

# IN SERVICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK June 2017

## A note from the Director...

The School of Social Work just concluded a very busy month of May celebrating graduations in Sioux City, Des Moines, and Iowa City. During each of these graduations, I was so moved by the messages of our speakers, both students and community members, who challenged the audience to consider the difference that can be made in the lives of others. I was particularly moved by the words of Brian Ellis, an MSW graduate from Des Moines. Brian shared his career journey and how it was through the wisdom and mentoring of a few key individuals that he is now graduating with his MSW from the University of Iowa, a dream he had never pondered. Each one of us has an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others to ensure their dreams can be fulfilled. This difference may be through a message of support or words of encouragement to a person overcoming significant adversity. Our difference may come through "tough love" and allowing a person to fail or hit "rock bottom," but always remaining present to help them rebuild their lives. Or, our difference may come through being the one beacon of light for a person when everything looks so dark. As social workers, we are called to make a difference regardless of how hard and overwhelming that may seem to us and to our clients. As we look to fall, I ask you to consider how you are working to make a difference for someone else and supporting them in fulfilling their personal dreams. How are you embodying the idea of being a "change maker", even on the most difficult days? As Brian Ellis shared, there are cemeteries full of unfulfilled dreams. We as social workers have a great opportunity to be the person to help individuals reach their dreams through making important changes in their lives, even if those changes are subtle. Please have a terrific summer and let us know how you are working in collaboration with others to make a difference.

*Sara S.*



**Brian Ellis, MSW 2017**



<http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork>

# Research



Professor Man (May) Guo has had a grant funded by the [National Institute of Aging](#). The more than \$425,000 grant will allow Guo and Xinqi Dong, the co-investigator from Rush University Medical Center, to study acculturation, family relations, and mental health of U.S. Chinese older adults. Family relations are

reshaped in the acculturation process, resulting in divergent family experiences even within the same ethnic group. Our knowledge regarding such heterogeneities among older immigrants and their implications for mental health is essentially lacking. Using data from the largest and most comprehensive population study of Chinese older adults in the United States, Guo's study aims to identify the most "optimal" family relation type that benefits mental health of these aging immigrants in the long run. The findings from Guo's study will provide a better understanding of hard-to-measure family processes among older immigrants. The findings will help researchers, clinicians, and policy makers to better identify at-risk older immigrants for targeted and tailored assessment and interventions, and to enhance successful aging of rapidly increasing immigrant populations through a refined family lens.

## Recent Faculty Publications

**Bern-Klug, M.** (2017). *Terminal illness*. Bibliographies in Social Work.

**Bern-Klug, M.**, Peterson, N., Dohrmann, J., & Powell, K. (2017). *POLST Toolkit for Nursing Homes*. National POLST Organization.

**Guo, M.**, Dong, X.Q., Tiwari, A. Family and marital conflict among Chinese older adults in the United States: The influence of personal coping resources. *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*.

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

Liu, J., **Guo, M.**, Xu, L., Mao, W.Y., & Chi, I. Support from migrant children and depressive symptoms of Chinese older adults in transnational families. *Aging & Mental Health*

**Sanders, S.** & Stensland, M. Agency behind bars: Advance care planning with aging and dying offenders. *Death Studies*.



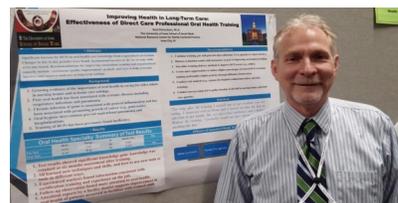
Tessa Heeren

Tessa Heeren, (MSW 2016) learned early in her graduate program, that macro-social work was meant for her. She did her Advanced Practicum at the UI Public Policy Center, applied for a research internship from the National Institute of Health's Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research and Training (MHIRT) program, did her research project in Romania the summer after graduation,

and now has a job doing research for the Center. "I wanted to address recurring, systemic problems," she said. "I have great co-workers, and there is room to grow here. I hope to be able to continue doing research outside the US." The MHIRT program paid for her to present her research from Romania at the National Health Policy Conference in Washington, DC. "Not many social work students are aware that the MHIRT program exists. It was an incredible experience, both personally and professionally," Tessa said.

