



The ACOSA Update! Vol. 31

Fall 2018

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

# The ACOSA Update! Fall 2018

## ACOSA in Orlando

Advancing social change through community practice

What a year it has been! ACOSA is moving forward! Perhaps because of the current socio-political climate in the U.S., we felt a particular urgency to complete our strategic goals for this year. These were largely internal as we worked to clarify our focus, build our organizational structure, and create ways to more fully engage and support practitioners and students. We are proud to share some highlights below.



- ✓ **Proposed new name: Association for Community Organization and Social Action (ACOSA)** and new mission/vision statement developed by our Mission/Vision Workgroup. All our members will be invited to vote on these through an electronic ballot shortly after this CSWE APM.
- ✓ **New website and membership software:** our Communications Committee developed an RFP, reviewed proposals, and made recommendations on a vendor. The success of our Generosity Campaign allowed us to immediately move forward. The membership software will allow members to network with each other, initiate discussions, and share events and strategies.
- ✓ **New practitioner dues level and support for the MSWSN** – as a first installment in our commitment to support our current and emerging macro social work professionals with access to our Journal of Community Practice and regular videoconference meetings with macro student clubs nationally and internationally.

Come work with us! Our strategic plan aligns with the theme of this year’s APM: Expanding Interprofessional Education to Achieve Social Justice. We need to create new skills and alliances for a new time. In **our Saturday Afternoon Partnership Session from 1:45 – 2:45** (p. 5), we will create a space for participants to re-imagine collaborations for social action that they might be able to mirror “back home.”

Come celebrate with us! This year we are including **a special recognition for Bill Butterfield, Managing Director at our Annual meeting on Saturday evening**. Over the years, he has been the steady, experienced hand in the “back office” managing our money and memberships. It is time for him to rest and for us to express our gratitude.

In addition to the above, at this CSWE APM, we will continue to offer multiple ways to connect, learn, and create new opportunities in macro practice:

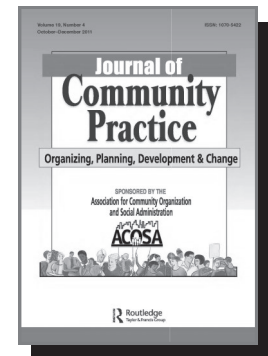
- Come to the **Day-in-the-Field** event (p. 5)
- Visit our **Booth #211** for information, conversation, membership, and more!
- Attend the COSA track and other macro-related presentations (schedule available [www.acosa.org](http://www.acosa.org))
- **CELEBRATE WITH US Saturday evening** as we recognize Bill, applaud our award recipients, introduce our Legacy Council and Social Action Committee, and set priorities for our work in 2019!



**Bill Butterfield**, ACOSA's long-time and experienced Managing Director to be recognized at the ACOSA Membership Meeting and Awards Reception.

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Contact the Editors!

*Journal of Community Practice*

Email: [jcp@acosa.org](mailto:jcp@acosa.org)

# Journal of Community Practice News

By Anna Maria Santiago, PhD, Editor-in-Chief

Richard J. Smith and I recently completed our first full year as the editors of the *Journal of Community Practice*. At this time, Volume 26 of the journal is fully published and we are working on the first issue of Volume 27. During this first year of our editorship, we welcomed a new Editorial Board, continued to expand and diversify our pool of ad hoc reviewers, and introduced several new manuscript formats, “From the Classroom” and “Innovations in Community Research.” We are pleased that the new OnlineFirst feature fully implemented by Taylor and Francis this year has cut publication time by half and accelerated reader access to our manuscripts. These changes have resulted in significantly higher usage and global access. Richard Smith and guest editors, Komalsingh Rambaree and Meredith Powers, are busy working on the next special issue of the journal, “Ecosocial work and social change in community practice,” that will be published in 2019.

We are grateful for ACOSA’s continuing support of the journal as well as the support of our institutional sponsors. Many thanks to the authors who submit their work to the journal, the reviewers who graciously give of their time to assess our manuscript submissions, and to our readers who

use our scholarship in their classrooms and in the field.

*Anna Maria Santiago, PhD, is the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies (College of Social Science ) and Professor of Social Work at Michigan State University. She is also the Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Community Practice.*

## MANY THANKS TO OUR 2018 INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS AND MEMBERS!

Your support is leading us into the future!

### INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORS

- \* Case Western Reserve University
- \* Michigan State University
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- \* Wayne State University

### INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

- \* Akilah Dulin-Keita, Brown University
- \* Robin S. Mama, Monmouth University
- \* Ross Roholt, University of Minnesota
- \* Linda Schmidt, Western Michigan University
- \* Tanya Smith, Nancy Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work



By Kimberly Wirt, MSW candidate, Silberman School of Social Work, and Tamarie Willis, LLMSW, doctoral student and academic advisor at Wayne State University School of Social Work.

ACOSA is dedicated to investing in the macro practitioners of tomorrow. With that passion, we voted to take on the development of an international Macro Social Work Student Network (MSWSN) as a project of ACOSA and devote time and resources to this effort. The MSWSN is a student-led initiative of local, national, and international student networks interested in macro social work, enhancing macro education, macro awareness, and a commitment to this field of practice. The MSWSN mission is to develop a geographically diverse network of and for macro-practice social work undergraduate and graduate students to share and augment macro practice knowledge, maintain self-awareness of macro practice as a minority method in the social work field, and share our work with the rest of the social work field.

If you are interested in starting a chapter or want to learn more about how MSWSN can be beneficial to your school and your future as a macro practitioner, we will be holding a Zoom video call on **November 30, 2018 at 4pm EST**. Please RSVP using this link: <https://bit.ly/2SmBrhb>. You can also reach out to us at [MSWSNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:MSWSNetwork@gmail.com) or visit us in the exhibit hall at CSWE APM, Booth #211.

*Now! Make Macro Matter.*

*Kim Wirt is a federal work study student in her second year at Silberman. She is providing support to the MSWSN for the 2018-2019 academic year along with Tamarie Willis, an ACOSA member who is serving as Advisor to the MSWSN.*

# An Exciting Update From Our Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice!

**Special Commission Co-Chairs:** Darlyne Bailey, PhD, LISW, E-mail: [d Bailey01@brynmawr.edu](mailto:d Bailey01@brynmawr.edu); Terry Mizrahi, PhD, MSW; Email: [tmizrahi@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:tmizrahi@hunter.cuny.edu)

2018 has been an historic year for our SC Network! The list of now 30 Commissioners, 90+ macro Investor Schools and Programs, and 500 supporting Allies continues to grow! Our SC Action Clusters and Work Groups have been working with many 'kindred others' to meet our two overarching goals set 5 years ago:

- Ensuring that by 2020, 20% of all graduate-level social work students nationally have chosen macro social work as an area of specialization (for those MSW programs that have identified areas of specialization).
- 'Rebalancing' micro and macro curricula in the programs that are identified as integrated practice or advanced generalist which includes BSW curricula. Rebalancing means including a comparable amount of identifiable macro practice as micro content in classroom and field curricula while ideally producing innovative models for uniting the range of practice competencies.

The theme for 2018 is visible on buttons and materials to be featured at the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting in Orlando - **MACRO MATTERS! NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

There is a heightened sense of urgency within our Special Commission movement. Yes, now more than ever, we must work together to amplify Social Work's ability to influence and shape public policy, increase the availability of quality social services for marginalized populations, and enhance overall community well-being. It is especially critical to promote our professional ethos of social justice, given present-day society's increased economic, educational, and healthcare inequalities and rapidly deteriorating within - community relations. All are evidence of continued institutional 'isms', including sexual violence and environmental degradation.

**Here we highlight three of our Special Commission's major accomplishments over 2017- 2018.** We begin with *The Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Macro Social Work!*

**The 'Macro Guide'** was developed in partnership between the SC and CSWE with the participation of more than 90 social work educators, researchers and practitioners across the country. The first of its kind, the *Macro Guide* will demonstrate ways to implement the nine generalist-level competencies of CSWE's Education Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) 2015 for macro practice.

We define macro as organizational administration and management, community organizing, and policy practice. Social work education, with its person-in-environment foundation, requires competency in macro and micro areas of practice in the classroom and in the field. The *Macro Guide* seeks to serve as an invaluable resource to faculty, students, field instructors, and supervisors who educate students to work effectively in the macro arena.

We believe that these materials can also help to advance other areas of Social Work education, including programs that choose specializations/concentrations based on fields of practice, methods, or populations. CSWE competencies for generalist practice require that practice content at community, organizational, and policy levels be part of the social work curriculum. Look for it on-line.

