

INNOVATING FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

LEADING THE FUTURE



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION



Now more than ever, Chicago, our nation, and the world need the professional leadership and acumen that our faculty, students, and alumni provide.

There is no other school in the world like ours. There's an intellectual gravitas and rigor here to understanding, thinking about, and generating solutions to social problems that is unlike anywhere else.

My colleagues and I leverage research for real impact. We come from every social science discipline to focus on the range of social problems: crime, poverty and inequality, substance abuse, violence, homelessness. Scholars

at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration (SSA) are sought after by policymakers and community leaders around the world because we focus on transforming knowledge into action, so that individuals and communities can experience real improvements.

We use science to find scalable solutions. We're not just looking at social issues on the macro or the micro scale—we are doing both, and everything in between. We test models that



SSA HAS BEEN INNOVATING FOR OVER A CENTURY.

The School of Social Service Administration was among the first schools of social work in the United States and a **pioneer in using scientific research** to identify and address the root causes of social inequity.

SSA set out the course of doctoral social work education, offering **the first PhD in social work in the United States**, possibly the world.

allow organizations to work more effectively for their communities. We develop strategies that transform impoverished neighborhoods into healthy ones. We provide students unique opportunities to learn while embedded throughout Chicago, where they staff local social service organizations and translate the theory they've learned in SSA classrooms to real, on-the-ground solutions.

We work in close partnership with community residents and organizations. We are pragmatic—because of our long-term partnerships and broad understanding of deep-rooted urban issues, our work changes practice and policy, making things work better for all.

We know prevention is key. For example, we help victims of gun violence, and then we go further: we find ways to prevent people from picking up a gun in the first place. We prioritize upstream interventions that save both lives and money while strengthening the social fabric.

By shaping the future of social work, we're transforming society. SSA is developing tomorrow's intellectual and professional leaders. These individuals will lead social service organizations and government institutions in Chicago and around the world.

Neil Guterman
Dean, School of Social Service Administration
The Mose and Sylvia Firestone Professor



Edith Abbott, PhD 1905, became the inaugural Dean of the School of Social Service Administration and **first female dean of any graduate school** in the United States.

Social Service Review, founded at SSA, is the **most highly regarded journal in the field**. It is edited by SSA faculty and published by the University of Chicago Press.

SSA began the **first violence prevention program of study** at a graduate school of social work in the United States, the Beatrice Cummings Mayer Violence Prevention Program.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES FROM THE GROUND UP

We confront today's most difficult social problems—poverty, violence, mass incarceration, immigration—by taking a holistic view.

We work at the macro level, considering existing systems and urban contexts, and the micro level, understanding how those systems affect individuals and families. With faculty from more than 10 disciplines, from anthropology and political science to the Chicago schools of economics and sociology, we approach social ills from various levels, gaining a clearer picture of how inequities in our society arise and are perpetuated.

We investigate how a weak economy can precipitate unemployment—which not only

causes health care inequalities, but is also an effect of them—and how such hardship contributes to other social issues like family dissolution, crime and violence, and substance abuse.

Working directly with disadvantaged populations, our community-engaged researchers investigate and inform social programs to ensure their efficacy as part of a robust social safety net that both keeps families out of poverty and addresses root causes. We ask informed questions that help us find the actionable answers people need most—interventions that are ready to be implemented and sustained, then scaled for broad impact.



Deborah Gorman-Smith, the Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor and Deputy Dean for Research and Faculty Development

Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention Reduces Homicide Rate and Draws National Support

For two decades, Professor Deborah Gorman-Smith has demonstrated the benefits of working with at-risk children and their families before they become ensnared in the grip of gangs and violence. Gorman-Smith is the principal investigator and director of SSA's Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention. **The center works to stem the underlying causes of urban youth violence through evidence-based, collaborative interventions** that focus on families and communities, linking them with schools, law enforcement officials, social service agencies, and policymakers.

The Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention is one of three national Academic Centers of Excellence funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It has earned prestigious fellowships from the William T. Grant Foundation and procured millions of dollars in grants from the National Institute for Justice, National Institute for Drug Abuse, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, Chicago Community Trust, and YMCA.

WE'RE LEADING SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENTS WORLDWIDE

Our faculty members are sought after by policymakers and community leaders because of their understanding of deep-rooted social issues. Our research and impact includes:

Influenced policies that address health disparities and disability issues, contributing to the **Affordable Care Act**

Paved the way for federal policy that **extends foster care services** until age 21 (see below)

Helped pass legislation in Illinois that works to **prevent HIV/AIDS** in at-risk communities

Demonstrated how social inequities perpetuate **corrupt policing** in Latin America and examined police accountability in Chicago

Designed and evaluated workplace interventions aimed at **decreasing employment instability** (see below)



Professor Mark Courtney's research on the difficulties for youth who age out of the foster care system influenced federal policy: the 1999 John

H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act and the 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. Both fund states to extend foster care from ages 18 to 21.



