



McSilver Institute
for Poverty Policy and Research

NYU Silver
Silver School of Social Work

Annual Report

2011–2012

Dr. Mary McKay, Director
Gary Parker, Deputy Director



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Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting academic year for the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research. As we move into a new phase of development and growth, I am humbled by the support and good will that has been generously offered by our NYU Advisory Committee, Faculty Fellows, local service providers, community partners, and policy makers. Without your guidance and significant contributions, we would not be able to report on the significant **progress** that we have made.

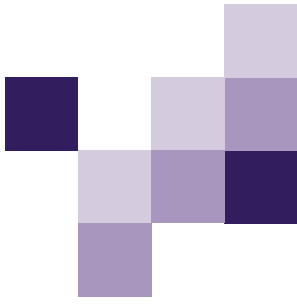
Together, we launched weekly poverty briefs, monthly poverty-focused newsletters and a McSilver pilot research funding program. In addition, in February 2012, we initiated a lecture series where policy makers, service organizational leaders and providers, community members, consumers and researchers have debated contemporary issues, including the impact of the economic interventions on youth orphaned by AIDS, family-level supports capable of closing the gap between science and service, the Affordable Care Act and New York State Medicaid redesign efforts. The overflowing crowds at these talks are a clear indication that the mission of McSilver – addressing the root causes and consequences of poverty both locally, nationally and globally – is a shared high priority. In addition, McSilver was awarded a five-year NIH R01 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to implement and test the VUKA Family Program in South Africa, which will work to significantly advance HIV science and practice for HIV-positive youth in Africa.

McSilver is only as successful as its partnerships. Thus, let me extend my sincere appreciation for your contributions and involvement. I would like to thank the McSilver Advisory Committee and particularly Dean Lynn Videka and Phil Coltoff, whose leadership of the McSilver Institute from 2008 allowed for a strong and sturdy organizational foundation on which to build. I would also like to thank our founding partners, Martin and Constance Silver, whose generosity and support has been the catalyst for the growth of the McSilver Institute. And please join me in congratulating McSilver Faculty Fellows, Associate Professor Robert Hawkins and Associate Professor Michelle Munson, on being awarded tenure.

I look forward to the upcoming year as we continue to expand the scope and deepen the work of the McSilver Institute.

Sincerely,

Mary M. McKay, PhD
Director



Mission Statement

The McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research conducts, promotes, and disseminates interdisciplinary applied research to address root causes of, effects of, and responses to poverty. Drawing on intellectual and scholarly strengths of New York University and located within the Silver School of Social Work, the Institute partners with New York based, national and international agencies and communities to develop research projects and policy/advocacy recommendations that have short and long term social impact.

The Institute recognizes the significant link between individuals, families, and communities and their external environments, as well as the interrelatedness of race and poverty. With this important frame in mind, the Institute will encourage innovative efforts in the following areas:

- Applied Research in diverse areas of direct practice, defined broadly to include social, psychological, legal, and community-wide endeavors designed to assist those living in-or-near-poverty
- Development of Mutually Beneficial Partnerships between the Institute and NYC-based agencies, national and global community organizations that are “on the ground” and working with people who are living in poverty
- Organizational Development efforts that encourage untapped strengths in agencies and communities through research and evaluation.
- Policy Development and Dissemination grounded in evidence-based research focused on “theories of justice”, the causes and consequences of poverty and poverty amelioration
- Locating Research and Related Projects in the larger field of poverty studies and the work of scholars and agencies all over the world.



In order to address McSilver’s mission, organizational development was heavily focused on this year. Figure 1 depicts an emerging institutional structure that prioritizes input from NYU multi-disciplinary advisors, Silver School faculty, service organizational leaders, providers and recipients, policy and government officials, community members, and a diverse array of academic leaders. This structure is meant to support the definition of a coherent poverty-related research agenda emphasizing the creation of actionable, timely, high impact knowledge.

Further, we have focused on building an expert administrative infrastructure capable of supporting an expanded array of research activities by Faculty Fellows currently and over time.

