

ADVANCING SOCIAL WORK, PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL POLICY

# *Year in Review*

2017 - 2018



Washington University in St. Louis

BROWN SCHOOL

Dedicated to *equity*.  
Committed to *impact*.



## *Dear Friends,*

I am so pleased to share the accomplishments of the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis over the 2017–2018 academic year.

This has been a transformative year for our School. In reading this report, you will see that we have made great strides in research that advances equity, and programs and initiatives that increase impact. We expanded our social policy dual-degree program to include enrollment by our current MSW and MPH students. We have launched a post-master's certificate program, which will help further evidence-based practice in our region. We celebrated the installations of three faculty members, whose critical research will be supported for years to come. Our institution has also done some hard work to examine our own equity practices, and to grow and serve our diverse community.

We are also so pleased to close the *Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University* with a historic \$96.5 million in gifts and commitments for the Brown School. Though we can affix a dollar amount to the generosity of our many donors, it is truly impossible to quantify the impact of this outpouring of philanthropy. Each gift was an investment in our students, faculty, and staff — all of whom have committed to lives in service of others.

Our students, above all, remain our focus. We are so proud of our recent graduating class, as well as the opportunity to welcome more than 350 new students in fall 2018. We know that we must continually strive for excellence in our research, programs and the support we provide our students so that they may fulfill their aspirations as the next generation of Brown School changemakers.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our school, our students, and our mission and vision toward equity and justice.

Sincerely,

Mary M. McKay

*Neidorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean  
Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis*

# Research and Innovation

## Fostering Physical Activity

**Ross Brownson**, Bernard Becker Professor and director of the **Prevention Research Center** (PRC) at the Brown School, was awarded a \$2.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute for a five-year project aimed at promoting physical activity in rural communities. The project is the first of its kind in rural settings to test a multi-pronged intervention.

## Technology and Treatment

A new suite of technology tools developed by Associate Professor **David Patterson Silver Wolf** gives addiction and behavioral health professionals the ability to improve patient outcomes. The first product, PsychoSocial Sync, displays real-time performance indicators that enable therapists to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and recovery progress. One important feature captures key recovery risk and protective data from the patient's smartphone, using both self-reported data and digital biomarkers. The tool is being used in a variety of treatment clinics in the St. Louis region.

## Impact in Africa

The **SMART Africa Center** and the **International Center for Child Health and Development** (ICHAD) — both new to the Brown School and led by William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor **Fred Ssewamala** — received multi-million dollar grants toward research that will impact the health and well-being of children in Africa. ICHAD received a \$3.4 million National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) grant to study interventions aimed at protecting adolescent girls in Uganda against HIV risk factors. The SMART Africa Center was awarded a four year, \$2.5 million NIMH grant to fund a research study in Uganda to examine influences on the uptake, implementation, effectiveness and sustainability of evidence-based practices that address child disruptive behavioral challenges.



*Professor Fred Ssewamala and his team celebrate with local officials at the launch of the Suubi4Her savings account initiative in Masaka, Uganda.*

## RESEARCH FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES 2017-18



\$15.5m

RESEARCH  
PORTFOLIO



92

RESEARCH  
APPLICATIONS  
SUBMITTED



45

MASTERS  
RESEARCH  
FELLOWSHIPS

## FACULTY PUBLISHING



366

ARTICLES  
PUBLISHED IN  
206 JOURNALS



137

PRESENTATIONS



9

BOOKS

## Increasing Effectiveness of Tobacco Control

**Sarah Moreland-Russell**, assistant professor of practice and senior scholar to the **Clark-Fox Policy Institute**, will serve as principal investigator for a \$1.8 million NIH grant to increase sustainability of evidence-based tobacco control programs and policies. These state programs help to improve quality of life and reduce the massive healthcare costs incurred by tobacco-related illness. This project aims to establish the first evidence-based Program Sustainability Action Planning Model and training designed to help public health programs reach maturity and sustain activities over time.

## Health Equity Works

**Health Equity Works** (HEW), formerly *For the Sake of All*, led by Associate Professor **Jason Purnell**, is committed to translating data and research into collaborative, positive community action — both in St. Louis and now around the nation. In fall 2017, the initiative celebrated the opening of a school-based health center in Normandy High School, with more such centers to come this year, thanks in part to the collaboration of its school-based health workgroup. In addition, a \$1.1 million grant for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is helping HEW study the uptake of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model, designed to improve and align health efforts in schools.

