

## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



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# GADE

GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK

## PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK THROUGH NETWORKING, INFORMATION SHARING, AND ADVOCACY

The **Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE)** is an organization made up of nearly 100 social work doctoral program directors worldwide who represent their member institutions.

Founded in 1977, GADE's primary purpose is to promote excellence in doctoral education in social work, especially through networking, information sharing and advocacy.

Our members focus on sharing experiences to support innovation and excellence in teaching and learning and the advancement of the quality of doctoral research.

### GADE Membership

#### 98 Total Member Institutions

90 U.S.A.  
8 International

85 PhD  
23 DSW  
11 Have Both PhD & DSW

## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

### Co-Presidents' Address

For many of us, 2021 was a year filled with hope and anticipation but also a good share of concern and disappointment. 2022 is likely to bring us a similar mix of uncertainty and optimism. As we write this letter, the coronavirus Omicron variant is spreading globally, the consequences of which remain largely unknown at this time. Still, we persist! Although our work lives hardly returned to "business as usual" in 2021, many of us were able to move to hybrid and in-person formats after successfully pivoting to virtual learning spaces in 2020. Interacting with colleagues and students in non-virtual spaces – including classrooms, hallways, and even conference halls – was a wonderful reminder of the importance of face-to-face human interaction. 2021 was also a year that led many of us to more actively question the legitimacy of business-as-usual practices in our doctoral programs. In schools across the country and internationally, we have invested considerable productive energy discussing and critiquing longstanding institutional policies and practices and commenced – or in many cases continued with renewed urgency – efforts to reform and revamp our programs through ambitious new initiatives that center anti-racist and anti-oppressive objectives and practices in doctoral education.

We hope you have found GADE to be a source of support and guidance over the past year as you've carried out this important work. GADE members have kept one another informed and motivated through diverse initiatives in our roles as doctoral program chairs and directors. We are pleased that we were able to virtually hold the 2021 GADE Annual Conference with an invigorating set of presentations on a host of issues related to the state of doctoral education in social work, anti-racist and inclusive pedagogy, mentorship, and more. We also continued to use the members listserv in productive ways – to share information about our programs, announce webinars, presentations, and new initiatives, and inform one another about our stellar PhD students entering the job market. GADE also held a very informative and supportive Zoom session last March, where many of us shared concerns regarding the mental health challenges of our graduate students and engaged in conversation around innovative approaches to better support our students and promote their health and wellbeing. In addition, over the last year, doctoral directors of DSW programs have continued their active engagement with CSWE on the accreditation of DSW programs.

**More on the next page.**

The GADE Board of Directors is working on several new initiatives this year. We are in the midst of a website overhaul with the objective of modernizing our site to make it more user-friendly for our members and to better market both DSW and PhD doctoral education in social work to diverse audiences. We have also changed the website address from [gadephd.org](http://gadephd.org) to [gadesocialwork.org](http://gadesocialwork.org) to be inclusive of our PhD and DSW program members, and our membership voted to adopt a beautiful new GADE logo. On our website [gadesocialwork.org](http://gadesocialwork.org), you can still find a range of resources such as the PhD Quality Guidelines, GADE Program Guide, Doctoral Directors Toolkit, anti-racist pedagogy materials, past GADE conference presentations, as well as award announcements. A special thanks to Michael LaSala (Chair of the Website/Marketing Committee) for leading the website revision effort (even while on sabbatical!).

We are also continuing our work on anti-racist and inclusive pedagogy in doctoral education. This takes many forms. For example, we have revised all GADE award criteria to reflect the explicit objectives of anti-racism and inclusivity in research, teaching, and service. We are also seeking partnerships with diverse organizations to share ideas and to collaborate on new initiatives such as the Voting is Social Work (VISW) National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign. We are working with Kesslyn Brade Stennis (Director of the Minority Fellowship Program at CSWE) to promote the Minority Fellowship Program and gather more information from current and past fellowship grantees in an effort to address anti-racism within our doctoral programs.

