

# Simmons University

## School of Social Work

Simmons Integrated Mental Health Primary Care and  
Clinical Training - SIMPACT  
MSW Graduate Catalogue  
Class of 2019

**Simmons** UNIVERSITY

School of Social Work



## Class of 2019 SIMPACT Scholars

*\*denotes SIMPACT-SUD Scholar*

Gabriella Bergonzi

Natalia Bracamonte Moreno

Sophia Casella

Kannika Chap

Jacqueline Fickes

Susan Hart\*

Paige Hoffman

Elsa Jimenez

Dunia Kassay

Audrey Kiely\*

Nicholas LaRussa

Alexander Lee

Cristal Martin

Tegan O'Neill

Nakisha Parillon\*

Ari Pehkonen

Emily Prashad

Kareena Richards\*

Anna Rohman

Annie Rotner

Jessica Ruggiero

Lindsay Scola\*

Brittany Silva

David Weilburg

Rory White

**SIMPACT** is a specialized training program that aims to increase the number of social workers with competencies in interprofessional, integrated behavioral health in primary care who pursue careers in clinical work with vulnerable populations in urban and rural medically underserved areas. One of the goals of the SIMPACT Scholars Program is to ensure participation of students from diverse backgrounds (racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, and class), from sexual and gender minorities, from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds, and from linguistic minorities.

**SIMPACT-SUD** expands and enhances the SIMPACT mission by training clinical social work students, faculty, and field supervisors in the implementation, teaching, and delivery of behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services. SIMPACT-SUD differs from SIMPACT in that we have agreements to offer a set number of slots exclusively to Simmons students at our partner health centers: Codman Square Health Center, Family Health Center of Worcester, South End Community Health Center, and Outer Cape Health Service.



# Gabriella Bergonzi

(508)717-7957 | gab51394@gmail.com

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology - University of Massachusetts-Amherst, 2016

**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

Gabriella has worked as a Mental Health Counselor in a DMH-funded congregate site providing individual support and case management for residents living with chronic mental illness for the past three years. Prior to this, Gabriella provided In-Home Therapy services to youth and families with mental health, behavioral, and emotional needs.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Gabriella provided on-going dyadic psychotherapy services to young children ages 0-8 and their families who have experienced traumatic events including domestic violence, community violence, and child maltreatment and abuse. Gabriella developed individualized, trauma-focused treatment plans and interventions for clients and their caregivers, as well as engaged in advocacy and case management activities including collaborating with collateral service providers and identifying community resources. Gabriella conducted weekly clinical intakes and assessments of children and caregivers.

## Foundation Year Internship

Gabriella provided individual social and emotional support and ongoing clinical interventions to students in grades K-12 in an after-school program. Gabriella facilitated social and emotional support groups with youth and teens facing community violence, homelessness, poverty, and cross-cultural challenges.

## Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure

Gabriella is certified in Medication Administration and Non-Abusive Psychological and Physical Interventions. Gabriella has received training on evidence-based models of intervention including Trauma-Focused CBT, MI, and Child-Parent Psychotherapy.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Gabriella is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## Awards & Honors

Gabriella was awarded the School of Social Work Merit Scholarship by Simmons University, as well as the Stanley Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award by the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

## Future Goals

Gabriella aspires to build on her experience working within integrated health care settings and is looking for social work opportunities in a team-based setting providing coordinated, comprehensive care to at-risk adults. Gabriella hopes to work in Norfolk, Suffolk, and/or Middlesex counties.

# Natalia Bracamonte Moreno

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Natalia has worked as a Mental Health Care Partner in the Behavioral Health Integration Program at a Primary Care Clinic in Cambridge Health Alliance for the past three years. She has worked with adults with mental health and substance use disorders.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Natalia provided outpatient psychotherapy services to clients in a Portuguese-language specific department at Cambridge Health Alliance. She utilized a range of modalities including psychodynamic theory, cognitive behavioral theory, narrative theory, trauma-informed care and problem solving theory.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Natalia provided short-term care coordination including intake and referral services to residents needing assistance maintaining independence and promoting self-sufficiency. She provided referral and coordination services including counseling, personal assistance, homemakers, meals-on-wheels, transportation, visiting nurse, and wellness clinics.

## **Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure**

Natalia is a Mindfulness Group Leader trained in Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Natalia is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Technological skills include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Epic Electronic Medical Record.