## PLEASE JOIN US! *MACRO GUIDE* SESSION

Friday, November 9, 2018 @ 7:30 AM

Dolphin, Oceanic 1 Lobby/3rd floor

**Hear more about the content as well as the process used in developing the Macro Guide.**

We invite you to come to our CSWE/APM session on Friday morning 7:30 AM in Dolphin Oceanic 1 Lobby/3rd floor to hear more about the content as well as the process used in developing the Macro Guide. This session will include what promises to be an engaging discussion with three of our SC Commissioners Sunny Rome, Bruce Friedman and Tracy Soska, each of whom wonderfully led one of the three focus areas of macro practice.

**Another major SC investment this year has been our active leadership in the independent National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign**, co-chaired by Terry Mizrahi and Mimi Abramovitz ( See website: [www.votingissocialwork.org](http://www.votingissocialwork.org)).

The National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign was formed in Winter 2018 based on a 2016 project and website [www.votingissocialwork.org](http://www.votingissocialwork.org). It was initiated then by the *Nancy Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work* (Tanya Smith); *Influencing Social Policy* (Sunny Rome), and *C.R.I.S.P., Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy* (Charles Lewis).

Now more than two years later, although a largely volunteer effort, the Campaign's impact is being felt across the country. As of the fall 2018, the endorsers include in addition to the

# ACOSA Newsletter *Spotlight*

## Terry Cluse-Tolar, ACOSA Treasurer

*Spotlight*, is a new section of the newsletter that focuses on the work of ACOSA members and board members. Below, we highlight **Terry Cluse-Tolar**, the ACOSA Treasurer.



In my role as treasurer, I am chairing the Resource Committee. Now for the shameless plug – if you are reading this and would like to get more involved, please consider working with us on the Resource Committee. All are welcome! Just let me know.

**Please share a particular macro activity that you either think we need to teach more of, do more of, or understand more about and how you think that might happen (and if ACOSA can help).**

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**Please share with ACOSA Newsletter readers your work now and over time, including research, teaching, community work and service and identifying any particular classes, projects or skills you would like to highlight. If you have earned a particular achievement or won an award, please share that with us as well.**

I started out in social work like I suspect many do, wanting to help people. Initially I thought this meant working with individuals and families. That perspective changed quickly when my first social work position was as the director of an agency that served people with visual impairments in a small community. It was a truly generalist position where I prepared the budget, advocated in the community, and also did home visits. This is where I found my legs in macro practice.

I have been teaching social work now for ... let's just say awhile. In my previous institution, I lead the process in creating an advanced generalist program where I taught policy and macro practice classes. Currently I am the MSW Program Director in a clinical program. It's my goal to bring a macro option to the program. I truly enjoy watching students come together to make a difference through a macro class project. For example, one of my classes raised over \$8000 for a local agency by putting on a hunger awareness dinner. Our text for the class, by the way, was Mark Homan's (previous ACOSA chair) *Promoting Community Change* book..

**Please share with us your ACOSA story: how did you learn about ACOSA, how long have you been involved, what drew you to getting more actively involved in ACOSA at this time (or previously), what benefit you get from ACOSA, and what have you been doing to be engaged with ACOSA since you joined?**

For years I've seen the ACOSA booth at the CSWE-APM. I stopped to chat a few times. But it wasn't until my good friend, Michel Coconis, who chaired ACOSA at the time, convinced me to join. It was a good decision! Being with my ACOSA peeps is like finding my home in social work. They are a great group of people! Since joining, Michel convinced me to run for treasurer and am now serving my second term.

With the establishment of the Macro Commission recently, I sometimes fear that social workers teaching and working in more micro arenas see this as trying to split our profession. If I had to pinpoint something that I think we need to make very clear to our students and colleagues is that micro does not exist without macro and vice versa. That's the beauty of social work. There is a place for everyone's interest and skills. Macro social workers must constantly be aware of how their work impacts individual clients. Micro social workers must constantly be aware of how changes in the social environment benefits their clients. The best results happen when we are knowledgeable about the work we each do, and we do that work with common goals.

**Please share a quote and/or a photo that motivates you, inspires you, or expresses something special to you about social work and macro practice.**

I've been asked to share a quote that motivates and inspires me. If you've ever received an email from me, this quote will not be a surprise: "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality." (Dante 1265-1321). This quote always reminds me that I have a moral responsibility to step up and speak out when I see people who are confronted with injustice. It my job, and our job as macro social workers to make the world a better place.