Professors Susan Lambert and Julia Henly have started the Employment Instability, Family Well-being, and Social Policy Network (EINet), which unites

scholars and professionals to understand the causes and consequences of employment instability. Lambert is advising the President's Domestic Policy Council, as well as the Schedules That Work Act. She also is partnering with Gap Inc., which employs more than 150,000 people, on a project to stabilize worker schedules.

WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH CHICAGOANS FOR OVER A CENTURY

“We’re living in a tale of two cities, a tale of two countries. The gravity of continued disparities weighs us down. The ones fighting to lift us up are social workers. SSA students will be changing lives, organizing movements, and fighting for fair and just policies at the local level and in Congress.”

Evette Cardona, AM’98
SSA Instructor
Vice President of Programs,
Polk Bros. Foundation

**Pamela
Rodriguez,
AM’82**



President and CEO of Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, Inc., an organization dedicated to treating individuals who are ensnared in the criminal justice system and have a history of substance abuse

**Cathy
Krieger,
AM’79, MBA’91**



President and CEO of Children’s Place Association, Krieger has developed programming that serves distressed Chicago children and their families in four key areas: health, education, family stability, and financial stability.

**Ricardo
Estrada,
AM’93**



President and CEO, Metropolitan Family Services, which serves more than 68,000 families and individuals throughout the Chicago region each year

**Marshaun
Bacon,
AM’09**



Senior Curriculum Specialist at Becoming A Man, a violence prevention program that supports young men of color and has led to a 44 percent decrease in violent crime arrests among participants

**Evelyn
Diaz,
AM’98**



President, Heartland Alliance, which is one of the world’s leading anti-poverty organizations, serving more than 400,000 people annually in communities in the United States and abroad, who are homeless, living in poverty, or seeking safety

We develop our breakthrough methods in Chicago, where the obstacles and opportunities of an evolving city have enabled us to innovate and test solutions in the field since SSA’s 1908 founding. At SSA, we empower individuals, families, and communities to live their best lives.

Together with Chicago community members, our valued partners, we see our efforts pay off by improving lives here and in other urban environments, making people safer, healthier, and more successful in their missions.

Our commitment to improving our home has never wavered. SSA faculty, students, and alumni are researchers, caseworkers, policymakers, activists, visionaries, leaders, and lifelong learners from diverse backgrounds and disciplines embedded in Chicago's communities. SSA's unparalleled approach identifies problems and shapes effective solutions, strengthening communities across Chicago—and the world.

STUDENT IMPACT

Each year in mentored field work,
SSA students provide

250,000

HOURS

of critical, high-level service to
our most vulnerable citizens through

600

**PARTNERING CHICAGO ORGANIZATIONS,
including**

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Public Schools
Heartland Alliance
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Marjorie Kovler Center for the Treatment of Survivors of Torture
Mercy Home for Boys and Girls
The Ounce of Prevention Fund
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

Eddie
Bocanegra,
AM'15



Co-executive Director of Youth Safety and Violence Prevention of the YMCA of Metro Chicago, Bocanegra has worked on violence prevention programming with such programs as Urban Warriors, a peer support group that brings together combat veterans and at-risk youth who have experienced trauma, and CeaseFire Illinois, an organization that has achieved an average 42 percent decrease in shootings and killings, and is funded by the MacArthur Foundation, McCormick Foundation, the City of Chicago, and many others.

Rachel
Durchslag,
AM'05



Founder, Chicago
Alliance Against
Sexual Exploitation

Robyn
Golden,
AM'81



Director of Health
and Aging, Rush
University Medical
Center College of
Nursing

Michael
Rodriguez,
AM'07



Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Cook County Government, Rodriguez oversees Cook County's Veterans Affairs, Adoption and Child Custody, and Animal Control Departments.

Jacqueline
Reed,
AM'89



Founding CEO of the Westside Health Authority, Reed launched a grassroots movement that now offers health care, job training, housing assistance, and more to her own neighborhood of Austin on Chicago's West Side.



IMPROVING THE WORLD WITH OUR CHICAGO APPROACH

More than a century ago, SSA pioneered an approach that harnesses the tools of social science to discover and address the root causes of inequities.

SSA scholars, students, and alumni continue to push the field forward every day, as both a profession and an academic discipline, with our distinctive,

interdisciplinary Chicago school of social work. Our historic dominance in the field advances innovation. We convene leaders and influencers to shape programs and policies that make an impact at the civic, state, federal, and international levels.

We combine rigorous scientific research with long-term local partnerships to create sustainable, scalable improvements.

*“SSA IS CREATING THE WORLD YOU WANT
YOUR CHILDREN TO LIVE IN.”*

Alison Weston, AM'08
President, SSA Alumni Board of Directors
Performance Improvement Consultant,
Rush University Medical Center



Major Gift Kickstarts China's Social Work Research and Education Infrastructure

To help address the needs of more than one billion citizens, China wants to educate and professionally train almost 1.45 million new social workers by 2020. A new \$3 million gift by SSA alumna Anna Pao Sohmen, EX'68, and philanthropists Sue Peng and Xiaotian Zhang will help make this goal a reality. Sohmen (pictured at left in red) has recognized SSA's leadership in social work education and training by jumpstarting this bold vision for China's future with **the largest gift SSA has ever received from a living alum**. The gift creates an endowment building on years of SSA exchanges in the region.