## **Awards & Honors**

Natalia received the 2017 Circle Award from CHA's high-level employee recognition initiative. The award recognized "Community, Integrity, Respect, Compassion, Learning, Excellence".

## **Future Goals**

Natalia aspires to continue building her knowledge in different theories of psychotherapy and in the integrated health care setting as a social worker and as an advocate for equality in the workplace. Natalia hopes to work in Middlesex County.

# Sophia Casella

(603)545-4877 | [casellasophia@gmail.com](mailto:casellasophia@gmail.com)

**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology- Emmanuel College, 2017

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Prior to graduate school, Sophia worked in recreational therapy at a rehabilitation center for older adults. Additional experience includes work in applied behavioral analysis and equine therapy.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Sophia completed an advanced year internship at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlestown, MA, providing case management services to patients recovering from spinal cord injuries. Responsibilities included participating in weekly interdisciplinary team conference meetings to develop and reevaluate patients' plans of care, conducting comprehensive intake assessments, providing ongoing psychosocial support to patients and their families, organizing all aspects of discharge planning, and collaborating with insurance companies to advocate for level of care.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Sophia provided supportive counseling to at-risk children, grades K-2, at a local elementary school. She gained skills in group counseling techniques, implementing Individualized Education Plans, and facilitating social and emotional learning in the classroom through programs such as Second Step.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Sophia is fluent in English. Technological skills include Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook) and Epic electronic health records.

## **Future Goals**

Sophia is concerned with global health equity and aspires to strengthen domestic and universal health systems. She is looking for an opportunity to work within an interdisciplinary team to address health disparities and social/economic barriers to good health. Sophia hopes to work in the Greater-Boston area.

# Kannika Chap

[kannkachap@gmail.com](mailto:kannkachap@gmail.com)

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019

**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

For the past four years, Kannika has worked as a Medical Practice Assistant at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the General and Gastrointestinal Surgery outpatient clinic. Kannika has also worked in various settings including non-profit, school-based, research, and administrative, in roles such as tutor, mentor, educator, and research assistant.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Kannika's placement was in an outpatient behavioral health department at the Lynn Community Health Center providing therapy and care coordination to adults. Kannika gained skills in applying therapeutic modalities, communication across varying disciplines, team-based case consultation, and care coordination on an integrated primary care team. Kannika participated in weekly interdisciplinary team meetings to discuss case updates and/or concerns. She also attended weekly didactic trainings with various specialized topics to further enhance clinical education.

## Foundation Year Internship

Kannika provided case management and counseling at the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence to Asian immigrant families who are survivors of domestic violence. She gained skills in counseling, safety planning, care coordination, community engagement, and political advocacy for families who were emotionally, physically, economically, and socially impacted by domestic violence.

## Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure

Kannika is certified in CANS assessment.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Kannika is fluent in English and proficient in Khmer. Technological skills include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and electronic health systems (EPIC Hyperspace and EPIC Ochin).

## Future Goals

Kannika aspires to continue working within an integrated health care setting to provide individual counseling and care coordination to medically underserved communities. She hopes to continue advocating for patients facing health disparities and significant barriers when navigating the health system with various medical and behavioral health needs. Kannika hopes to continuously integrate micro, mezzo, and macro level work when providing care for patients to address immediate needs while also co-facilitating with patients/clients sustainable long term health outcomes. Kannika is relocating to Stamford, Connecticut this year and hopes to work in the local area.

# Jacqueline Fickes

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology - Bowdoin College, 2015

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

Jacqueline has worked in the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative for the past four years providing in-home services to youth with serious emotional needs and their families. Jacqueline's roles included carrying an Intensive Care Coordination caseload of English- and Spanish-speaking families, coordinating all referrals to the agency, providing agency outreach, and facilitating groups for both youth and caregivers.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Jacqueline delivered individual clinic-based therapy to English- and Spanish-speaking children, adolescents, and adults. Jacqueline also provided screening and crisis walk-in support and participated in interprofessional team meetings, trainings, and clinical consultations.

## Foundation Year Internship

Jacqueline delivered in-home family therapy under the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative to a caseload of Spanish-speaking families. Jacqueline also provided school-based therapy and partnered with senior clinicians in performing safety evaluations for youth and families referred by the local public school district.

## Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure

Jacqueline is CANS certified and certified in Psychological First Aid.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Jacqueline is fluent in English and Spanish. Technological skills include proficiency in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint as well as experience using multiple Electronic Medical Record systems.

## Awards & Honors

Jacqueline won the Excellence in Multicultural Practice award from Simmons in 2018.

## Future Goals

Jacqueline is dedicated to providing direct clinical care in an interdisciplinary team-based and community-focused setting. Jacqueline is passionate about working with underprivileged and marginalized populations, especially those who have experienced trauma, violence, and other forms of oppression. Jacqueline hopes to work in Suffolk and/or Essex counties.

# Susan Hart

(774)473-0063

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019

**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Susan is completing her advanced year placement at an integrated care clinic. Both her foundation and advanced year placements have been in the behavioral health department at a community health center.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Susan provides outpatient individual therapy to adults in a community health center and co-facilitates a support group for the clinic's OBAT program. Most of the referrals come from patients' primary care physicians or OBAT nurses, and Susan participates in weekly meetings with other behavioral health staff members and medical teams to create a circle of care for clients.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Susan served as a Community Resource Navigator for residents of the lower 10 towns of Cape Cod through a community health center. She gained skills in problem-solving, case-management, and advocacy on behalf of patients.

## **Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure**

Susan completed the day-long intensive training: Evidence Based Practice in Substance Use: Foundations and Innovations.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Susan is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## **Future Goals**

Susan hopes to continue to work in integrated health care settings and expand her knowledge of addiction treatment to provide wrap-around services to young adults struggling with mental health and/or substance use issues. Susan hopes to work in Barnstable or Nantucket counties.



# Paige Hoffman

[phoffman717@gmail.com](mailto:phoffman717@gmail.com)

**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Science in Sociology - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2009

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Paige worked for two years in palliative care as a care management specialist providing telephonic support for chronically ill adults living in the greater Houston, TX area. Prior to this, Paige provided administrative support for a newly opened charter school in Nashville, TN. Additionally, Paige worked as a residential counselor for a health and wellness boarding school for overweight teens in Hilton Head, SC.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Paige completed an advanced year internship at a psychiatric partial hospitalization program providing individual and group therapy to adults struggling with mental illness. She gained skills including treatment planning, assessing for proper intervention strategies, safety planning, interdisciplinary communication, group and individual therapy techniques. She also participated in daily interdisciplinary rounds to discuss cases and carry out team-based treatment plans.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

In this role, Paige interviewed potential mentors and mentees for a youth mentoring program and matched accordingly; then provided support to both parties following the match through monthly outreach (telephone calls for mentors and school visits for mentees). She gained skills including case management, interviewing/intake process, supervising volunteers, and assessing for fit within the program.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Paige is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Epic, and Salesforce.

## **Awards & Honors**

Paige was nominated for and served as Full-time Program Student Representative on the Simmons School of Social Work Leadership Council.

## **Future Goals**

Paige aspires to build on her growing knowledge base within palliative and healthcare settings and is looking for social work opportunities in a team based-setting providing support services to adults managing difficult health outcomes. Paige hopes to work in Suffolk County.

# Elsa Jimenez

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Elsa has worked as a community health advocate at a Dorchester community health center where she assisted patients in the process of applying for housing, food stamps, and other public assistance services. Elsa has also worked in another health center in the city of Boston providing short term therapy to patients of the clinic suffering from depression, anxiety, grieving, and other major mental illness.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Elsa completed an advanced year internship at an outpatient behavioral health agency providing short term individual therapy to children, adolescents, and adults. She worked on safety planning as well as care planning related to physical and mental health in collaboration with nurses, primary care providers, psychiatrists, and case managers.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Elsa worked in a K-8 school in a neighborhood of Boston providing counseling services utilizing modalities like play therapy, mindfulness, and cognitive behavioral therapy. She also worked in group therapy implementing a trauma informed curriculum.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Elsa is fluent in English and Spanish. Technological skills include Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.

## **Future Goals**

Elsa aspires to grow her knowledge within an integrated health care setting. She hopes to continue to collaborate with medical doctors and other professionals in the medical field in care planning for patients to treat a person in a comprehensive, complete, and holistic way. Elsa hopes to work in Suffolk or Middlesex counties, or in the cities of Lawrence, Haverhill, or Worcester.