**What's next for you in macro social work practice?**

What's next for me in macro social work practice? I plan to continue to be personally active in campaigns to eliminate injustice. And, as mentioned above, I am setting the stage to bring a macro option to the program where I currently teach. Hoping to be one of the "20 in 2020"!

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*Terry Cluse-Tolar is a Professor of Social & Public Health at Ohio University and currently serves as ACOSA's Treasurer.*

# ACOSA, Special Commission, and Other Macro-Related Events

## Thursday, November 8, 2018

- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM      **ACOSA Board Meeting**  
*Oceanic 6, Lobby/Third Floor*
- 1:15 PM – 4:15 PM      **ACOSA Day-in-the-Field: Farmworker Rights, Environmental Justice, and Student Engagement**  
*Oceanic 4, Lobby/Third Floor*

## Friday, November 9, 2018

- 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM      **Teaching Macro: A New Curriculum Guide on Community, Organizational and Policy Practice**  
*Dolphin, Oceanic 1, Lobby/Third Level*
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM      **Voting is Social Work: The National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign**  
*Northern Hemisphere A-3/Fifth Level*

## Saturday, November 10, 2018

- 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM      **Special Commission Partnership Session: *Uniting for Social Work Macro Education and Practice To Promote Social Justice***  
*Northern Hemisphere D/Fifth Level*
- 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM      **ACOSA Partnership Presentation: *ACOSA on the Move: Re-Imagining Collaborations for Social Justice***  
*Northern Hemisphere A-2/Fifth Level*
- 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM      **ACOSA General Membership Meeting and Awards Reception**  
*Asia 4, Lobby/Third Level*

## Sunday, October 22, 2017

- 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM      **CSWE Awards Luncheon: *Honoring Our Own***  
*Dolphin, Pacific Hall B/First Level*
- \* Mimi Abramovitz, DSW, MSW, *Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award*
  - \* Tracy Soska, MSW, LSW, *Service and Leadership in Social Work Education Award*

## VISIT ACOSA @ BOOTH #211

(Adjoining the Routledge / Taylor & Francis Booth)

We are *United for Macro Practice* with the Network for Social Work  
Management and Influencing Social Policy  
You can join or renew your membership right at the booth!



# 2018 ACOSA AWARDS

## And the Winners Are...

ACOSA is pleased to present its 2018 Award winners. All award winners will be recognized at the ACOSA Membership Meeting and Awards Reception on Saturday, November 10, 2018 from 7-10 PM at the Dolphin, Walt Disney World Resort, Asia 4, Lobby/Third Level. Please join us in congratulating our 2018 Awardees:

### Marie Weil Award for the Best Article in *Journal of Community Practice* Volume 25

This award recognizes outstanding scholarship published in the *Journal of Community Practice*. Articles published within a volume year are reviewed and selected by an awards committee comprised of ACOSA scholars. Selected articles are based on various criteria including contribution to the field, scholarly approach, and promotion of macro practice values. Taylor and Francis, the publisher of the *Journal of Community Practice*, co-sponsors this award.

**Article:** Gilster, M. E., & Meier, C. L. (2017). Formal and informal social organization: Do geography, structural inequality, and other forms of social organization matter?, *Journal of Community Practice*, 25(2), 172-189. DOI: 10.1080/10705422.2017.1307797

**Authors:** *Megan E. Gilster, University of Iowa, and Cristian L. Meier, Utah State University*

### Career Achievement



The Career Achievement Award honors the lifetime contributions of a person to the field.

**Mark Homan, Retired**

Nominators: Tracy Soska (University of Pittsburgh), Darlyne Bailey (Bryn Mawr), and Terry Mizrahi (Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College)

### Emerging Scholar



The Emerging Scholar Award honors a recent Ph.D. (pre-tenure) who is doing meritorious scholarship in the field.

**Megan Pacey, University of Kansas**

Nominators: Deborah Adams (University of Kansas) and Michelle Mohr Carney (University of Kansas)

### Outstanding Student Award



The Outstanding Student award recognizes the contribution of a BSW or MSW student who has been involved in a community or organizational practice currently or in the past.