<https://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/cireh/mhirt/> Tessa's job focuses on two areas; Health Policy and Social and Education Policy. She recently contributed to the development of a school climate survey for the Iowa City Community School District which examined school climate and disparities in academic achievement and disciplinary actions among students of color and gender non-conforming students.

Is a PhD in her future? "Maybe, probably sometime."



NRC Research Director Dr. Brad Richardson presented results from a direct care worker training program at the [2017 Aging in America](#) Conference in Chicago on March 22, 2017. The

results from the evaluation of the training program indicated significant increases in oral health knowledge in direct care workers. Changes in day to day practice were also found through follow-up observation in long-term care facilities. Findings and recommendations for curriculum, training, organizational improvements and ongoing evaluation to help overcome institutional barriers and further improve oral care in long-term settings were discussed. Dr. Richardson's presentation also provided recommendations for how oral health could be improved in long term care settings and detailed how important oral health care is for overall health.

# Passages



PEORIA - **Wayne Carl Evens** passed away peacefully Sunday, April 16, after a short battle with cancer surrounded by his loving and supportive family. Wayne was born May 12, 1942, in Vinton, Iowa, to Fay and Florence Evens. His parents and one sister, Nadene Evens, preceded him in death, Wayne is survived by his wife, Sonja Evens; his daughter, Pamela Gombert;

two sons, Daren and Chris Evens; three step-daughters, Marcie Phillis, Amy Wolfe and Laura Encino, as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his sisters, Rita Moore and Dolores Kindler. He will be greatly missed by his family, who loved him dearly, as well as the many students, faculty and friends he has touched over the years. He was our hero, our role model, our friend. He always encouraged those he met to be the best people they could be, and to reach higher and farther than they ever thought possible. He taught us all through his unconditional love.

Wayne asked, before his death, that we all take time to reflect on our relationships with him and remember him at his best. He will live on in us all, and we can honor him by choosing kindness over anger, respect over judgement and love over fear.

Cremation Rites have been accorded. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials in his name may be given to Heartland Clinic, Friends of Central Illinois or to a charity of the donor's choice. Memorials and condolences may be sent using [www.peoriafuneral.com](http://www.peoriafuneral.com).



MSW student Herminia Garcia in the Law Library looking up state laws about nursing home social work for a research project she is working on with PhD students Nadia Sabbagn, Liz Byram and Professor Mercedes Bern-Klug.



**Evelyn Brightman, MSW 1973**  
Evelyn Louise Butrum Brightman, 71, of rural Chariton, died of complications of cancer Sunday, May 7, at Lucas County Health Center in Chariton. Evelyn was born July 5, 1945, in Chariton to George William Butrum and Laura Hagg Butrum. She grew up on the family farm in

English Township, Lucas County, north of Chariton. After graduating from Chariton High School in 1964, Evelyn attended Graceland College in Lamoni, Ia., graduating in 1968 with a degree in social work. She then attended the University of Iowa where she earned her master's in social work.

Evelyn worked as a social worker at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines for many years, then went on to work for the Veteran's Administration as a counselor.

Following her retirement from the VA, she was hired at the Lucas County Health Center as a psychotherapist in September of 1999 where she worked until her retirement in March.

In addition to her active professional life, Evelyn raised horses, was active in the community theaters in Indianola and Chariton, as well as the community band in Chariton, the Presbyterian Church in Chariton where she sang in the choir, a past board member of the Iowa Genealogical Society, a member of the Lucas County Genealogical Society, the Warren County Genealogy Society and the Lucas County Historical Society.

She was married to Jim Brightman and the couple, who lived in Des Moines and then south of Indianola, had two sons, along with the two daughters who Jim brought to the marriage.

Evelyn and the children later moved to the farm where Evelyn grew up, and where she lived until her death.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by sons Clint Brightman and Cody Brightman, both of Indianola; daughters, Johnna Brightman Feola of Riverside, Calif., and Julie Brightman Totty of Yuma, Ariz.; and two grandchildren, Chad Perez of Des Moines, and Oakley Church.

Memorials may be made to Race for the Cure and Chariton Valley Players.