# Dunia Kassay

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**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

Dunia has worked in outpatient, FHQ-9 approved community health center on the integrated Adult Medicine team. Dunia provided direct services including assessments, treatment and discharge planning. Previously, Dunia provided school social work services in a high school, inclusive of Special Education students and their families, to address academic performance and achievement.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Dunia worked within an integrated health care team and provided direct services including individual, couple, family, and group therapeutic services to patients, including assessments, treatment plans, and discharge planning. She performed warm hand-offs, participated in daily huddles to assess needs, and coordinated services. Dunia worked in collaboration with multidisciplinary team members including external partners, and completed required documentation and paperwork including biopsychosocial assessments and treatment planning and implementation.

## Foundation Year Internship

Dunia served as a school social work intern at Arlington High School, addressing the psychosocial needs of high school youth. She attended IEP meetings, collaborated with teachers, and served as a liaison to community agencies providing referrals for students and families in need. Dunia provided school based interventions, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, and case management for at risk students.

## Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure

Dunia is trained in trauma informed care, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS), and Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI).

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Dunia is fluent in English and Tigrinya. Technological skills include Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Qualtrics, and Psylink.

## Awards & Honors

Dunia served as President of the Simmons Chapter of the Association of Black Social Workers and was a member of the Student Leadership Council.

## Future Goals

Dunia aspires to build on her growing knowledge base within integrated health care settings and is looking for social work opportunities in a diverse and inclusive team-based setting providing trauma-informed care services to adolescents and young adults. Dunia hopes to work in Greater Boston, Cambridge, and/or Somerville.

# Audrey Kiely

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Theater - Wesleyan University, 2013

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Audrey has worked as an arts educator, providing social-emotional support to adolescents in rural areas of the Northeast. Audrey has also spent time prior to her Graduate programme working as a butcher in community butcher shops advocating for food justice, access for those within the communities, and environmentally responsible food practices.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Audrey provided individual and family outpatient therapy in various modalities, primarily working from a trauma-informed psychodynamic lens, creating a formulation and treatment plan for each individual served. Audrey collaborated with an interdisciplinary medical team, provided recommendations for treatment, and participated in safety planning for individuals in psychological crisis.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Audrey provided social-emotional support for students in a partial-inclusion programme in a public middle school. Audrey provided individual counseling as well as groups with 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, designed and implemented Individualized Education Plans, and provided crisis intervention support.

## **Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure**

Audrey is certified in CANS assessment.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Audrey is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## **Future Goals**

Audrey would like to continue growing her capabilities as an individual therapist within an integrated healthcare setting, especially working in peri- and postpartum attachment and mental health. Audrey hopes to work in Middlesex, Worcester, and/or Norfolk counties.

# Nicholas LaRussa

(617)894-1937 | [nicholas.larussa1@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.larussa1@gmail.com)

**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology - University of Hartford, 2017

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Nicholas served as social work intern with the Boston Emergency Services Team. He was responsible for counseling, interviewing, and assessing clients with serious mental illness experiencing a psychiatric crisis, and creating clinical formulations to determine appropriate level of care. He presented client cases to an interdisciplinary team of clinical supervisors, nurse practitioners, agency directors and psychiatrists, and strengthened skills related to presenting cases to numerous inpatient/outpatient mental health resources and insurance providers.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Nicholas worked as Match Support Coordinator at an elementary school site, trusted with leading match meetings, and introducing/enrolling volunteers and children in their mentorship. He conducted regular clinical sessions with children and mentors, created personality assessments to create ideal matches, and coordinated parents, teachers, administration, volunteers, and agency demands to address client needs.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Nicholas is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and social media proficiency.

## **Awards & Honors**

Nicholas was awarded academic scholarships at the Bachelors and Masters level of his education. He enrolled in a clinical elective at the Harvard Medical School which provided extensive training on the interdisciplinary approach towards healthcare in the context of the older adult population.

## **Future Goals**

Nicholas aspires to continue providing counseling to a diverse array of clients in a setting which values and utilizes an interdisciplinary approach towards healthcare. Nicholas hopes to work in Middlesex, Suffolk, or Essex counties.

