It’s difficult to imagine a more unlikely college graduate than Steve Michel. Michel, a member of the CSU football team, graduated in May 2015 with his degree in social work. He had another year of eligibility so he decided to pursue his MSW.

Michel is one of eight kids raised in a single-parent home – and that parent could not read or write English. Michel could barely read himself going into high school, and his freshman grade point average was 1.8. And he’s not just the first in his family to attend college – he’s likely the first person in his Orlando, Fla., neighborhood to do so.

“If someone had told me eight years ago that I would graduate from college I would have thought they were crazy,” said Michel. “That thought never even crossed my mind growing up.”

For much of his youth, it appeared Michel was going to be just another statistic from a poor neighborhood. He was selling drugs, smoking pot, and getting away with whatever he could.

“I probably should be in prison – or dead,” he said. “I just thank God I was able to get out of that before it was too late.”

A talent for football and some caring mentors at Jones High School helped Michel – call him SteveO, by the way – create an opportunity to change his life by attending CSU on a football scholarship. As a result, he graduated with a degree in social work – and he earned his diploma in four years.

Malcolm Scott, assistant professor in CSU’s School of Social Work and faculty adviser to student-athletes in the program, said college has been anything but easy for Michel. The early papers he wrote for classes needed a great deal of work, and he lacked study skills.

“Steve is just as tenacious with his academics as he is on the football field.”

– Malcolm Scott

“The great thing about Steve is he was willing to be mentored, and he’s just as tenacious with his academics as he is on the football field,” Scott said. “To see the growth he’s made, I’m absolutely thrilled. I’m very, very proud of him.”

Michel’s CSU football career ended after last fall’s season, but he plans to continue on as a student and earn his graduate degree.

“The Department of Athletics at CSU was incredible in the way they supported Steve so that he could both play football and attend his classes to earn his MSW,” said Audrey Shillington, director of the School of Social Work.

Michel hopes to spend his life as an inspiration to others.

“I want to be a role model – someone kids can look up to,” said Michel. “I want to be able to tell my story so I can help other kids do what I’ve done.”
The School of Social Work at CSU is committed to scholarship, education, and service to our community. Our school’s mission is to provide exemplary education, applied research, and transformative outreach. We aim to advance social, environmental, and economic justice, promote equity and equality, alleviate oppression, and enhance human health and well-being across local and global community systems. Our faculty are actively involved in teaching, research, and evaluation projects that address critical issues related to clinical and community practice and policy. Their interdisciplinary work is aimed at solving issues and problems in the areas of child and senior welfare, health and mental health, substance use, and trauma.

Our programs were reaccredited by the Council on Social Work Education with flying colors last year, and the faculty remains committed to strengthening the student educational experience. We have committed ourselves to delving into the BSW and MSW curriculum to identify ways to make it intellectually rigorous, professionally challenging, and responsive to community and professional needs.

Offering new opportunities for student development is a priority in the school. We have a new joint MSW/MPH program that you can read about on page 5. The focus of this joint degree, in collaboration with the Colorado School of Public Health, is global health and health disparities. Other opportunities are two new transcripted graduate certificate programs we have started. One is Advanced Clinical Behavioral Health and the other is PreK-12 School Social Work.

This year we have our second group of Behavioral Health Scholars who are awarded a stipend and enhanced educational training to address workforce needs for at-risk transitional aged youth for behavioral health problems. Their practicums are in integrated primary care settings that work with multicultural and multilingual populations. This is a project that is done in close collaboration with Metropolitan State University of Denver’s Department of Social Work.

With the launch of State Your Purpose – The Campaign for Colorado State University, identifying ways to financially support our students is a priority. You will read about new scholarships on pages 6 and 7.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Audrey Shillington, Director

SOLUTIONS

STATE YOUR PURPOSE

Learn more about financially supporting our students at giving.colostate.edu

An equal-opportunity University.

Ben Granger, longtime professor and former director of the School of Social Work at Colorado State University and the co-director of Human-Animal Bond in Colorado, died on January 9, 2015. He was 83. When Ben and his wife, Georgia, arrived at CSU in 1993, they brought with them a passion for animals and a deep understanding of animals’ role in human healing.

