

SoJust

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The magazine of the Saint Louis University College for Public Health and Social Justice



Changing the
Practice Landscape

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How Social Workers Can Improve
Social Security

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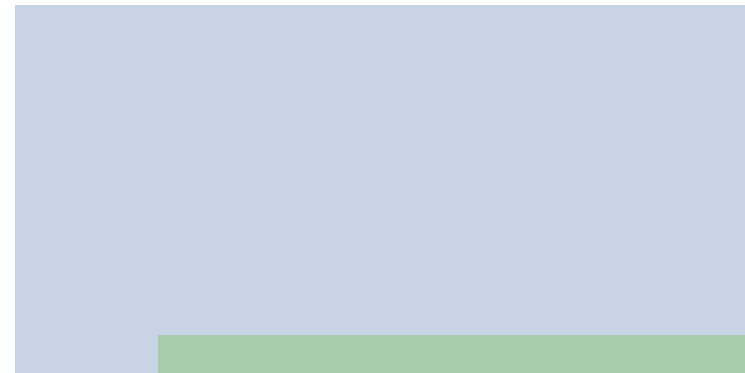
A New Age of Public Health
and Clinical Care

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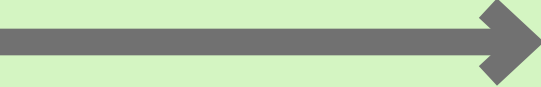
Stephanie McClure, Ph.D.

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I define social justice as the ability for all children to participate in daily life- in their families, their communities and in their schools. I study children with disabilities who have been abused or neglected. In my studies, I try to find the right balance between viewing disability as a physiological problem, which requires rehabilitation to improve a deficiency, and viewing it as a social construct, which requires rehabilitation of a child's environment to remove barriers that hinder full participation. Of course, it takes both types of rehabilitation to provide the best care. But, without social justice, we may end up only focusing on the physiological problems and



Your turn!

What does social justice mean to you? Use the hashtag #SoJust and let us hear from you on your favorite social media platform. ♥





In addition, SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital is in the midst of a health needs assessment – a public health tool used to identify unmet health needs in a community. This process brings community stakeholders together to conduct epidemiological, qualitative and comparative research to describe problems, identify inequities in access to services and determine priorities for the most effective use of resources. For the next couple of years, the three areas of concentration chosen by SLU and SSM Health are behavioral health and substance abuse, access to care for patients with kidney disease and violence prevention.

Dr. Nancy Weaver in the College for Public Health and Social Justice was invited to join the violence prevention committee due to her expertise in population-based programs that identify violence risk factors. *See sidebar.*

Becker said she anticipates the integrated care initiatives and community outreach efforts will mean more opportunities for public health and social work students to find practicums and internships at SLU.

In the end, Becker said advancing social justice is the undercurrent of all initiatives underway on the medical center campus.

“Our commitment to social justice goes beyond our shared mission of caring for the underserved,” said Becker. “Social justice is making sure the resources we have are being used to the greatest extent possible and are providing the most benefit possible. That relates to everything – from our workforce development program, to new recycling measures we’ll be undertaking in the new facilities, to our community outreach efforts.

“It’s not about reengineering the system as much as it is about knowing that we have an obligation to take care of one another. In the end, we all do better when each of us does better.”

When victims of violence arrive in an emergency room, the standard approach to care is to treat the medical injuries and discharge the patient.

“We send them back into a situation where they might retaliate and exacerbate the violence, or they may be victimized again,” said Dr. Nancy Weaver, Associate Professor of Behavioral Science and Health Education.

The College for Public Health and Social Justice has awarded Weaver a grant to explore ways of changing this trajectory. She’ll collaborate with faculty from the College’s social work and criminal justice programs and the SLU School of Medicine. As part of the research project, they’ll identify the basic needs of victims of violence and examine how the community can translate evidence-based tools for use in St. Louis.

“We’re talking about food, shelter, employment,” Weaver said. “If you can help someone meet their basic needs, our efforts aimed at reducing violence have a great hanging thread.”

Students and faculty report from far-flung destinations.



M.P.H. student internship
Lwala Community Alliance, Kenya
"Here Eunice and Alice are teaching me the importance of planting vegetables in raised beds to better retain water moisture in the soils."