# Student and Alumni Impact



Luther Tyus (left) with Professor Sean Joe

## Addressing Excessive Police Force

**Luther Tyus**, a first-year MSW student and research assistant at the Brown School, is committed to engaging in the serious and charged subject of excessive police force. His research focuses on how social biases influence psychological responses by police. His insights and unique vantage point as an eight-year veteran of the St. Louis Police Department are powerful; he had an op-ed published on CNN.com as reactions to the Stockley verdict hit national news. Tyus is currently working with Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development **Sean Joe** in the Race and Opportunity Lab as well as on the **HomeGrown STL** initiative, which is focused on fostering the economic and social development of young black males in the region.



Aytakin Huseynli

## Founding the Field of Social Work in Azerbaijan

**Aytakin Huseynli**, MSW '04, founded the Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union in her native country after receiving her degree from the Brown School. Wanting to make the field of social work more effective in Azerbaijan, she

returned to the Brown School in 2014 as a doctoral student. She is working on ways to improve child welfare in her native country by studying the benefits of child development accounts (CDAs). In December 2017, she and **Center for Social Development** Director **Michael Sherraden** engaged in a week of CDA policy meetings at the invitation of Azerbaijan's deputy-minister of international affairs.

## Reducing Avoidable Blindness in Ethiopia

**Dawit Buda**, MPH '17, is the director of programs for Orbis International, the leading nonprofit working to reduce avoidable blindness in his home country of Ethiopia. He leads a massive operation to eliminate trachoma, the leading infectious cause of blindness in the world. In collaboration with health service providers, Buda's team administers over 11 million doses of antibiotics and reaches about 30 million people annually. Buda said his training at the Brown School was instrumental in bolstering his commitment to improve public health, and to doing so effectively.