# Resources & Opportunities

## Sock 'em for CISS

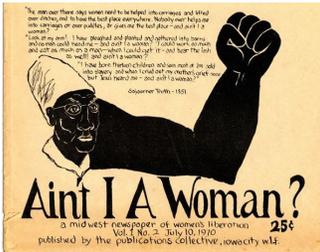


As part of a class project for Kimberlee Gregory's Social Work Processes class, three students from the School of Social Work recently held a dodgeball tournament and sock drive to benefit Central Iowa Shelter & Services.

**Johanna Grenko, Tina Epp, and**

**Jayne Williams** organized the "Sock 'em for CISS" dodgeball tournament at the Iowa Center for Higher Education's Activities Center. They also collected socks from donation boxes at two separate locations.

The project raised over 700 pairs of socks and over \$200 for CISS, an organization providing services for Des Moines's homeless population. Socks are a desperately needed item all year long, and especially in the spring with wet weather coming at a time when winter donations have dried up.



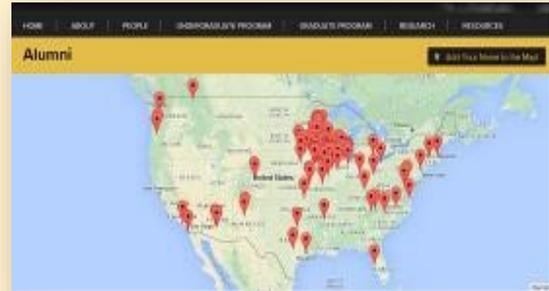
## Iowa City Feminist Reunion

**July 14-16, 2017**

UI Main Library Gallery

A group of feminists from the early days of political activism in Iowa City, (1965-1985), are hosting a weekend of activities to honor and celebrate their accomplishments during that era. The reunion coincides with the Iowa Women's Archives 25th Anniversary, so participants are asked to bring stories, photos, mementos and artifacts, to donate to the archives. A Gala Dinner is planned on Saturday at Old Brick, to raise money for the IWA. On Friday and Saturday, story circles and panels will explore the history of feminist activism in Iowa City. Several organizations and agencies were created by women during that time, and still exist today, such as the Emma Goldman Clinic, the Free Medical Clinic, the Rape Victim Advocacy Program, and the Domestic Violence Program among others. The event is open to everyone. To register, go to <http://www.eventleaf.com/IowaCityFeministReunion>

## UI Social Work Connect



About 300 alumni have enrolled in the new version of Social Work Connect; an online map that allows alums to identify their location on a map of the world. You can include contact information which allows current students and former colleagues to connect for mentoring, job and practicum information. Its free! <http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/people/alumni>

## It's a great time to get a PhD in social work!

- Competitive financial package
- Excellent job outlook
- Highly interdisciplinary curriculum with courses in psychology, sociology, education or public health
- Mentorship by nationally recognized scholars
- Opportunity for part-time study

Contact: [man-quo@uiowa.edu](mailto:man-quo@uiowa.edu) for more information or

## Social Work Jobs

Have a job to advertise?  
Looking for a job?

<https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/social-work-job-listings>

# Professional Development

## Creative Writing Seminar for Helping Professionals



July 21-24, 2017  
Iowa City, IA

For more information, go to:  
<http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork>

For ceu or academic credit

## Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT)

July 7, 2017  
8 am-4 pm

332 North Hall  
20 West Davenport St.  
Iowa City, IA

## Motivational Interviewing: Inviting & Acknowledging Change Talk



October 20, 2017  
8:30 am—4:00 pm

Rm. 1501  
Scott Community College  
Bettendorf, IA

## Ethical Issues in Setting Professional Boundaries



October 13, 2017  
9:00 am —4:00 pm  
Briar Cliff Univ.  
Sioux City, IA

To download a registration brochure, go to: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/resources/professional-development-opportunities>

# Collaboration & Community Engagement

Des Moines celebrates accomplishments of students, alumni and community members



Mr. Ed Barnes, Ms. Catherine Williams & Mr. Paul Danforth

On April 20<sup>th</sup> the University Of Iowa School Of Social Work, Social Workers of Color and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) IA Diversity Committee hosted their annual event to honor

graduates and welcome the new Students of Color entering the Des Moines programs. More than ninety people gathered in the diner of the new Iowa Center for Higher Education in Des Moines. The 2017 graduates included: Brian Ellis, MSW; Gabriel (Gabe) Martinez, MSW; Bonnie Brown, BASW; Jacqueline Gloede, BASW: and Erika Redrovan, BASW. We also recognized five Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Human Services graduates who were part of the Minority, Youth, and Family Initiative. Those students are: Tierra Mayberry, Myesha Thompson, Carmen Johnson, Karen Marion, and Alisha Green. We look forward to awesome contributions all our students have made and will continue making across our communities and beyond!