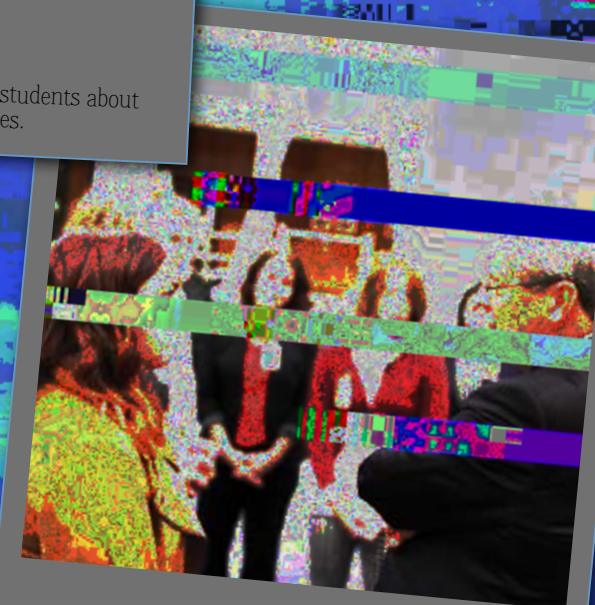
M.P.H. student internship
Cape Town, South Africa, Heart of Cape Town Museum
"I didn't realize the first successful heart transplant in the world was done by Christian Bernard in South Africa!"



M.P.H. student internship
Kathmandu, Nepal
Internship goals: to teach middle school students about sanitation, hygiene and infectious diseases.



M.P.H. student internship
Cochabamba, Bolivia
Goals: To improve Spanish, to practically apply things learned in M.P.H. classes, to learn from health professionals. "Everyone thought that I was a doctor!"



Social work summer immersion course
Dublin, Ireland
Belpulsi (left) speaks with U.S Ambassador and SLU alum Kevin O'Malley at the Embassy.

Developing leaders in and out of the classroom

Our students develop the skills and tools needed to confront the greatest challenges to the health of individuals and the communities they live in.

The College for Public Health and Social Justice at Saint Louis University is the only academic unit of its kind among the nearly 250 Catholic institutions of higher education in the United States. With a focus on finding innovative and collaborative solutions for complex global health problems, the college offers diverse degree programs united by our commitment to social justice. Our Jesuit identity is a foundation which inspires the moral and ethical principles of our social justice mission: working with and in communities to improve health and well-being, with a focus on health equity for the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

GLOBALY-RECOGNIZED LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

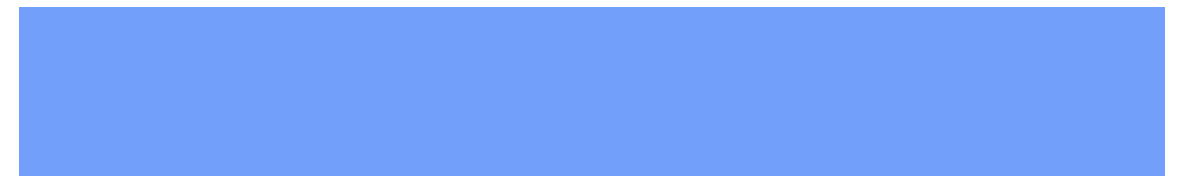
- >> Bachelor of Science in Health Management
- >> Master of Health Administration
- >> Master of Public Health in Health Management and Policy
- >> Executive Master of Health Administration