## FIELD EDUCATION IMPACT



180,720

HOURS OF  
PRACTICUM TRAINING



192

PRACTICA SITES  
HOSTED STUDENTS



1100+

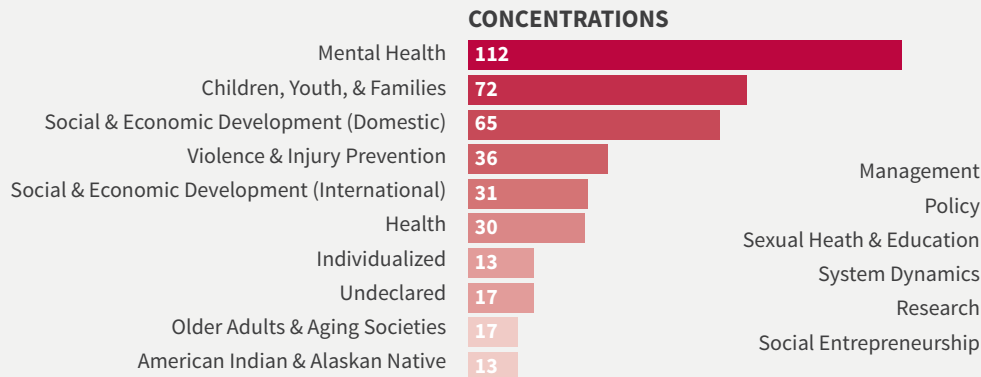
AFFILIATED FIELD ED  
ORGANIZATIONS

# Brown School by the Numbers

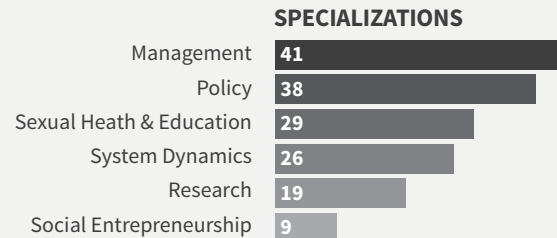
## MSW | Master of Social Work

**225**  
FALL 2017  
COHORT

**406**  
STUDENTS  
TOTAL



**40%**  
OF STUDENTS SELECTED  
A SPECIALIZATION

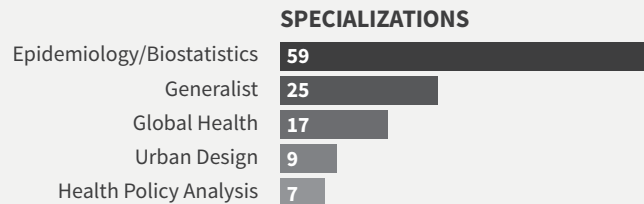


**\$50,732\*** AVERAGE STARTING SALARY  
An increase of 16.4% over previous year

## MPH | Master of Public Health

**57**  
FALL 2017  
COHORT

**117**  
STUDENTS  
TOTAL



**\$51,853\*** AVERAGE  
STARTING  
SALARY

## MSW/MPH

Master of Social Work  
Master of Public Health  
Dual-Degree Students

**12**  
FALL 2017  
COHORT

**24**  
STUDENTS  
TOTAL

**\$50,514\*** AVERAGE  
STARTING  
SALARY

## JOINT DEGREES

**42**  
JOINT-DEGREE  
STUDENTS

### JOINT DEGREES OFFERED

<b>MSW</b>	<b>MPH</b>
Architecture	Anthropology
Business	Business
Divinity	Medicine
Law	Occupational Therapy
Education	
Pastoral Studies	
Urban Design	

## MSP

Master of Social Policy

**6**  
STUDENTS TOTAL

**7** CHINESE PARTNER  
UNIVERSITIES

\*In fall 2018, current MSW and MPH students will be able to add the MSP degree with an extra year of course work.

# Leading Together campaign



**\$96.5 million**  
RAISED

Leading Together: The Campaign for Washington University concluded with a historic \$96.5 million raised for the Brown School, which will fuel student support, faculty and research, and innovative programs.