The event also provided an opportunity to pay tribute to an unsung hero in the social work profession. This year the Legacy of Mr. Paul Danforth, LISW was celebrated! Over the span of 54 years he has provided mental health therapy, education to graduate level social work students, been instrumental in starting community-based programming, served on numerous committees and boards, and has provided countless hours of public service through both the profession and his fraternity. Mr. Danforth is often called upon for his expertise in cultural competence, the impact of trauma, and the African male experience. His contributions to the profession have been invaluable and his calling to be an ambassador for social justice is without question! The speakers paying tribute to Mr. Danforth were awesome, the food was wonderfully prepared, and the laughter and energy in the room was phenomenal! It was truly a memorable occasion!

Our appreciation and thanks to the awesome planning committee (Pamyla Stewart, Janice Lane, Alexis Morlan, Ms. Joyce Bruce, Jacqueline Easily-McGhee, Bobretta Brewton, Kimberlee Gregory, Tierra Floyd, Gayla Nesbitt, and Sandra McGee) for working hard to make the 2017 event a success!



An appreciative crowd.



L-Mr. Danforth. Above-Dr. McGee and Ilima Dunn Young, SW Dir. DMACC

## Jonny's Milk Bar Satisfies Thirst for Success

When Jonny started working at Wild Bill's Coffeeshop last year, he had a ulterior motive. He explained in his interview that his goal was to open his own business, but instead of selling coffee, he would sell a variety of milk concoctions. He got the idea from his favorite video game, The Legend of Zelda. In January, Jonny had the opportunity to pilot his idea at Wild Bill's. Jonny has high functioning autism and is a natural entrepreneur. He suggested we contact the newspaper to give his idea some publicity. Press Citizen reporter Holly Hines interviewed Jonny and the article and photographs by David Scrivner were published the next day. Jonny continues to have ideas for expansion and hopes to realize his dream some day by opening his own business.



Jonny's job coach Alyse Smith, David Scrivner, Holly Hines, & Jonny Sullivan

# Advocating for Social Work Values

## Needs Assessment Finds Compliance ≠ Accessibility

The School of Social Work was approached by the Provost's Office to conduct an assessment of the accessibility of Iowa City's downtown restaurants for people with disabilities. The project was adopted by seven students from Dr. Megan Gilster's, and Ben Woodworth's Organization and



Sam Mestan

Community Practice classes, and was led by Samantha Mestan.

The group conducted a Strength and Needs Assessment in Iowa City with a focus on ADA compliance of restaurants in downtown Iowa City and then presented their results and intervention plan to the class. Students interviewed restaurant representatives Kurt Friese, Seth Dudley,

and Dan Blum; the senior city building inspector, Tim Hennes; Brian Manternach, Facilities Accessibility Coordinator for the University of Iowa Facilities Management; and Harry Olmstead and Patrick Comparin, community members who experience a disability.



Sarah Cupp

The needs assessment revealed that although restaurants are *compliant* with the minimum standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act, they are not necessarily *accessible* to people with disabilities.

The study group created a variety of plans to help bridge the gap between compliance and accessibility and to increase awareness of business owners, managers and patrons, of the needs of the disability community. The challenge was to create a simple intervention for a complex problem," said Michael Markham, MSW student who was a member of the team.

One of the ideas is to create a window sticker that indicates how the restaurant rates on an index of accessibility.

Disability activist Harry Olmstead, is seeking volunteers to visit each restaurant and complete a detailed assessment of their accessibility, and to present the rating system and sticker idea. The project is a partnership with local restaurateurs and will be a learning opportunity. The effort will be guided by a coalition that will include members of the restaurant community, city officials and people with



Michael Markham



Natalie Veldhouse

disabilities. "It creates the opportunity for conversation and that's where change can start to happen," said MSW student Michael Daly.