**Danny Vang, San Francisco State University**

Nominators: Jocelyn Clare Hermoso (San Francisco State University) and Rita Takahashi (San Francisco State University)

### Outstanding Practitioner



The Outstanding Practitioner Award honors the significant contribution to a community of a BSW or MSW level macro practitioner.

**Lora D. Hicks McDonald, Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity MORE, Kansas City, MO**

Nominator: Peter Kindle (University of South Dakota)

### Congratulations to all of our 2018 ACOSA Awardees!

The awards committee was led by *Julie Birkenmaier*. Many thanks to Julie for her leadership and to the members of the Awards Committee: *Jamie Booth, Joel Izlar, John Mathias, Stephen Stoeffler, Samantha Teixeira, John Tropman, Laurie Walker, and Rachel West*.

# Partner Report: Influencing Social Policy (ISP)

By Sunny Harris Rome, ISP President

**Influencing Social Policy (ISP)** – formerly Influencing State Policy -- is a national social work organization devoted to policy and policy practice. Created in 1997, it recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. ISP facilitates the active engagement of social work faculty, students, and practitioners in policy research, practice, and teaching. Recognizing the enormity of the challenges that assail our clients and communities --and the invaluable contributions social workers can make--our goal is to increase social work's influence and impact in shaping social policy at all levels of government.

Some of the ways we promote policy and policy practice are through our conference (Policy Conference 2.0), policy Teaching Institute, and contests. At Policy Conference 2.0, social workers have an opportunity to network and build collaborations, as well as to share research findings, teaching wisdom, and advocacy successes. The policy Teaching Institute is a chance for faculty to learn new and creative ways to engage students and deliver policy content in the classroom and in field; it is a day-long, intensive experience that equips faculty with teaching techniques they can immediately put into practice. ISP also hosts an extensive array of contests where BSW, MSW, and PhD students can win cash awards for their policy-related work – and faculty are recognized for their achievements as mentors and researchers.

In addition to these ongoing activities, we collaborate with our United for Macro partners and others on a host of initiatives, including the National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign, Social Work Day on the Hill, the forthcoming Macro Curriculum Guide, and various webinar offerings.

Check out the ISP website:

[www.influencingosocialpolicy.org](http://www.influencingosocialpolicy.org) for information on all of our activities! You'll also find curriculum resources and lots of opportunities to get involved. And if you're attending the CSWE Annual Program Meeting in Orlando, find us in the Exhibit Hall! Become part of the growing macro community!

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*Sunny Harris Rome, MSW, JD, is the current President of Influencing Social Policy (ISP) and Professor of Social Work at George Mason University.*

## ACOSA Would Like to Acknowledge the Following In-Kind Gifts:

- \* Michigan State University (John K. Mooradian & Anna Maria Santiago) for the newsletter printing
- \* University of Pittsburgh (Tracy Soska) for poster printing
- \* To Linda Grobman for book donation to person joining or renewing at CSWE to ACOSA.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – ACOSA OFFICER AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

**Nominations for several positions on the ACOSA Board are now open.** We need people who are passionate about community organizing and social action to help lead ACOSA in 2019 and beyond!

**ACOSA needs Board Representatives** from the following regions: Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, South Central, and Southwest.

**We will also be electing a Board Secretary.**

ACOSA members from all geographic areas may vote for candidates from each region, and **terms of office are for three years (2019-2021).**

ACOSA members may self-nominate or nominate others with their approval.

**Nominations due by 11:59 PM Pacific on November 21th.**

**Please send any nominee's name, Board or officer position of interest, and contact information to Rebecca Sander ([chair@acosa.org](mailto:chair@acosa.org))** along with a very brief statement explaining nominee's macro practice interests and desire to serve on the Board.