Granger’s career was devoted to advocating for disadvantaged and disenfranchised members of our society and then educating multiple generations of social welfare professionals. As a young man he pioneered the concept of residential group homes for mentally handicapped adults. He worked in the youth prison system in California and was associate director of the San Diego Children’s Home. Up until his death, he had been working as an advocate for young offenders at Platte Valley Youth Correctional Facility.

Prior to moving to Colorado State, Granger was the associate dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Kentucky and then began a 19-year tenure as dean of the College of Social Work at the University of Tennessee.

While working at the University of Tennessee, Georgia developed and built Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee, a sprawling organization through which certified animal-assisted therapy dogs worked with professional therapists on treatment protocols that addressed challenges as varied as head trauma, elder issues, and autism.

When they moved to Colorado, Georgia created Human Animal Bond in Colorado and Ben eventually became its co-director. HABIC, now in operation for twenty-two years, is run under the umbrella of the College of Health and Human Sciences and currently has more than 150 trained and supervised human-animal teams volunteering in 50 separate HABIC community programs, which serve more than 800 clients weekly.

At the 2007 College of Applied Human Sciences Homecoming Breakfast, Georgia gave an informative and inspiring talk about her work with HABIC.

The presentation was followed by a surprise announcement that Ben, along with the couple’s children, had established the Georgia V. Granger HABIC Endowment with a generous gift to bring the current endowment total to $135,000. The couple also supported the establishment of student scholarships in the School of Social Work.

Gifts to honor Ben Granger’s memory may be made to the Colorado State University Foundation.

Checks can be made out to the CSU Foundation, earmarked for HABIC, and mailed to the CSU Foundation, P.O. Box 1870, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1870.

Online donations can be made at: advancing.colostate.edu/habic

In rememberance of Ben Granger, pictured with his wife, Georgia Granger.

Ben Granger, pictured with his wife, Georgia Granger.
EXPERIENCING SOCIAL WORK IN INDIA

In August 2015, Colorado State University Social Work students and faculty traveled to Maharashtra, a state in central India, where they were profoundly impacted by the people and sites they visited over the three week trip.

They were hosted by the Center for Studies in Rural Development at Ahmednagar College for the first half of the trip, visiting NGOs working on behalf of sex workers, orphans, and homeless women with mental illness. They also visited the Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Jamked, a world renowned public health model program where they toured a working farm and heard stories of women’s lives transformed by health education.

The group spent the remaining time in the small town of Wai, running leadership groups for adolescent girls and volunteering in the classrooms of rural schools to promote English language skills. In addition, the group visited the Ellora Caves, a Unesco World Heritage Site: Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu structures carved out of stone, dating from the 5th Century. They finished the trip in Mumbai where a local guide toured them through Dharavi slum followed by a sampling of street food in the famous Chor Bazaar, a Muslim section of Mumbai.

Shannon Hughes, assistant professor in Social Work, has led student trips to India for the past four years. She said of this year’s experience, “The humility you gain from not knowing and constantly being challenged to form a reasonable opinion on the problems facing a very different culture opens you up to bringing the same humility to problems in your own backyard.”

CSU social work seniors met with Indian graduate students studying social work at Ahmednagar College and had rich discussions on marriage and family, women’s rights, the caste system, and other pressing issues in India. Kristy Beachy-Quick, a research associate with CSU’s Social Work Research Center, accompanied the students and shared her evaluation work on parenting and child development programs with the social work faculty at Ahmednagar College.

It was senior Alice Ardito’s first time in India. She said of the experience: “Meeting villagers and being able to see their everyday lives, where they grew up, walking through the village, and meeting their families, it’s so personalized. That’s what was amazing.”

Social work students Frannie Sovcik, top, and Kenzie Bohm, middle, with 6th and 7th grade girls from Wai High School in the state of Maharashtra, India.

“You have to have an open mind and humility when you travel to such a different culture.”

– Frannie Sovcik

Frannie Sovcik and Kenzie Bohm, both CSU seniors in social work, were returning to India after having participated in the service-learning trip last summer with Hughes.

Sovcik, who is interested in educational equality, said, “Comparing the trip to last year’s, I walked away feeling more at ease with the fact that I’m never going to know everything. It was a good reminder that you have to have an open mind and humility when you travel to such a different culture.”

During a tour of the largest slum in Mumbai, which houses nearly one million people in only 0.67 square miles, Ardito observed, “Even in the slums, everything the people use is recycled and, sure, their living conditions aren’t ideal, but it is a functioning community and prosperous in its own way.”