"SSA can be a leader in advancing social work in China." —Anna Pao Sohmen, EX'68

Partnering with Peking University and Hong Kong Polytechnic University, SSA has launched a new collaborative exchange program that will promote the development of a rigorous social work profession and infrastructure, and tackle the most challenging social issues in China.

Trained Social Workers in Mainland China*

2012 200,000	2015 500,000	2020 GOAL 1.45 MILLION
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**Reported by Xinhua, the official government news agency of the People's Republic of China*

TOMORROW'S BEST IDEAS ARE BORN HERE

SSA helped the University of Chicago earn its reputation for academic rigor and cross-disciplinary research. Many of UChicago's most innovative schools and institutes grew from or have been significantly influenced by research, teaching, and fieldwork anchored at SSA, including:

Chapin Hall

Crime Lab

Harris Public Policy

Mansueto Institute for
Urban Innovation

Urban Education Institute

WE'RE ENSURING EXCELLENCE FOR GENERATIONS

SSA curricula equip students with a powerful combination of clinical acuity and lifelong critical thinking skills. Many of our alumni perpetuate this distinct education as faculty and deans at other schools of social work.



**H. Luke Schaefer, AM'05,
PhD'08**

Associate Professor
of Social Work and
Associate Professor of
Public Policy, University
of Michigan

Schaefer is the co-
author of the acclaimed
2015 book *\$2.00 a
Day: Living on Almost
Nothing in America*.



Edwina Uehara, PhD'87
Professor and inaugural
holder of the Ballmer
Endowed Deanship in
Social Work, University
of Washington School
of Social Work

Uehara focuses on the
effects of violence both
in urban environments
and on immigrants who
experienced violence in
Southeast Asia.



Desmond Patton, PhD'12
Assistant Professor of
Social Work, Columbia
School of Social Work
Patton has developed
algorithms to detect
'internet bashing' and
analyzes data to
examine how street
life moves online.



MAKING
SOCIETY WORK
EQUITABLY, EFFICIENTLY,
EFFECTIVELY



SUPPORT
WITH
IMPACT

2,500 ALUMNI since 2000
benefiting from top
field education training

Since 2000, **Mary Winton Green, AM'49**, has given \$2.7 million in gifts that established a named professorship in clinical social work benefiting at-risk children, an endowed student scholarship, and the Excellence in Field Education Endowment to improve student learning and social work development in field practice.

3,750,000 HOURS of field
education since
2000

Since 2011, **Katharine B. Mann, AM'69, PhD'99**, led the Excellence in Field Education Campaign and made a major gift raising \$800,000 benefiting improved training of new social workers in Chicago.



Social work is for people with perseverance and depth of character. It's for people who refuse to accept the status quo, people who have both big hearts and thick skin, intelligence and experience.

People at SSA are change agents.

We are dedicated to eliminating the human and economic costs of disparities and injustice. We visibly transform communities—sometimes our own neighborhoods—by providing invaluable direct services and by applying empirical evidence to our collaborations with stakeholders and policymakers. As a result, we influence monumental policy changes that once seemed impossible, strengthening society for the long term.

We are making an impact today while developing knowledge for tomorrow. SSA is a magnet for service-minded future leaders. Major gifts to SSA help

prepare students to lead based on experience and critical thinking to become leaders who find equitable, efficient, and effective solutions to societal ills.

It takes courage to envision a better future. It also takes proven expertise, powerful partnerships, and critical support from other visionaries who stand with us in our mission.

When you support SSA, your gift makes an immediate impact and has staying power. Benefactors to SSA support informed strategies for eliminating inequities throughout our region, nation, and world. When you invest in SSA, you improve opportunities and capabilities, and develop new professional talent and leadership for social services.

Make an impact today
ssa.uchicago.edu/impact

1 A Match Education tutor works with a student at Edwin G. Foreman High School in Chicago. **2** SSA students work with field instructor Barbara Passman, AM'69, and a patient at the University of Chicago Medicine. **3** Jacob Dancer, AB'89, AM'04, and Robyn Offenbach, AM'11, review client notes at UCAN. **4** A researcher works with a child in Professor Deborah Gorman-Smith's SPARK program at Chicago's Humboldt Park YMCA. **5** Yuqi (Ruowei) Zheng, AM'16, translates a presentation at the Chinese American Service League for visiting Chinese professors. **6** Dean Neil Guterman teaches a class on violence prevention.

2 CRIME LAB locations in Chicago and New York City

Since 2001, **the McCormick Foundation** has provided \$5 million in grants for 61 graduate student fellowships in urban leadership and a named professorship. The professorship enabled SSA to recruit Jens Ludwig as the McCormick Foundation Professor and establish the UChicago Crime Lab.

4 NIELSEN FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS in the Class of 2016

Life Trustee Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr., established SSA's largest endowed fellowship fund honoring his wife, Patricia McKnew Nielsen, with gifts totaling \$1.3 million. The fellowship annually supports multiple students who will become social workers helping minority teen girls.

The University of Chicago
School of Social Service Administration
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ssa.uchicago.edu

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