### *Wanna Organize?*

### *Looking to Network?*

*Contact YOUR ACOSA regional reps!*

Northeast	Rachel West (NY)	rlwestconsulting@gmail.com
Northeast	Jennifer Zelnick (NY)	jennifer.zelnick@touro.edu
Mid-Atlantic	Mary Ohmer (PA)	mlo51@pitt.edu
Mid-Atlantic	Dorlisa Minnick (PA)	djminnick@ship.edu
Southeast	Jan Ivery (GA)	jivery@gsu.edu
Southeast	Elena Delavega (TN)	mdlavega@memphis.edu
North Central	Karen D'Angelo (IL)	krenanne@uic.edu
North Central	Peter Kindle (SD)	peter.kindle@usd.edu
South Central	Shane Brady (OK)	srbrady78@gmail.com
South Central	Jill Murray (LA)	jmurray@suno.edu
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Northwest	Laurie Walker (MT)	Laurie.walker@mso.umt.edu
Northwest	Alice Gates (OR)	gatesa@up.edu
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# Special Commission Update (cont. from p. 3)

By Darlyne Bailey, PhD, LISW and Terry Mizrahi, PhD, MSW

SC, the *Network of Social Work Management, Association for Community Organization and Social Administration*, #MacroSW, *National Association of Deans and Directors*, *North American Network of Field Educators and Directors*, the *Council on Social Work Education*, the *Latino Social Work Organization*, the *National Rural Social Work Caucus*, the *National Association of Perinatal Social Workers and the Clinical Social Work Association*, and the *Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD)*. NASW national and many NASW State Chapters. The “*New Social Worker*” magazine and many Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work have also joined. They are getting their students, faculty and field involved. The list keeps growing!

The Campaign is raising awareness of the importance of voting to Social Work practice; refuting the myths that inhibit voter registration by Social Workers, and by providing trainings and technical assistance to develop voter mobilization skills and strategies for field instructors, agencies, faculty, students, and administrators. Its overriding goal is to catalyze the profession by integrating voter engagement activities into all corners of social work education.

**Lastly for now, the SC Work Group “Data and Outcomes”, continues to develop more inclusive Definitions of Social Work** to be utilized by State SW Licensing Boards. This Workgroup is actively enlisting additional professional organizations, and featuring ways that Social Workers can “make macro matter.”

**What can you do? Join the Special Commission through our Action Clusters, our 4 ACs!**

- **AC I. A focus on Practice materials** by identifying, producing and utilizing resources to strengthen or expand macro content and/or a macro specialization. **Convener: Diane Bessel, [dbessel@daemen.edu](mailto:dbessel@daemen.edu)**
- **AC II. A focus on connecting with Social Workers** and other professional and community colleagues by outreaching, networking, and disseminating webinars, podcasts, blogs, presentations, speaking at public meetings, and utilizing social media. **Conveners: Kristie Holmes, [kholmes@gmail.com](mailto:kholmes@gmail.com); Steve Burghardt, [hrrdt@aol.com](mailto:hrrdt@aol.com)**
- **AC III. A focus on expanding and strengthening professional leadership roles** and connections within social work and other professional organizations, by developing strategies to mobilize various constituent groups in support of the

Special Commission goals. **Convener: Darlyne Bailey, [dbailey01@brynmaur.edu](mailto:dbailey01@brynmaur.edu)**

- **AC IV. A focus on greater visibility for the SC** and other “macro matters” strategies and activities including Campaign on voter engagement. **Conveners: Mimi Abramovitz, [iabramo@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:iabramo@hunter.cuny.edu); Terry Mizrahi, [tmizrahi@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:tmizrahi@hunter.cuny.edu)**
- **Work Group on Licensing: Linda Plitt-Donaldson, [donaldson@cua.edu](mailto:donaldson@cua.edu)**
- **AC V. A focus on a Strategic Campaign to achieve “20% by 2020”** with the endorsement of many of our major professional Social Work organizations undertaking efforts to aid in its accomplishment. And Work Group on Data and Outcomes. **Conveners: Deb Adams, [ddadams@ku.edu](mailto:ddadams@ku.edu); and Amy Murphy Nugen, [abmurphynugen@email.wcu.edu](mailto:abmurphynugen@email.wcu.edu)**

We look forward to hearing from you!!

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*Darlyne Bailey, PhD, LISW, is a Professor and Dean Emeritus; Director, Social Justice Initiative, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research; and Special Assistant to the President for Community Partnerships at Bryn Mawr College.*

*Terry Mizrahi, PhD, MSW, is a Professor and Chair (Community Organizing, Planning and Development) at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College-CUNY.*

**Connect with the  
Special Commission in Orlando!  
Visit the ACOSA Booth #211  
in the Exhibit Hall at the APM.**

# Macro News from Around the Nation

NASW-MD Macro Conference Summary By Dick Cook, MSW, LCSW  
Macro Ohio Is on the Move! By Michel Coconis, PhD, MSW

## NASW-MD Macro Conference Summary

On September 28th, more than 75 Macro Social Workers gathered for NASW-MD's 6th Annual Macro Conference. Previous key-noters have included Jack Rothman, Terry Mizrahi and former Senator Barbara Mikulski.