Bohm expressed the success of the trip from her own perspective, “I’ve always wanted to travel; it didn’t matter where, but I knew I didn’t want to just be a tourist. I wanted to learn about a culture, and that’s exactly what we did.”
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH CENTER

BY SWRC DIRECTOR, MARC WINOKUR

■ COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EVALUATION

SWRC was selected by the Colorado Department of Human Services as the lead evaluators for a process, outcome, and cost evaluation of the Collaborative Management Program, which was introduced by the Colorado Legislature as House Bill 04-1451 in 2004 to effectively and efficiently collaborate to share resources or to manage and integrate the treatment and services provided to children and families who benefit from multi-agency services. The evaluation will be used to determine the efficacy of the program and the service array in order to inform program and funding decision-making at the state and local levels.

■ 7 COUNTY CHILD WELFARE RESILIENCY PROJECT EVALUATION

SWRC was selected by Larimer, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, and Jefferson County to conduct a process and outcome evaluation of the 7 County Child Welfare Resiliency Project. The objective of this project is to demonstrate that children and youth can be maintained in their own homes and in kin or foster homes when their developmental, emotional, and cognitive needs are met as a result of a comprehensive assessment that includes assessment of the child/youth's trauma. There is also an opportunity to show that child well-being outcomes can improve as a result of focused and effective treatment in the child's home.

■ DENVER COUNTY CHILD WELFARE REFERRAL AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

SWRC was selected through a competitive bid process to conduct an external evaluation of Denver County Department of Human Services’ Child Welfare Referral and Assessment processes and procedures and compare them to recognized best practices in the field. Supplemental information, including observations and interviews, Administrative Review Division reports, Quality Assurance reviews, and internal continuous improvement work will be utilized to ensure that Denver County intake processes sufficiently address the requirements set forth in applicable state rules.

■ WELCOME TO CHRIS LEE

Chris Lee is joining the Social Work Research Center as a research associate. Lee has a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley, and was an assistant professor at the University of Calgary before moving to Fort Collins. She has nine peer-reviewed journal articles, with several focused on child welfare research. Lee most recently served as a research and evaluation analyst at the California Social Work Education Center and has almost ten years of experience in the social work field.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

PAULA YUMA, a new assistant professor in the School of Social Work, comes to Colorado State University after completing a post-doctoral fellowship with a dual appointment in the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin. Yuma studies the effects of environmental, economic, and social characteristics of neighborhoods on the health and well-being of individuals.

Prior to her doctoral studies at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Yuma managed pediatric injury prevention programs for Dell Children’s Medical Center in Austin and Children’s Medical Center Dallas. She served as the chair of the Central Texas Injury Prevention Committee and as a member of the Texas Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council’s Injury Prevention Committee. Yuma holds a master’s degree in public health from the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health and is a certified health education specialist.

BANGHWA CASADO is a new associate professor. Casado’s work centers around the field of community-based ethnogeriatric research and she has conducted several research studies in the areas of: (1) community-based long-term care in older adults and their caregivers, (2) family caregiving and dementia care in minority communities, and (3) culturally responsive scientific inquiry.

Before joining CSU, Casado was an associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She received a B.A. in sociology and a gerontology certificate from Georgia State University, and her MSW and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. She has received several nationally competitive awards, including the Hartford Faculty Scholar in Geriatric Social Work, Hartford Doctoral Fellowship in Geriatric Social Work, Council of Social Education Minority Research Fellowship, AARP Andrus Foundation Scholarship, and Somers Aging & Long-Term Care Research Internship.

CONGRATS!

Eunhee Choi was selected, through a highly competitive selection process, as a RAND Summer Institute Fellow. Last summer, she attended multiple master lecture series given by expert clinicians and researchers. One set of lectures was the “Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists” and the second was “Demography, Economics, Psychology, and Epidemiology of Aging.” The conferences were sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the National Institutes of Health Office of Behavioral and Social Scientists Research. This gave her a great opportunity to connect with a broad range of interdisciplinary researchers in the area of healthy aging and enrich her research work.
DUAL GRADUATE DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK, PUBLIC HEALTH

BY JEFF DODGE

The School of Social Work and the Colorado School of Public Health have partnered to launch a new graduate program that combines social work and public health — letting students earn two master’s degrees in less time and at a lower cost than if they were earned separately.