**\$19m**

FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



**\$25.5m**

FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH



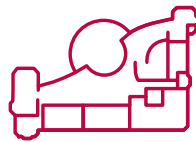
**40**

NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS



**4**

NEW ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS



**105,000**

NEW SQUARE FEET FOR CLASSES, RESEARCH, EVENTS AND ADMINISTRATION



**5,700+**

DONORS



**3,733**

ALUMNI DONORS



**\$1.43m**

CONTRIBUTED BY BROWN SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF

## Student Diversity: Race & Ethnicity

**595**

MASTER'S STUDENTS TOTAL

**406**

MSW

**6**

MSP

**117**

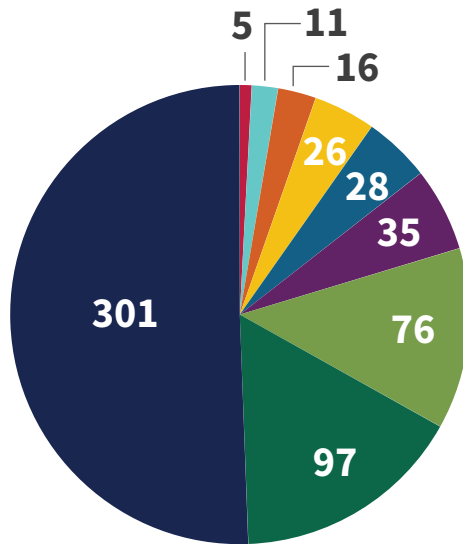
MPH

**42**

JOINT DEGREE

**24**

MSW/MPH



Master's Students

**69**

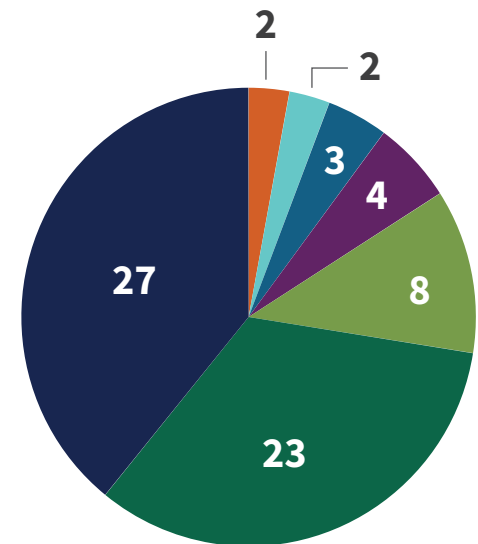
PHD STUDENTS TOTAL

**59**

SOCIAL WORK

**10**

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

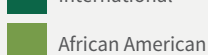


PhD Students

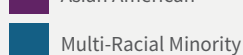
**KEY**



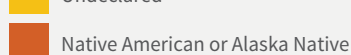
International



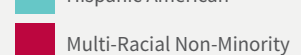
Asian American



Undeclared



Hispanic American



# Our Programs and Values

## Expansion of Social Policy

The Master of Social Policy (MSP) dual-degree program continues to grow, opening up to three more leading universities in China: Peking University, Nankai University, and East China University for Sciences and Technology. This expands the program to a total of seven partner universities in China. Further expanding the scope and impact of the program, current Brown School students in the Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health programs are now also able to add the Master of Social Policy as a dual-degree, completed during a third year of study. In the 2018/19 academic year, 22 students will begin the MSP program.



*In April 2018, Louis Sullivan, MD, founding dean of Morehouse School of Medicine and former secretary of Health and Human Services, presented on “Toward Health and Healing: Advancing Equity in Healthcare” as part of the Youngdahl Lecture Series.*

## Increasing Inclusion Efforts

Over the past year, more than 50 Brown School faculty and staff completed a 20-hour training delivered by Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training. Brown School attendees have been reconvening to create transformation teams charged with infusing this work into school operations, and continue the journey towards becoming an antiracist multicultural institution. In addition, a new program, *I'm First*, was developed to support equitable educational access. The unique challenges faced by first-generation college students are wide-ranging and intersectional; *I'm First* offers these students a forum to connect, gain support and access resources.

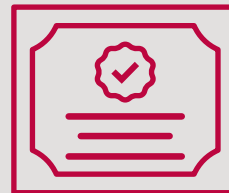
## New Post-Master's Certificate Program

The Brown School's new post-master's certificate program launched in spring 2018 to provide area practitioners the evidence-based skills needed to deepen existing knowledge or expand into a new area of specialization. The spring course — co-taught by **Dean Mary McKay** and **Patricia Kohl**, associate professor and associate dean for social work — focused on parenting and family strengthening approaches. More courses are forthcoming for the 2018–2019 academic year.



*Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., meets with Brown School students in Washington, D.C., as part of the Policy Making, Advocacy, and Analysis course.*

## SUPPORT OF STUDENTS



\$7.5m

IN NEED AND MERIT-BASED  
SCHOLARSHIPS DISBURSED  
TO MASTER'S STUDENTS



\$30,000

MEDIAN MASTER'S  
STUDENT AWARD



100%

OF STUDENTS REQUESTING  
SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVE  
AN AWARD

# Faculty Additions and Accolades

Associate Professor **Leopoldo Cabassa** joined the faculty from Columbia University.

**Fred Ssewamala** joined the faculty from Columbia University and was installed as the William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor.



**Michal Grinstein-Weiss** was installed as the Shanti K. Khinduka Distinguished Professor.

**Vetta Sanders-Thompson** was installed as the E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity.

**Michael Sherraden**, George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor and director of the **Center for Social Development**, received the 2018 Social Policy Researcher Award by the Society for Social Work and Research.



**Melissa Jonson-Reid**, the Ralph and Muriel Pumphrey Professor of Social Work Research, and **Sean Joe**, the Benjamin E. Youngdahl Professor of Social Development and associate dean for faculty and research, were

inducted as fellows in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

Associate Professor **Renee Cunningham-Williams** received the Dr. John M. Anderson Excellence in Mental Health Award from the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund. Cunningham-Williams also concluded her term as director of the PhD program in social work in summer 2018, having improved extramural funding and career outcomes for our PhD graduates, as well as their development in teaching. She is succeeded in the directorship by **Melissa Jonson-Reid**, the Ralph and Muriel Pumphrey Professor of Social Work Research.



Washington University in St. Louis

BROWN SCHOOL

ADVANCING  
SOCIAL WORK,  
PUBLIC HEALTH &  
SOCIAL POLICY

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*Founded in 1925, the George Warren Brown School was named with a generous gift from Betty Bofinger Brown in memory of her late husband.*