This year Executive Director Daphne McClellan had the pleasure of welcoming Wendy Shaia, Executive Director of the Social Work Community Outreach Service. Wendy's address was titled, "*Transforming Society or Maintaining the Status Quo? Social Work at the Crossroads.*" The powerful address challenged all of us present to deal with the reality that, despite all of the work done by social workers over more than a century,

- people are still poor,
- children are still abused, especially children of color,
- our government removes Latin American children from their parents placing both in conditions of incarceration,
- we have not yet fully recognized or redressed our history of slavery, our treatment of Native Americans, or our incarceration of Japanese Americans.

She challenged us to seriously ask ourselves, "Are we doing the right thing?" Wendy built off of the African proverb, "Until the lion tells us his own story, the hunters will always be glorified." We need to be helping those who are left out to tell their own stories and histories. She pointed out that before we transform society, we ourselves must be transformed. She ended with a framework of what we need to do to change the way we work.

Other workshops included:

***Seeing (and Seizing) the Opportunity: Incorporating Macro Practice Competencies into Foundation Field Placements***, presented by Rebecca Sander, Chair of ACOSA

***Baltimore's Strange Fruit: A Story of Food Apartheid and the Struggle for Sovereignty***, by Eric Jackson

***Social Workers Taking Action***, by Dina Kastner of NASW, National Office

***Understanding Human Trafficking***, by Moythna James Brightful and Rachel Sye

***Tools and Tips for Creating Effective Grant Proposals***, by Becky Davis, and

***Community-Based Participatory Research: Working with Marginalized Communities to Affect Change***, by Adam Schneider, Lisa Klingensmaier and Tony Simmons.

We left challenged and invigorated and a little saddened that each of us was unable to attend each workshop.

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**Dick Cook**, is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

## Macro Ohio Is on the Move!

In partnership with Ohio NASW, macro social work is moving forward in the Buckeye State. In late 2017, Ohio NASW hosted a meeting in Columbus where about 30 people from around the state came and, after some introductions, separated into areas of focus and worked on discussing what macro practice needs participants. Since then, there have been several phone calls, evening socials, and a large day-long meeting to again speak to the issues of macro practitioners, particularly focused on mental health issues where nearly 100 social workers attended and about 10 partner presenters spoke or lead sections of workshops. Ohio NASW had seven sponsors for this event and those kinds of numbers suggest the need for such planning of events.

While ACOSA does not have chapters, ACOSA members Michel Coconis and Terry Cluse-Tolar are in the planning stages of a macro UNconference next spring where there will be an opportunity for macro practitioners and allies to attend a gathering (hopefully free or very low cost) to share their expertise and their areas of concern for how to elevate their macro understandings, initiatives, and outcomes for a more just Ohio. We thank Ohio NASW in advance for partnering with us to advertise and support this meeting. Next year we hope to share this unique event with everyone to replicate and improve for greater macro impact across the nation!

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**Michel Coconis** is Affiliate Professor at Union Institute and University (online BSW program), member of Ohio NASW, ACOSA, ISP, and SWAA, and Coordinator of Member Relations Committee, ACOSA.

# ACOSA Newsletter *Spotlight*:

## Abebaw Minaye, ACOSA Board Member

*Spotlight*, is a new section of the newsletter that focuses on the work of ACOSA members and board members. Below, we highlight ACOSA Board Member, *Abebaw Minaye*.

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**Please share with ACOSA Newsletter readers your work now and over time, including research, teaching, community work and service and identifying any particular classes, projects or skills you would like to highlight. If you have earned a particular achievement or won an award, please share that with us as well.**

Recently I teach organizational behavior, and policy analysis & program evaluation for social psychology PhD students. I also teach advanced social psychology, group dynamics, community psychology, social program development and evaluation and field attachment in organizational and community settings for social psychology MA students. I am advising PhD dissertations and MA theses in social psychology. I am leading a thematic research project at Addis Ababa University (AAU) in which faculty members from psychology and social work participate. I am board chairperson of a local NGO that supports 175 vulnerable children by providing educational materials. My consultancy work caters on developing manuals and standard operation procedures for training of potential migrants, returnees, policy makers and shelter staff of organizations engaged in reintegration of trafficking survivors.

