**UB School of Social Work Global Interest Group**

* Every month we host a Global to Local Luncheons which consists of a 1-hour presentation by an expert on a specific topic that has both global context and local relevance. Presentations highlight issues in social work through an international lens. Experts in a specific field present at the luncheons. Representatives of a local refugee community, professionals from an agency, researchers, faculty members, and student leaders have all presented at past events.
* In the month of March, our luncheon was focused on highlighting services that contribute to the renewed health and continued wellbeing of the Native American community. Our speaker for this event, Pete Hill, is an enrolled member of the Cayuga Nation, Heron Can and currently the "All Our Relations" Project Director at Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties, Inc. Pete has worked at NACS for over 26 years, spending the majority of that time with youth and community programs addressing alcohol/substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, crisis intervention. teen pregnancy prevention, and HIV risk reduction. He has integrated many Native American cultural teachings into program design, evaluation, and strengths-based approaches.
* On March 6th, we will also be hosting an International Film Festival event featuring “The Hand that Feeds”, a documentary about the struggle of undocumented workers in New York City as they unionize in order to obtain more equitable and safe working practices in their restaurant. We will then have a panel discussion moderated by the UB School of Social Work's own Professor Elizabeth Bowen, and with Meghan Maloney de Zaldivar of the New York Immigration Coalition pro-migrant activist group, Gamaliel Zaldivar, local worker by way of El Salvador and Sociology Professor Erin Hatton, who researches Work & Labor Markets, Social Policy and Race, Gender and Class Inequality on our panel. Our caterer for this event is Taqueria Ranchos las Delicious, a locally owned restaurant.

**UB School of Social Work Alumni Association**

* Every week we send emails to both students and alumni, highlighting the theme of the month and how it pertains to the work we do within the Social Work school. Alumni are then asked to support the UB Fund for the School of Social Work, as that fund supports experiential learning for our students, including international field placements, students to attend the Albany advocacy days, students to attend the Capitol Hill advocacy days, conference fees, etc.
* Students are asked to support the Students Helping Students Fund, which is an emergency fund supported and utilized only by social work students (very few like this exist at the University – we are so proud of it!!). The fund exists to provide emergency funding to students facing financial crisis that could compromise their enrollment in our program. We’ve funded critical needs like emergency child care, transportation after car accidents, money for food and shelter while a student undergoes familial hardships, just to name a few.
* On a weekly basis, our alumni are called through our phonathon program. We wish them a happy national social work month, update their alumni records, and ask them to support the school if they care to.
* We are working with Lauren McGowan from Admissions to utilize our email platform to accept videos from our alumni to highlight their work and why they selected the field of social work. We utilize these videos as an admissions and recruitment tool to show potential students who are interested in applying to the SSW.
* We are also hosting the young alumni insights panel on Monday, March 11 in the evening. For this event, we invite five recent graduates back to campus to answer questions from our soon to be graduated MSW students. This program is in partnership with the Professional Development Seminar faculty. They bring their students, and it’s open for all other students as well, for a Q+A with our alums with informal networking after the panel. It is moderated by Katie McClain-Meeder from Field Education.