# Alexander Lee

(617)447-8577

**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
BA Biology; BA Political Science - Swarthmore College, 2012

**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

Alexander has worked as an intern at a weight management clinic in a primary care setting conducting biopsychosocial assessments and evaluating patients' understanding of health, strengths, and social supports. Before entering the field of social work, Alexander worked as a researcher in mechanical engineering on traffic network simulation and also as a researcher on international human rights.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Alexander's advanced year internship was on an inpatient oncology unit in a large urban teaching hospital providing emotional support, resource referral, and advocacy for patients with cancer diagnoses and their families at all stages of illness, from new diagnosis to end of life. Alexander learned to work as part of an interprofessional team across a wide variety of disciplines and specialties to ensure that patients' needs were met and their values were centered in determining a plan of care in the hospital and at the time of discharge.

## Foundation Year Internship

Alexander's foundation year internship was in Resident Services at a Section 8 Housing site for low-income adults. Alexander provided case management and advocacy services for clients dealing with hoarding, grief, unemployment, depression, anxiety, and disability.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Alexander is fluent in English, Mandarin Chinese, and has basic proficiency in Japanese. Technological skills include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and he is familiar with Python, MATLAB, and C programming languages.

## Awards & Honors

Alexander was nominated for and served on the Student Leadership Council at Simmons School of Social Work.

## Future Goals

Alexander aims to center social justice as a cornerstone of his practice and to honor the needs of marginalized clients within society. His experience is largely directed towards working as part of integrated health care settings in either inpatient or outpatient realms. He is also interested in social work opportunities in behavioral health to further develop his skills in one-on-one clinical interventions. Alexander is primarily interested in working in Suffolk and Middlesex counties.

# Cristal Martin

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in History- Bates College, 2013

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Cristal has worked as a coordinator for a high school youth leadership program and has experience planning summer camp programming for K-6th grade youth. She has worked in early childhood services providing individual support to young children with special needs.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Cristal completed an advanced year internship at The Center for Children with Special Needs at Tufts Medical Center-Floating Hospital for Children. Cristal provided outpatient counseling services, assisted with case management of patients, and worked on an interdisciplinary team comprised of developmental behavioral pediatricians, neuropsychologists, speech and language pathologists and social workers that evaluated children for neurodevelopmental disorders.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Cristal provided in-school counseling services to children, grades 3-6, who were in a social emotional support program.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Cristal is fluent in Spanish and English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## **Future Goals**

Cristal plans on building her knowledge base within integrated health care settings and is looking for social work opportunities in a team-based setting providing behavioral health support to children. Cristal hopes to work in Suffolk, Essex, or Middlesex counties.

# Tegan O'Neill

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology - Skidmore College, 2014

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

Prior to beginning the Master's in Social Work at Simmons University, Tegan lived in Madrid, Spain where she worked as an English teacher and developed her Spanish language skills.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Tegan completed her advanced year social work internship at the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights at Boston Medical Center. There, she conducted biopsychosocial assessments of patients, created treatment plans and provided ongoing case management support to asylum seekers. She collaborated with providers at the hospital as well as community resources to provide comprehensive care to patients. She also provided case management services to patients in the Refugee Women's Health Clinic and partnered with physicians and midwives on an integrated Ob/Gyn health team.

## Foundation Year Internship

In her foundation year social work internship, Tegan completed a clinical internship with Casa Esperanza, a bilingual behavioral health center serving the Latino community of Boston. There, she completed biopsychosocial assessments, provided individual therapy to adult clients with substance use and co-occurring disorders and facilitated weekly bilingual psychoeducational and therapeutic groups.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Tegan is fluent in English and Spanish. Technological skills include Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Epic electronic health records.

## Awards & Honors

Tegan was nominated for the Written Scholarship in Social Work Award in April, 2018. At Skidmore College, Tegan received a Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude in Sociology and membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society.

## Future Goals

Tegan hopes to build on her foundational knowledge through opportunities that allow her to sharpen the skills she has learned in her time at Simmons while also increasing exposure to new areas of social work. Tegan hopes to work in Suffolk County.



# Nakisha Parillon

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Art in Psychology; Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice - Temple University

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

Nakisha has worked with DMH providing rehabilitation and supportive services to patients diagnosed with severe major mental illness. She has experience providing supportive counseling with CBT and Solution Focused Therapy.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Nakisha provided integrated behavioral health care for pediatric patients in family medicine. She also worked with the pediatric patients providing individual and family therapy.