**Please share with us your ACOSA story: how did you learn about ACOSA, how long have you been involved, what drew you to getting more actively involved in ACOSA at this time (or previously), what benefit you get from ACOSA, and what have you been doing to be engaged with ACOSA since you joined?**

I learned about ACOSA from Professor Alice Butterfield of University of Illinois in Chicago in 2007. In 2009 I attended the CSWE APM meeting at San Antonio where I attended the ACOSA session, visited the booth and got registered as member. In March 2012, I published an article on Journal of Community Practice (JCP). As member I accessed articles in the JCP which helped me as major resources for the community psychology course I teach. In 2016 I attended the CSWE APM meeting at Atlanta. I participated in the ACOSA session presentations and discussions. I met Becki Sanders there and she asked me if I can be a board member. I applied for the same and become international member. I attended few teleconferences of ACOSA board members in the US. After I returned to Ethiopia I discussed with PhD students in the School of Social Work at AAU about what ACOSA is doing and the benefits of membership. They were enthusiastic but paying using International Money Card was difficult. Fortunately, professor Alice came to give a course and she paid a school membership (for 2017) which made PhD students benefit from it.

**Please share a particular macro activity that you either think we need to teach more of, do more of, or understand more about and how you think that might happen (and if ACOSA can help).**

I learn from its newsletters that ACOSA is doing a lot in promoting

macro practice in the US. If it is possible what I suggest is promoting macro practice globally, particularly in the global south and East to reach large populations in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This can be done through exchange visits on both sides.

**Please tell us one macro story of teaching, practice, research, or all three or other, that teaches us something about you and about the benefits of macro practice. You can start by sharing an issue or problem area that readers might learn more about through your story.**

In teaching community psychology, organizational behavior, group dynamics and policy analysis & program evaluation, I focus on social movements. As Ethiopia was in social movement in the last three years my PhD and MA students work with communities and organizations to promote social change. As to research I am leading a thematic research project on the nexus among youth unsafe migration, quality of education and gender with a view of providing policy inputs, organizing training sessions, and designing interventions at school level to reduce unsafe migration. As to practice my involvement is more on policy advocacy for migrants and returnees based on my research outputs.

**Please share a quote and/or a photo that motivates you, inspires you, or expresses something special to you about social work and macro practice.**

Alexander the Great's Quote on leadership that states, "*I am not afraid of an army of lions led by sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion*" I connect it to the role of Community Organization and Leadership. I relate it to the current situation in Ethiopia. Six months ago we were scared that the country is to break. But few reformists in the ruling coalition led by Dr Abiy Ahmed and his community organizing and leadership skills cleared the fearful cloud and hope is prevailing in the nation although there is a long way to go. This convinced me about the role of leadership, organization and consciousness raising in bringing large scale changes.

**What's next for you in macro social work practice?**

I am planning to establish a Centre of Excellence on Migration and Mobility (CEMM) at AAU. Ethiopia is experiencing huge internal and external migration. Migrants are facing a lot of plight. One contributor for this is absence of coordination of efforts among stakeholders. Establishing a CEMM will contribute by conducting research which will inform policy makers and implementers. The Centre will also offer training for stakeholders (government, CSO, migrants, and local community). CEMM will also provide service for vulnerable and affected potential migrants and returnees like counseling, life skills training, entrepreneurial skills, financial literacy, referral and others. Doing so will improve migration management in Ethiopia.

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*Abebaw Minaye is the Coordinator of Graduate Programs, School of Psychology at Addis Ababa University.*



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### The ACOSA Update!

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<b>Special Commission</b>	Cassandra Ramhap, Darlyne Bailey, Terry Mizrahi
<b>Macro Social Work Student Network</b>	Kimberly Wirt, Tamarie Willis

**The Association for Community Organization and Social Administration**

[WWW.ACOSA.ORG](http://WWW.ACOSA.ORG)

**ACOSA is a registered 501c3 membership organization for community organizers, planners, activists, administrators, policy practitioners, students, and professors. ACOSA members represent a variety of disciplines and professional fields which strive to strengthen community organization and social administration in practice and education. ACOSA *Update!* is printed annually and online twice per year by the Association for Community Organization & Social Administration (ACOSA).**

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