The volunteers would also help to create a Disabilities Coalition, that would continue to present ideas for further inclusion of the disability community, and encourage other towns throughout Iowa to adopt their model. They also could develop a statewide conference and a website that lists restaurants and their accessibility. Currently, people who are disabled have no way of knowing if a restaurant is accessible unless they call them first or have heard through word of mouth. A prominent sticker in the restaurant window could answer the question, when driving by.



Rachel Thyberg

The project will focus on entrance accessibility, table height, distance between tables, bathroom door handles, accessibility of sink faucets, grab bars around toilets, toilet height and the availability of braille menus.

The social work students involved with the project were Michael Daley, Michael Markham, Rachel Thyberg, Sarah Cupp, Brad Nelson, Liebana Kuennen and Natalie Veldhouse.

To volunteer with the project, get involved as a restaurant owner or for more information, contact Harry Olmstead at [harryo3@aol.com](mailto:harryo3@aol.com) or (319) 855-2666.



Michael Daley



Brad Nelson

## Graduate Social Work Student Association

2017-2018 Officers



Pictured L to R

Megan Ronnenberg- President, Mike Markham-Curriculum Chair, Jackie Koch, Brenda Boese- Treasurer, Tori Johnson- Interdisciplinary Chair, Rachel Thyberg-Secretary and Mentoring Chair, Tonya Goodburn- Political Advocacy Chair

# Alumni Updates



**Wayne Evens (MSW '89)** passed away Sunday April 16 after a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Sonja (MSW '88), daughter, 2 sons, 2 step daughters, many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Wayne also earned the PhD in Sociology (1964) and taught in the School of Social Work in Iowa City and Quad Cities. He co-authored, with Catherine Alter, the book *Evaluating Your Practice: A Guide to Self-Assessment* which was required reading for many years for students' practicum self-evaluation projects. After leaving Iowa, Wayne taught at Southern Illinois University's School of Social Work, and then was the BSW Program Director at Bradley University in Peoria, and had just recently retired. Wayne is remembered for his commitment to social justice, policy advocacy, mentorship of students, kindness and compassionate service. (see obit on p3.)



**Craig Mosher PhD, MSW 2000** I have gone into retirement after eleven years teaching and directing the social work program at Luther College. I fancy myself a resilient sustainable community developer, working to help communities become more self-sufficient as a way of coping with the disruptions coming from the economy and climate change. For example, we are working to establish a municipal electric utility in Decorah so we can do more energy efficiency and renewable energy development while keeping more of our energy dollars here in our local economy.

I am moving back to Iowa City to be closer to my two kids and five grands there and to join Iowa City Cohousing, which is a 36 household intentional community under construction near the airport. We will have a common house with a kitchen/dining room for shared meals, child care space, laundry, guest rooms, etc. and we will have shared gardens, a shop, and car sharing. Our goal is to create a diverse community where people work together and care for each other.

**Matt Vasquez, MSW 2010, PhD 2014,** has accepted a teaching position and the University of Northern Iowa.

**Jennifer O'Hare-Marker MSW 1994** "If it hadn't been for a social worker...I wouldn't be a social worker. :)"



Don Tyne, BASW 1979

**Donald Tyne, BSW 1979,** has been the director of Linn County Veteran Affairs (VA) since October 2002. He is a former board member of the Willis Dady Shelter, a former president of the Iowa Association of County Commissioners of Veteran Affairs and he is nationally certified as a veteran service officer. Don served as a captain during Desert Storm. In June of 2006, he was selected as one of five "Freedom Festival Heroes." In 2007, the Veteran Memorial Commission voted Don as veteran of the year for Linn County. In 2008, East Central Iowa Brain Injury Association named Don "Professional of The Year." In 2013, he was awarded the Don W. Maniccia HACAP award for his years of community service. In 2015, Don was selected as an honorary Kirkwood alumni graduate. Don is on numerous committees, including Community Resources Committee, Linn County Aging Advocacy Council, Freedom From Hunger, Local Homeless Coordinating Board, Continuum of Care, Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program Elderly Consortium, and the Heritage Agency of Aging.