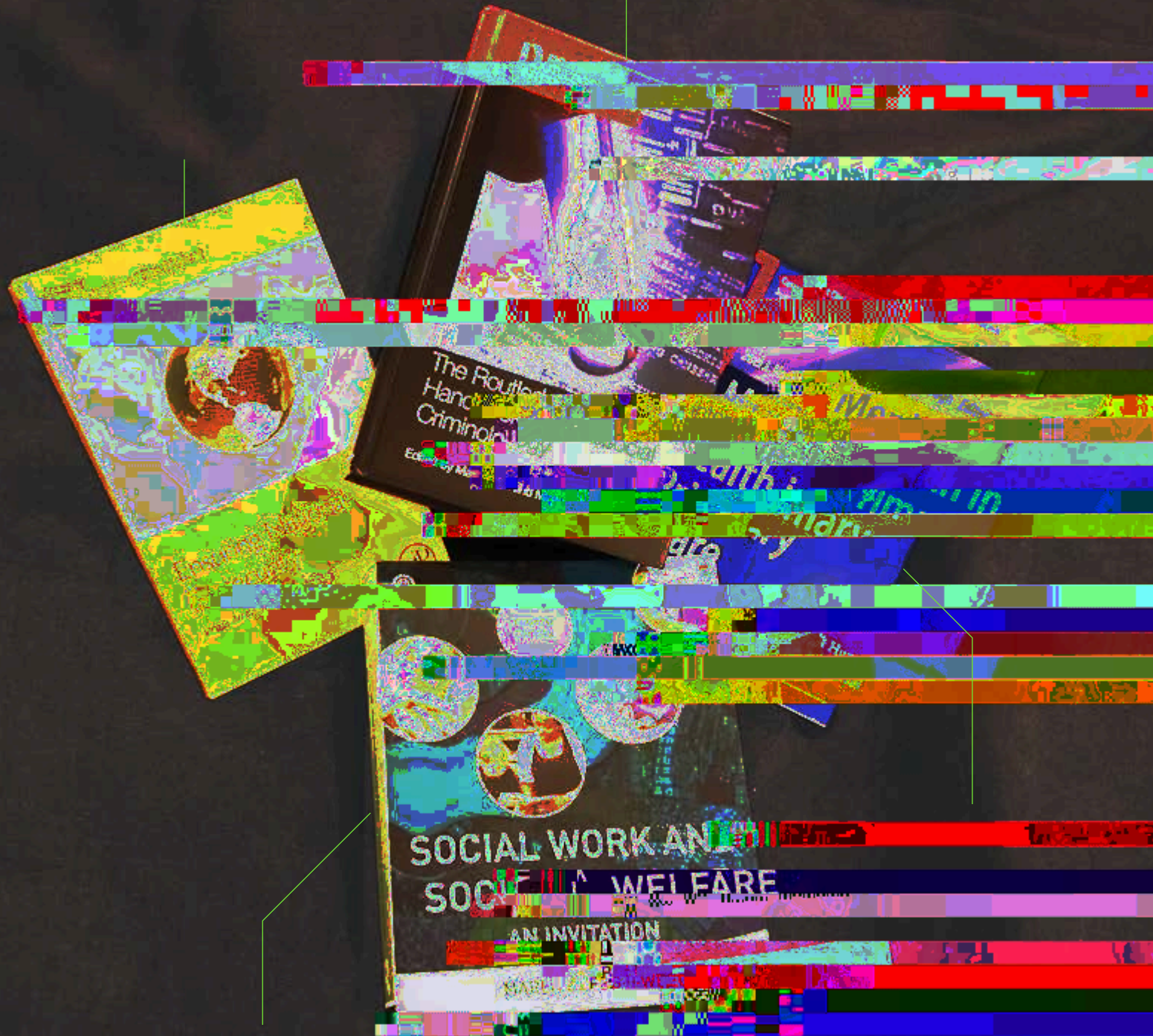
SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION BUILT ON RESEARCH AND GROUNDED IN PRACTICE

- >> Bachelor of Science in Social Work
- >> Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- >> Master of Social Work
- >> Ph.D. in Social Work
- >> Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis
- >> Master of Science in Criminology and Professional Practice

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS BUILT ON COLLABORATION AND SERVICE

- >> Bachelor of Science in Public Health
- >> Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management
- >> Bachelor of Science in Biostatistics
- >> Master of Public Health
 - BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AND HEALTH EDUCATION
 - BIOSECURITY AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
 - BIostatISTICS
 - ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
 - EPIDEMIOLOGY
 - GLOBAL HEALTH
 - HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND POLICY
 - MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
 - PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE
- >> Ph.D. in Public Health Studies





Douglas A. Ries (A&S '69, GRAD '72)

Looking back on a more than 40-year career leading faith-based health care organizations—including 25 years as president of Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital—Doug Ries has made an imprint on health care in St. Louis and beyond.

Yet, with a physician father trained at Saint Louis University School of Medicine and adult children working in hospital administration and physical therapy, Ries' career is but one chapter in his family's health care story. "It just seems to run in our family," says Ries.

That's why the Ries family's gift to the College for Public Health and Social Justice felt like a natural next step. Their endowed scholarship will allow students to experience the Jesuit education which has made such an impact on the Ries family.

"Education really forms the basis of your entire life, and if you're blessed with health, those two things together make one's ability to work and be