The dual Master of Social Work / Master of Public Health degree is being offered for the first time in Fall 2016, addressing a need for trained individuals to address some of society’s most challenging and complex social health issues. Whether the topic is health equity, disaster relief, or social justice, those with a joint MSW/MPH degree are needed in hospitals, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and other settings. Social workers in public health settings are designing, implementing, and evaluating interventions that promote health for individuals as well as entire populations.

Students who finish the program leave with both an MSW and an MPH with a concentration in global health and health disparities. The training focuses on both physical and behavioral health, as well as knowledge of the social and ecological determinants of public health.

Students who have earned a bachelor’s degree in social work in the past seven years qualify for advanced standing and can complete the MSW/MPH program in two years. Otherwise, the dual degree takes three years.

The two fields are a natural fit. Both programs heavily emphasize cross-cultural, global content in classes as well as social justice. Each is evidence-based, trans-disciplinary, and focused on promoting health and preventing disease.

Individuals with MSW/MPH degrees pursue careers in a variety of areas, including prevention-oriented clinical practice, health education and health promotion, health policy analysis, health system and health care management, public health advocacy, patient services management, and teaching as part-time or adjunct faculty in MSW/BSW programs.

ONLINE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK RANKED IN TOP TEN NATIONALLY

BY TIANA NELSON

The School of Social Work online Master of Social Work program was recently named as a top 10 program by BestColleges.com.

“We are honored to be ranked as one the top ten online masters programs in the U.S.,” said Audrey Shillington, director of the CSU School of Social Work. “We are dedicated to breaking boundaries to bring the best of online and face-to-face learning together in an innovative format.”

The online Master of Social Work is offered through CSU Online. The program began in 1998 and is a part-time degree program designed for working professionals. Students from across the country participate in the hybrid program, which is primarily online with some face-to-face classroom work in Colorado Springs and Denver to assure that students have contact with faculty.

“Students in CSU’s online MSW learn the same high quality, research-based curriculum as the on-campus program but have the flexibility to go through the majority of the degree in their own communities,” said Karima Bounini, director of program development and administration for CSU Online. “CSU Online is proud support the University’s land-grant mission of expanding access to education and have its program recognized.”

Bestcolleges.com evaluated programs by acceptance, retention, graduation, and enrollment rates. CSU’s distance Master of Social Work was identified as the No. 10 in the country and is the only Colorado program to be ranked.

The CSU program focuses on practice and policy work in the context of the larger community, where students are taught and mentored by faculty who are experts in their fields. Students utilize their training by working in community organizations and have the opportunity to learn in real-world settings.

The projections of the job market for social work during the next decade put it at one of the highest growing professions, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with employment of healthcare social workers projected to grow 27 percent by 2022.

For more information about the Master of Social Work offered through CSU Online visit www.online.colostate.edu/degrees/social-work

For more information on full and part-time on-campus degree options, visit www.ssw.chhs.colostate.edu
LEAVING A LEGACY OF SUPPORT: BEQUEST WILL FUND SOCIAL WORK DOCTORAL STUDENTS

BY SHANNON DALE

“When I look back on my career and being able to explore my passion for social work, I am reminded of just how many people contribute to achieving a degree,” shares John T. Gandy, Ph.D., School of Social Work professor. “My wife worked three jobs to make ends meet while I was earning my Ph.D., and I know that a lot of students have that kind of experience.”

Gandy continues to observe the real financial struggle of Ph.D. students, who often have families of their own and do not have as many private scholarship funding opportunities as undergraduate students. The intensive, multi-year commitment of a Ph.D. program makes it difficult for these students to take on additional jobs while enrolled. In an effort to support these students in need, Gandy has established the Dr. John and Patty Gandy Scholarship in Social Work Endowment, which supports doctoral students in the School of Social Work.

His wife Patty, who passed away in 2006, is memorialized for the incredible support she gave him during his Ph.D. program, as well as her dedication to education during her lifetime. Recipients of this scholarship must, like the Gandys, be highly committed to teaching at the university or college level.

After retiring from the University of South Carolina where he was an associate dean for 23 years and earning the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Gandy moved back to Colorado and joined the faculty at CSU, where he taught undergraduate students for the first time in his career. Since 2003, he has taught the Introduction to Social Work course, which, through his guidance and support, has grown from 21 to over 100 students per semester. He enjoys the course because it is meant to get students who are “shopping around for a major” interested in the social work profession.