## Foundation Year Internship

Nakisha provided individual therapy for adult patients utilizing CBT, Solution Focused Therapy, and Psychodynamic treatment modalities.

## Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure

Nakisha is certified in CANS assessment and the Medication Administration Program.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Nakisha is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and social media advertising through Website Management and Twitter.

## Future Goals

Nakisha aspires to work in an integrated health care setting where social work opportunities in a team-based setting are available. She aspires to work with children and families as well as adults in providing interventions and supportive care. Nakisha hopes to work in Suffolk county.

# Ari Pehkonen

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies - Providence College, 2009

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

In addition to social work internships, Ari has experience in inpatient medical social work conducting assessments and providing social work services to adults struggling with psychosocial stressors impacting overall health and hospital status. This included work with alcohol and substance use, homelessness, mental illness, and end of life.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Ari completed an advanced year internship at an outpatient behavioral health agency providing individual therapy to adults in Primary Care and in Specialty Psychiatry. Working as part of an interprofessional team comprised of advanced practice nurses, primary care physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers, clients were provided integrated behavioral health treatment. Ari is trained in various integrative modalities including CBT, ACT, and MI.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Ari provided counseling to patients struggling with severe mental illness at a state psychiatric hospital. They gained skills in assessing severe mental illness, group and individual counseling techniques, and implementing and designing treatment and discharge plans.

## **Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure**

Ari is certified in CANS assessment and completed specialty training in psychotherapy with LGBT clients across the lifespan.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Ari is fluent in English, Finnish, and Swedish.

## **Awards & Honors**

Ari served as a Dean's Fellow on the Simmons School of Social Work Academic Journal.

## **Future Goals**

Ari intends to work as an integration therapist with adult and child populations. Ari hopes to work in Suffolk and Middlesex counties.

# Emily Prashad

[prashad.emily@gmail.com](mailto:prashad.emily@gmail.com)

**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Science - University of Massachusetts-Boston 2017

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Emily worked in the Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at an area hospital where she conducted follow-up visits with families whose children have been diagnosed with a developmental or behavioral delay. Emily provided resources and recommendations, performed cognitive, language, fine/gross motor, and academic testing, and worked and collaborated on a multidisciplinary team.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Emily worked at a group home for adolescent girls where she facilitated individual and group sessions with clients to assess needs, conducted assessments, determined treatment goals, and engaged in informal interactions with client's day-to-day life.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Emily is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## **Future Goals**

Emily aspires to continue working in interdisciplinary, integrated behavioral health settings in the future. Emily hopes to work in Central Massachusetts.

# Anna Rohman

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Anna has experience working in the acute care setting with individuals in the mental health field. For the past three years, she has provided direct patient care to individuals with severe eating disorders and psychiatric diagnoses on a psychiatric inpatient unit.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Anna completed her advanced year field placement at a large emergency department through the emergency psychiatry service. Anna has the ability to further develop her clinical social work skills, including conducting psychiatric evaluations, assessing current symptoms, providing a diagnosis, engaging in crisis management, and determining disposition and treatment plans. She also played an integral part of the multidisciplinary team in the ED with a variety of professionals from various healthcare fields.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Anna provided school-based counseling for elementary aged students at a school for students with language-based learning disabilities. From this experience, she had the opportunity to develop clinical and CBT skills, facilitate lunch groups and teach classes, and meet individually with students who were identified as needing further support within the school setting.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Anna is fluent in English and can speak conversational Spanish. Technological skills include Microsoft Suite, social media advertising and management, and proficiencies in various electronic medical record software.

## **Future Goals**

Anna aspires to provide integrated behavioral healthcare services to individuals in vulnerable or medically underserved populations in primary care or community healthcare settings. Anna hopes to work in Franklin, Hampden, and/or Hampshire counties.

