awareness, Autism Awareness, Fair Housing and Sexual Assault Awareness.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

3/12 Midterms

3/15 Summer term registration opens

3/23 Fall term registration opens

4/2 Good Friday (school closed)

4/4 Easter Sunday

4/10 Founders Day

Catholic University of America  
National Catholic School of  
Social Service

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## From the Dean's Desk

March is [Social Work Month](#), a time to celebrate our profession of social work! The theme for Social Work Month 2021 is:



I am excited about this theme as it reflects the essential role social workers play as our nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, economic uncertainty, and racial unrest. Social workers are needed now more than ever! Each day more than 700,000 social workers nationwide make life better for others. I am grateful that all of you have chosen our beloved profession. Many of you have been essential during this pandemic as you work in your field placements at schools, hospitals, mental health centers, private practices, non-profits, community organizations and local, state and federal governments, helping to make our society a better and more equitable place

for all! To learn more about Social Work Month and its social media toolkit, please visit the website [here](#).

NCSSS is excited to host and be part of several events in March to celebrate Social Work Month! These events include:

**Friday, March 5th at 5-7 PM Social Workers: Essential Advocates for Social Change**  
Join featured speaker [Dr. Charles Lewis, Jr.](#) of the [Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy \(CRISP\)](#) for a special event focused on identifying social action steps that our school can commit to as advocates for social change.

**Wednesday, March 10th & Thursday, March 11th CRISP Social Work Day on the Hill & Student Advocacy Day (virtual events)**  
NCSSS is a sponsor and faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to participate. MSW student Stacey Baxter is also a member of the 2021 CRISP Student Advocacy

Day Leadership Team!

**Friday, March 26 at 5pm Advancement Alumni Event**  
Join us for a event with guest speaker Howard University School of Social Work Dean [Sandra Crewe](#), M.S.W. 1975.

I hope you will join your fellow students, faculty and staff at these events and celebrate the many positive contributions social workers make to our individuals, families, communities and organizations. It is also Women's History Month so we have many women to celebrate especially the founders of our profession like Jane Adams and Mary Richmond. I could not be more proud to call myself a social worker and look forward to celebrating and showcasing all the essential work each of you are doing as social work students and future social workers!

Happy Social Work Month,

Dean Regan



## Celebrating Women in Social Work

This March, we celebrate and honor the trailblazing women who contributed to the field of social work as well as those currently in the field paving new ways to social justice and equity. Women have played an integral role in developing the social work profession throughout history. Pioneers including Ida B. Wells and Jane Addams's efforts

in community building and racial justice paved the way for their successors Dorothy Height, Frances Perkins and Mary Church Terrell.

The [National Council of Catholic Women](#) was founded in 1920 with the intention of organizing around the new found civic duties in result of the Suffrage Movement of 1920. One of the

first initiatives of the NCCW was a program to aid Catholic immigrants with their relocation in the United States. A few years later, the NCCW created and funded the National Catholic School of Social Service, which became affiliated with CUA in 1923. As a result of this landmark decision, some of the very first students at CUA were women social work students!

*From the desk of the...***Masters Students Association (MSA)**

The MSA will be holding elections for the upcoming academic year this April! Please look out for an email with more information or [email us](#) if you are interested in running for a position.

Congratulations to MSW student Sakira Coleman and Adjunct Professor Ashley McSwain for being honored in the Top 25 [2021 Black Justice Fellowship Finalists!](#)

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# Program Highlights & Announcements

**MSW PROGRAM**

Are you planning to graduate in May? Please make sure your information is correct in Cardinal Students and you have applied for graduation! The deadline is March 5. More information about Commencement can be found [here](#). If you need a licensure letter for the LGSW exam, please reach out to Dr. Sabatino with your mailing address.

[University Research Day](#) (URD) is April 15! [Email](#) for more information.

Registration for both summer and fall semester will open March 15. Remember to make an appointment with your advisor to discuss your options.

Dr. Eileen Dombo and Dr. Randall O'Toole will be providing a training on "Use of Supervision in Social Work Practice" on March 12 at 9:30am ET. All MSW students are welcomed and encouraged to attend. More information and a Zoom link will be shared soon via email.

Are you an advanced year student preparing to take the

[ASWB Licensing Exam? Join a study group!](#) Contact [Kim Sims](#) for more information.

**MSW ONLINE PROGRAM**

For the first time this summer session, the online program will be offering sections of Dr. Eileen Dombo's SSS 655 Social Work Responses to Trauma: Creating Trauma Informed Programs and Services. More info will be shared soon prior to summer session registration.

The Office of Online Field Education will offer Open Drop-In Field Office Hours on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 12:00pm-1:00pm EST and 7:00pm-7:30pm EST via Zoom. This is informal and feel free to drop-in anytime during the time period to ask a question, etc. For personal questions, we will put you in a break out room and/or schedule a time to discuss in detail with you (if necessary). The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10! [[Zoom link](#)]

**BSW PROGRAM**

We are pleased to announce that the Social Work club will be picking back up this semester! The

[Social Work Organization at CUA'S \(SWOC\)](#) mission is to grow as a community, sharing our talents and ideas with the world. Our goal is to provide information on internships and jobs, host guest speakers, trainings and events, all join in service, create a comfortable environment to talk and discuss, and be able to go out into the city and take advantage of all of its opportunities. This can be whatever you want it to be. It is certainly not a commitment, feel free to pop in whenever you please, or contact one of our board members with any questions or comments. Sign up to on [The Nest](#) to get more information, and follow our Instagram [@CUA\\_SWOC](#) for updates! Contact SWOC leadership for more information: [Elizabeth Darragjati](#)—President; [Semion Masuba](#)—Vice President; [Natalie Carcamo](#)—Secretary/Treasurer

**Chats with...**

Dean Regan

Occur every first Wednesday of the month at 12pm ET & 6pm ET. [[Zoom link](#)]

## In the Field

Each month we explore field from the perspective of a current student

Q Garcia is a Senior in the BSW program and in field at the Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders (SMYAL) housing program. Q and their team provide housing resources and support to LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness in the DC area "Everyday looks different...my main priority is checking in with my clients to make

sure they are being connected to services and making progress on their goals. I also run a weekly staff support group," Q says. They also are involved in housing advocacy work at the macro level, working towards more affirming policies for their clients. Q's supervisor has also become an integral part of their experience at SMYAL, acting as a positive mentor. As Q moves on this year to

an advanced-standing program at Smith College, they reflect on their experiences in field. When asked what advice they have for others in field, Q takes a proactive approach. "Advocate for yourself. Set up meetings to learn more, ask for what you need and become involved in all aspects of the agency to make the most of your field placement."