Our anti-racism and inclusivity work also includes efforts to increase opportunities for student engagement with GADE. This was a key recommendation in the report authored by Kimberly Bonds-Grocher, Alicia Mendez, Maxine Taylor, and Durrell Washington, the four doctoral students who led a four-part series on anti-racist pedagogy in 2020-21. We want to take this opportunity to formally recognize the important work of Kimberly, Alicia, Maxine, and Durrell and the many students and faculty who participated in the workshop series. Moving forward, we have launched a [new funding mechanism](#) to facilitate ongoing cross-institutional collaboration among students (the first award was announced this fall); we are in the process of developing guidelines for the establishment of a GADE student advisory board that we plan to announce at the 2022 GADE conference; and we are encouraging doctoral students to participate in the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Special Interest Group (SIG) on doctoral education and the other GADE-related events at the SSWR Annual Conference and beyond. Overall, the GADE Board is committed to continuing in earnest centering the objectives of anti-racism and anti-oppression in all of our activities and holding ourselves accountable to this work.

Through the [GADE Awards Program](#), we once again honored several faculty and student leaders who have made outstanding contributions to teaching, research, service, and mentoring in doctoral education. The impressive pool of submissions made the final selection an especially difficult task for the GADE Awards Committee, chaired by Anne Williford. We truly have a rich and vibrant community of educators and students in our field. Congratulations to our final awardees! Please see their photos and awards below.

The [2021 GADE Annual Conference](#) was hosted virtually by The University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. The 2021 theme was "An Inclusive Future for Doctoral Education." It was wonderful to be in conversation and community with so many of you during our three-day meeting. We look forward to next year's meeting hosted by the University of Utah College of Social Work. Thanks to Dr. Christina Gringeri (Chair), Dr. Chi-Fang Wu (Co-chair), and the Conference Program Committee for their ongoing work in preparation of the 2022 GADE Annual Conference. A special thank you to Dr. Martell Teasley, Dean of the University of Utah College of Social Work, for hosting the conference in 2022.

As we close this letter, we wish to wholeheartedly thank Dr. Mo Yee Lee for her superb leadership throughout her three-year term as GADE President (2019-2021). Our organization thrived under Mo Yee's capable and steady direction, her commitment to doctoral education, and her warm demeanor, calming energy, and unparalleled attention to detail. A special thank you as well to past board members who cycled off the committee this year: Drs. Allison Zippay (2020-21 Conference Program Committee Co-Chair), Charlotte Bright (Chair, Awards Committee; Past President-elect), and Christina Gringeri. GADE has benefited greatly from the extraordinary service and expertise of each of these Board members. We also wish to send congratulations and a warm welcome to our new board members - Drs. Denise Burnette (President-elect), Jerome Schiele, Anne Williford, and Chi-Fang Wu (Treasurer-elect) - all of whom have been hard at work since June 2021. Finally, we want to thank our ongoing GADE Board members - Drs. Mo Yee Lee (Past President), Lin Fang (Secretary), and Michael Hurlburt (Treasurer) - who continue their generous service and dedication to our organization.

**Happy New Year!**

*Larry Farmer and Julia Henly*

**Join GADE at SSWR!**

View the schedule the GADE-sponsored sessions and events at SSWR by visiting [gadesocialwork.org/SSWR](http://gadesocialwork.org/SSWR) or scanning:





# CONGRATULATIONS GADE AWARDEES



# GADE

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## 2021 Faculty Award for Educational Leadership in Doctoral Education

Dr. Kia J. Bentley  
Virginia Commonwealth University



## 2021 Student Award for Teaching in Social Work

Cindy Dubuque-Gallo  
University of Connecticut



## 2021 Student Award for Leadership & Service

Dr. Alicia Mendez  
Rutgers University



## 2022 Donna Harrington Award for Excellence in Mentoring of Doctoral Students

Dr. Phyllis Solomon  
University of Pennsylvania



## 2022 Student Award for Social Work Research

Dr. Bernadine Waller  
Adelphi University

## 2022 Initiative for Cross-Institutional Student Collaboration



Tanzilya Oren  
Fordham University



Agnes Nzomene Kahouo Foda  
University of South Carolina



Maryam Rafieifar  
Florida International University

## 2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Co-President



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