# Annie Rotner

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts - Washington University in St. Louis, 2002

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Before attending social work school, Annie worked as a lawyer specializing in affordable housing and community development. Annie also served as a Section 8 Hearing Officer.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

Annie's advanced year placement was at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center on an inpatient medical/surgical floor where she worked as part of an interdisciplinary team in a diverse and fast-paced environment. Annie conducted biopsychosocial assessments and delivered supportive counseling to assist patients with adjustment to a new diagnosis, life altering illness or treatment, and help with grief and end-of-life issues. Annie also provided support to patients struggling with psychiatric illness, substance use and abusive relationships and helped them access resources when appropriate.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

Annie's foundation year placement was with Jewish Family and Children's Services in the Center for Early Relationship Support where she provided in-home therapy that focused on supporting the relationships of young children and their parents and assisted mothers struggling with postpartum depression, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, and other related stressors. Annie also co-led parenting groups to help parents understand their child's emotional needs.

## **Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure**

Annie is a member of the Certificate in Health Care and Social Work program. Annie is also licensed to practice law in MA and NY.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Annie is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## **Awards & Honors**

Annie was invited to present a talk with the Boston Bar Association in November 2012, titled: 'Affordable Housing Restrictions: A Look at the Commonwealth's Enforcement and Approach'.

## **Future Goals**

Annie is looking for social work opportunities in a medical or integrated health care setting that will allow her to continue to learn and build upon existing skills. Annie hopes to work in Suffolk or Norfolk counties.

# Jessica Ruggiero

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Social Work - Wheelock College, 2018

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## **Work Experience**

Jessica has 13 years of experience working as a Program Manager/Coordinator for a district after-school program funded by DESE for students in kindergarten through 8th grade who are considered to be at-risk.

## **Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health**

As an advanced standing student, Jessica is completing an 11-month internship at a dental school in August. This innovative opportunity has allowed Jessica to gain critical clinical skills through implementing behavioral health interventions for patients and providing consultation to dental students/faculty while promoting social work in an interdisciplinary setting.

## **Foundation Year Internship**

As a K-8 School Adjustment Counselor intern, Jessica provided social emotional support to students in individual and group sessions. Jessica assisted with crisis intervention, attended Individualized Education Plan and grade-based meetings, and referred students and families to outside resources as needed.

## **Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure**

Jessica completed the Simmons Domestic Violence Online Training Program in April 2019.

## **Language and Technology Proficiency**

Jessica is fluent in English. Technological skills include Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint, axiUm dental, and other data analysis tools.

## **Awards & Honors**

Jessica graduated summa cum laude from the Wheelock College BSW Program.

## **Future Goals**

Jessica is looking for opportunities to advance her knowledge and competency in the social work field within an interdisciplinary setting. Jessica has broad interests (domestic violence, mental and behavioral health, crisis intervention, substance use, policy reform, etc.), and gives preference to agencies working with children, youth, and families. Jessica hopes to work in the Greater Boston area.

# Lindsay Scola

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**Education** Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature, Commonwealth Honors College at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, 2004

**Licensure** Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

Lindsay is a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor with experience in both individual and group clinical work in residential, outpatient, and integrated healthcare settings.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Lindsay worked as a collaborative team member for a community health center's substance use program to provide harm-reduction services to patients. Additional experience included work with an interdisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, and psychiatrists as an on-call member of the health center's integrated behavioral health team providing short-term therapy and crisis intervention.

## Foundation Year Internship

Lindsay provided individual and group outpatient therapy to adolescent and adult clients with substance use and other mental health diagnoses. She gained additional experience delivering clinical training programs to collateral stakeholders.

## Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure

Lindsay holds a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC-II) certification.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Lindsay is fluent in English and proficient in Spanish. Technological skills include Word, Excel, PowerPoint, EPIC and Blackbaud databases

## Future Goals

Lindsay's interests include addressing the needs of clients with intersecting substance use and complex trauma histories. Lindsay plans to continue working within trauma-informed substance use programs. Lindsay hopes to work in the Greater Boston area.

# Brittany Silva

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor in Biology- Stonehill College, 2016

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

For two and a half years, Brittany has worked as a Residential Counselor at the Cambridge Eating Disorder Center, providing extensive care and counseling to women ranging from adolescents to older adulthood who suffer from various eating disorders and mental illness. Prior to this, Brittany provided home based care to elders as a Licensed Nursing Assistant.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Brittany completed an advanced year internship at The Dimock Center in the outpatient substance use facility providing individual and group therapy to individuals battling with substance use disorders and various mental illnesses. Brittany worked from a dual diagnosis treatment standpoint addressing both substance use and mental health concerns. Working as part of an interprofessional team comprised of medical doctors, psychiatrists, advanced practice nurses and other social workers and substance use clinicians, Brittany provided clients with integrated behavioral health treatment. Brittany participated in weekly interprofessional clinical consultations to create and carry out team-based treatment plans.