Miriam Kashia after arrest

**Miriam Kashia, MSW 1992** Social Workers have always been at the forefront of social movements fighting injustice and oppression. Ordinarily, we don't get arrested, but sometimes we do when we've tried everything "by the book" and our attempts to speak truth to power have failed. On October 1, 2016, I was arrested with 29 others as we attempted to halt the drilling under the Mississippi River. There were well over 100 in the action, but 30 of us chose to "trespass" where the huge Dakota Access (DAPL) drilling machines were threatening America's largest river and posed an immediate threat to the water supply of Keokuk. We peacefully entered a parcel of farmland that had been forcibly taken by eminent domain solely for the profit of an out-of-state corporation. It was my second arrest; the first was with the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition (same as DAPL pipeline) attempting to protect the Des Moines River in Boone County.

The jobs and careful construction that were promised at the

# If it hadn't been for a social worker...

three information meetings I attended prior to issuing the permit had evaporated along with safety standards. It's pretty easy to look into a crystal ball: just Google pipeline leaks" and you can predict the future of this pipe.

I have been fighting this pipeline for nearly 3 years. It is the same one that the Lakota Sioux Nation peacefully and prayerfully fought for so long at Standing Rock where I visited on three different occasions. It is shameful that our government has once again violated treaties, brutalized and stomped on the rights of our indigenous neighbors.

The pipeline has now been completed, and fracked crude oil from North Dakota is now threatening our Iowa farmland and just about every river, wetland and aquifer in Iowa. And this comes after the nations of the world have agreed that "keeping it in the ground" and making a rapid and very feasible transition to renewable energy is our only avenue to a livable future on our planet. As the activist signs read, "WE HAVE NO PLANET B."

Along with four other members of the local activist group *100Grannies for a Livable Future* who were arrested with me, I pled not-guilty and demanded a trial. Last week the prosecutor and judge in Lee County dismissed our case, citing "lack of evidence." They simply wanted us to go away. We will not have our day in court and that is a disappointment, but we remain committed to this struggle against tyranny, oligarchy, patriarchy and injustice in all its forms.

As we know, all injustice is connected and injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere. It is the story of our times. I'd rather be hiking in the wilderness or kayaking, but standing with compassion for justice is who I am. And it is who we are.

**Talia Meidlinger, MSW 2015** I am currently working at United Action for Youth. I am the coordinator for both the Crisis Intervention Program and the Victims Advocacy Program. Through these programs, my team and I provide crisis intervention and family therapy to families who are in conflict and advocacy and therapy to individuals who have been victims of a crime.

**Beth Poma, MSW 2014** If it hadn't been for a social worker, at UIHC, I would not be sober, or believe in the ability to help others. That social worker is the reason I'm a social worker.



**Nancy Mark, MSW 1982** Nancy is a Cross-Cultural Educator living and working in Ottawa, Ontario with over 30 years of working in leadership positions with cross-cultural projects in corporate, non-profit, government and higher education settings. She implements

Workplace Effectiveness initiatives with skilled immigrants and also trains employers in cultural competency practices. Nancy has lived and worked in the U.K., western Europe and North Africa and speaks English, intermediate French as well as some Arabic and Japanese.

**Dionna Langford, BSW 2013** was featured in the newsletter *Hawkeye Caucus* in May. "I am a social worker until I die," she said laughing. "That will always be my foundation and will always be my heart."



**Lois Buntz, MSW 1977.** My career as a social worker was influenced by many mentors, but the most memorable is my husband Bob Buntz. As a CEO and founder of a nonprofit dedicated to helping emotional disturbed adolescents, Bob modeled the values of the social work profession and always stayed true

to the mission of his organization. I have always admired his integrity, passion and genuineness. Bob truly believes and demonstrates service above self. When I became a CEO, Bob was the mentor who helped me learn how to blend my clinical skills with the challenges of being an agency director. He was always there to listen and encourage me in times of crisis, and celebrate with pride my achievements. He has influenced my career more than he will ever know. Although he never sought recognition for his leadership in the community, in 2007 he was named the Iowa NASW Social Worker of the Year. After his retirement he has continued to serve the community through interim CEO positions and volunteering. Although I may have some bias about his talents and skills, I know that countless staff, colleagues and clients would agree with my assessment. Bob Buntz has changed many lives and I have had the good fortune to share a professional and personal journey with him. Thanks Bob for being my friend, mentor, husband and one of the best social workers I know .

# 2017 Graduation Events in Iowa City, Des Moines, Sioux City