Gandy also teaches and advises Ph.D. candidates as they make their way through the program. He sees first-hand the financial difficulty Ph.D. students face, and believes his gift will help to relieve some of the stress that comes along with a challenging Ph.D. program.

There are many ways to support programs at CSU, but Gandy chose to give through a bequest. During the process of writing his will and thinking about the future, he wanted to make a gift that would have a lasting impact. His bequest will establish an endowment, which will ensure funding to his scholarship for years to come.

“What is so exciting about a bequest, especially one that can endow a fund, is that you have the ability to make a real difference in people’s lives – even those far into the future who you’ll never meet,” says Gandy. “Helping people. That is what social work and making a gift to a university have in common.”

To learn more about planned giving, visit giftplanning.colostate.edu

PURPOSE.

It’s what gives life definition and direction. It’s what ignites that flame and passion burning deep inside. It’s what compels you to give and drives you to do more.

Colorado State University’s purpose is to ensure students can realize their dreams and impact the world through access to innovative and relevant academic programming, an incomparable student experience, extraordinary faculty and staff, research and new knowledge discovery to change the world, and state-of-the-art working and learning environments.

We are on a quest to raise $1 billion by 2020 to invest in this purpose.
SOCIAL WORK PROFESSOR HONORED THROUGH NEW SCHOLARSHIP

BY SHANNON DALE

It was while working as a salesman for the Quaker Oats Company that Lowell Jenkins, professor emeritus in the School of Social Work, realized his career path did not align with his deep desire to make a difference in the lives of others. One day on the job, Jenkins noticed a man, down and out, begging for a hand-out on a street corner. He could not help but wonder what had driven this man to that circumstance and what could be done to alleviate such suffering.

His drive to help others made Jenkins a beloved School of Social Work professor during his 25-year career at Colorado State University.

“Lowell models a sense of presence and personal concern for every person with whom he interacts,” shares Jenkins’ wife, Julie Foley. “He wore his social work profession as a cloak of honor.”

Jenkins earned his MSW in 1963 from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. After working for the Wyandotte Mental Health Center and the University of Kansas as an assistant professor, he joined Colorado State University in 1975 as associate professor and director of field education.

“Through his dedication, the School of Social Work developed a national and international reputation for field education, taking internships to a high educational level at CSU,” shares Brad Sheafor, professor emeritus in the School of Social Work and Jenkins’ former colleague.

When Jenkins retired in 2000, after four years of commuting between Fort Collins and Toronto, he moved to Toronto where his wife was located. He quickly connected with the local Group Workers network, where he held “Social Work and Spirituality” workshops and volunteered at a large rehabilitation hospital.

In 2007, Jenkins was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. Together with a social worker from the Alzheimer’s Society, he led a support group for men who were in the early stages of living with dementia.

In 2013, Jenkins had to move from his beloved home into a care facility. His loved ones continue to visit him daily.

Inspired by Jenkins’ passion for Social Work education and his dedication to student success, longtime friends Carl and Karen Spina decided the time was right to honor him. Carl Spina met Jenkins while teaching a senior seminar course and coordinating the School of Social Work’s self-study for accreditation as an assistant professor from 1973-1978. They formed a close friendship that has lasted more than four decades.

“We have created the Lowell Eugene Jenkins Scholarship Endowment in Social Work to honor our dear friend, Lowell, and the many ways in which he has enriched the lives of his family, friends, students, and colleagues,” say Carl and Karen Spina.

The new scholarship will benefit undergraduate students enrolled in the School of Social Work, honoring Jenkins’ contributions in perpetuity. The ripple effects of the Spinas’ generosity will be felt by students for generations to come, much like the impact Jenkins had on his students and those they have gone on to serve.

“Lowell would be moved to tears and humbled to know about the generosity of his special friends in setting up this scholarship endowment in his name. There could be no greater honor,” says Foley.

To make a gift in support of the Lowell Eugene Jenkins Scholarship Endowment in Social Work, visit giveto.colostate.edu/lowelljenkins
The School of Social Work celebrated students and faculty at the annual fall kickoff picnic at Rolland Moore Park in Fort Collins.