## Foundation Year Internship

Brittany provided a variety of support services to individuals aged 65 and older living in subsidized and Section 8 housing in the Boston area. She gained skills in individual long term therapy, modalities of treatment, and group counseling skills. She developed a greater understanding of how identification of an individuals' strengths through assessment can help to foster individual growth toward treatment goals.

## Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure

Brittany is a Licensed Nursing Assistant in the state of New Hampshire, Medication Administration Program (MAP) trained, and CPR and First Aid certified.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Brittany is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and social media advertising through Website Management and Twitter. Brittany is also proficient in eClinicalWorks, an electronic health record system.

## Future Goals

Brittany aspires to continue to build on her growing knowledge base within integrated health care settings and is looking for social work opportunities in team-based settings providing services in the substance use field. Brittany hopes to work in the Boston area.



# David Weilburg

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology - Wheaton College (MA), 2010

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

David has experience as a mental health specialist in the inpatient clinical evaluation center at McLean Hospital. David has also worked as an independent life counselor for people with traumatic brain injuries receiving care at the Center for Community Independence.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

David completed an advanced year internship at a large integrated care clinic at Beth Israel Medical Center providing long term psychotherapy to adults with a range of presenting problems. David worked collaboratively with specialists and primary providers as part of an on-call consultation service. He participated in Crimson Care Collaborative: a multidisciplinary evening clinic through Harvard Medical School to assess the biopsychosocial needs of patients.

## Foundation Year Internship

David provided support and counseling to children ages 8-18 with developmental disabilities at a residential private school. He gained skills in crisis de-escalation, group counseling, expressive therapies, and milieu support. He worked as part of an interprofessional team to track, document, and adjust treatment and education of students.

## Relevant Training, Certifications, & Licensure

David earned certification in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy In School (CBITS) in 2018.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

David is fluent in English. Technological skills include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

## Future Goals

David aims to build generalist and specialized clinical skills in order to better serve adults facing psychosocial stressors. He aspires to build organizational knowledge and leadership skills to advance mental healthcare in integrated health settings. David hopes to work in the Greater Boston area.

# Rory White

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**Education**      Master of Social Work - Simmons University, 2019  
Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and English - Wellesley College, 2015

**Licensure**      Eligible for Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) May 2019

## Work Experience

Rory has five years of experience as an early childhood teacher, primarily with toddlers, but with preschoolers and infants as well. Rory has also been a counselor at Camp Starfish for two summers, providing structured activities, social skills instruction, and crisis intervention for children and adolescents with special behavioral, emotional, and learning needs.

## Advanced Year Clinical Internship in Integrated Behavioral Health

Rory completed an advanced year internship at an outpatient mental health agency within a major trauma hospital, providing assessment, treatment planning, and dyadic intervention to children ages 0-8 and their caregivers who have witnessed violence. Rory used Child-Parent Psychotherapy with children and caregivers to strengthen attachment, create an age-appropriate trauma narrative, and restore sense of safety. Rory provided caregivers with guidance, support, and psychoeducation about early childhood trauma.

## Foundation Year Internship

Rory completed a foundation year internship at a therapeutic school, conducting social-emotional assessments for students ages 6-22 in 45-day placements. Rory provided clinical interventions for 45-day and long-term clients using multiple modalities, i.e. CBT, motivational interviewing, DBT, mindfulness, and play therapy, to increase emotional regulation, coping skills, and overall functioning.

## Language and Technology Proficiency

Rory is fluent in English. Technological skills include Microsoft Office, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides, and social media skills in Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

## Awards & Honors

Rory was nominated for and served as a Representative-At-Large on the Simmons School of Social Work Leadership Council.

## Future Goals

Rory hopes to utilize their interprofessional training in integrated health care and trauma-oriented mental health treatment in their next role. Rory would be happy to continue violence and trauma-specific work with families and young children, but would also enjoy the opportunity to expand their horizons in a variety of medical, community-based, and outpatient settings across the lifespan. Rory would like to work with LGBTQ+ populations and support health equity for sexual and gender minorities. Rory hopes to work in the Suffolk, Middlesex, Essex, or Norfolk counties.



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