



Impact eNews from the UW School of Social Work

AN INNOVATIVE MODEL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

On May 14, the UW announced a \$38 million gift from Ballmer Group to the School of Social Work and other UW-led programs, creating a transformational model for behavioral health education and community-based services in Washington state.



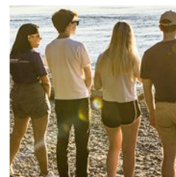
Building a diverse and expert behavioral health workforce

The School is coordinating \$24.8 million of the Ballmer Group gift (see above) in a program designed to expand the diversity and numbers of well-prepared, debt-relieved students graduating from the state's master's programs in social work and mental health counseling who commit to work in behavioral health for three years. [MORE](#)



Preventing opioid dependence among incarcerated youth

Nearly 20% of youth in the criminal justice system, often the most marginalized, are dependent on opioids. The School's Social Development Research Group is working with the state's Office of Juvenile Rehabilitation to explore proven interventions to end the cycle of substance use, including post-incarceration community support. [MORE](#)



Research team studies student stress levels and mental health

With a research grant from the UW Population Health Initiative, Professor and Associate Dean Paula Nurius is leading a transdisciplinary team that includes the UW School of Engineering and iSchool to study student cumulative stress levels and their effects on psychological, social and academic well-being. [MORE](#)



Op-ed calls for urgent action to combat anti-Asian hate crimes

"Millions of Asian Americans are feeling vulnerable and targeted during an already deeply stressful time," writes Associate Dean for Faculty Excellence David Takeuchi in a *Seattle Times* op-ed. Takeuchi, who is working with the AAPI COVID-19 Needs Assessment Project to document the consequences of hate crimes, found that a substantial proportion of people who have reported hate crimes experience post-traumatic stress symptoms, including depression. [MORE](#)

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Seven new faculty members join School community, enhancing classroom and research expertise. Professor Michelle Johnson-Jennings, Professor E. Roberto Orellana, Assistant Professor Meghan Romanelli and Research Assistant Professor David Huh, along with lecturers Arden M. Hellmann, Caroline James and Karen Wollebomberg, joined the School community this academic year. Their areas of expertise include health issues affecting Indigenous and Latinx populations, the use of statistics to better assess behavioral health interventions, and mental health disparities facing LGBTQ populations. [MORE](#)

Dr. Ben Danielson, noted equitable health care advocate, to address 2021 School graduates. Dr. Ben Danielson, a respected voice on the impacts of racism on health, will speak at the School's virtual graduation celebration on June 13. Throughout his career, Dr. Danielson, a physician and clinical professor at the UW School of Medicine, has championed a more racially just and accessible health care system. [MORE](#)

Researchers develop innovations to improve health care access for multicultural communities. Two research teams with representation from the School of Social Work received grants from the UW Population Health Initiative to improve access to health care among multicultural communities hit hard during the pandemic. One team is exploring ways to promote COVID-19 vaccine acceptance within communities of color, with a focus on Vietnamese populations. The second team is using authentic community "voices," including social media and Spanish radio programs, to communicate public health issues with Latinx communities. [MORE](#)

Keynote speech highlights role of representing older adults in AI data and design. Assistant Professor Clara Berridge, whose research examines the ethical and policy implications of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) used in elder care, spoke recently at a virtual conference sponsored by AARP and the Future of Privacy Forum. Berridge's presentation focused on elder care technologies as they relate to power and ethics. [LISTEN](#)

Research shows Latinos are willing to be vaccinated against COVID-19 but disparities persist. Researchers from the School's Latino Center for Health found that nearly two-thirds of Latinos are willing to be vaccinated against COVID-19 but only 8% received at least one shot as of April 2021. In fact, Washington has the second-highest COVID infection rate among Latinos in the nation even though Latinos represent only 13% of the

state population. Based on these data, the Latino Center issued a series of recommendations to improve vaccine access for members of this community. [MORE](#)

FACULTY NEWS

Impact of the federal stimulus plan on poverty, inequality and social justice

The recently passed American Rescue Plan goes far beyond just helping business owners and families stay afloat during the pandemic. Professor Jennifer Romich led a panel discussion recently that included Associate Professor Amelia Gavin and three School alumni to explore what this legislation means for poverty, inequality and social justice. Romich directs the School's West Coast Poverty Center, where she researches low-income workers, household budgets and how families interact with public policy. [WATCH](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

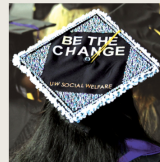
May 27 presentation by Gino Aisenberg focuses on culturally responsive health care

Join Associate Professor Gino Aisenberg, founder and co-director of the Latino Center for Health, as he discusses culturally responsive health care for Latinx communities. As a bicultural social work researcher, Aisenberg explores ways to improve access to mental health care for rural Latinos. His virtual presentation on May 27 at 3:30 p.m. is the fourth in the Leading Lights speaker series, which was created by Dean Eddie Uehara to spotlight some of the School's top scholars who are also leaders in creating systemic social change. [RSVP TODAY](#)



2021 graduation celebration will be virtual on June 13

The School's 2021 graduation celebration will be held virtually—for the second year in a row—on Sunday, June 13, starting at 1:30 p.m. Although the event will be virtual, the celebration will include the same elements that occur every year: welcoming remarks, award recognition, and a dynamic keynote speaker, which this year is Dr. Ben Danielson, UW School of Medicine professor and a respected voice on the impacts of racism on health. [MORE](#)



IN THE NEWS

[Ballmer Group's transformative investment in behavioral health](#), *The Seattle Times*, May 20, 2021 (School of Social Work)

[Ballmers' charity pledges \\$38M to help Washington state's response to mental, behavioral health crisis](#), *The Seattle Times*, May 20, 2021 (School of Social Work)

[Opinion: Women and nonbinary faculty of color are vulnerable one year into pandemic](#), *South Seattle Emerald*, May 17, 2021 (Assistant Professor Jane Lee)

[Ballmer Group gives \\$38M to bolster Washington state's ailing mental health services](#), *GeekWire*, May 17, 2021 (School of Social Work)

[In COVID-19 data, L.G.B.T.O., people fear invisibility](#), *The New York Times*, May 7, 2021 (Assistant Professor Meghan Romanelli)

[Federal Jenna Quinn Law would protect children from sex abuse](#), *Houston Chronicle*, April 23, 2021 (Professor Emeritus Jon R. Conte)

[Perinatal patients, nurses explain how hospital pandemic policies failed them](#), *UW News*, April 7, 2021 (Associate Professor Amanda Gavin)

["A turning point": UW Population Health Initiative's pandemic grants changed how the university works](#), *UW News*, March 19, 2021 (Latino Center for Health)

[Ending anti-Asian violence requires urgent action at all levels](#), *The Seattle Times*, March 17, 2021 (Associate Dean for Faculty Excellence David Takeuchi)

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