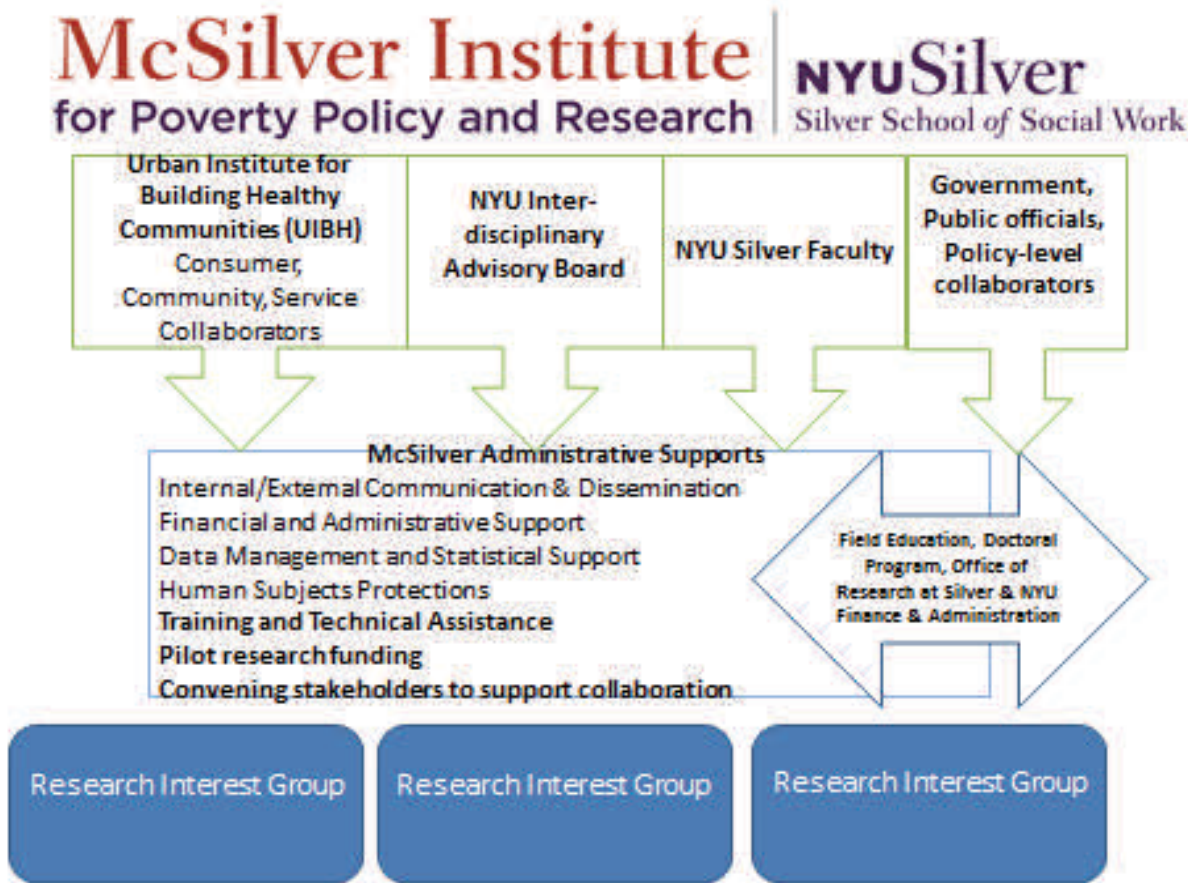


Figure 1



More specifically, McSilver has been developing a set of administrative supports that further the identity and mission of the Institute. We have concentrated on developing capacities in the following areas: 1) Convening stakeholders to support research collaborations; 2) Entering Strategic Partnerships; 3) Internal/External Communication & Dissemination; 4) Financial and Administrative Support; 5) Human Subjects Protections; 6) Education, Training and Technical Assistance; 7) Pilot Research Funding; 8) Evidence-based Service Delivery.

1. Convening stakeholders to support collaboration

Integral to McSilver's mission is a multi-disciplinary approach to research. Outreach was made to NYU faculty both internal and external to the Silver School. Within Silver, priority was placed with reintroducing the Institute to the larger faculty. An introductory presentation was made to all Silver faculty followed by a series of 5 smaller group meetings to explore interests in poverty-related research.

The McSilver NYU Advisory Committee was also reconvened in order to review the mission, explore infrastructure expansion and discuss research priorities. Current members include: 1) Lawrence Aber; 2) Phyllis Barasch; 3) Alma Carten; 4) Phil Coltoff; 5) Mary Pender Greene; 6) Robert Hawkins; 7) Linda Mills; 8) Nancy Morowitz; 9) Katherine O'Regan; 10) Deborah Padgett; 11) Constance Silver; 12) Lynn Videka; 13) Nancy Wackstein and; 14) Jerome Wakefield. Each Committee member was met with individually by the director and deputy director to also solicit more individualized feedback.

Additionally, meetings were held with a number of internal university stakeholders, including Cybelle Raver, Bob Burne, Judi Haber, Glenn Saxe, Larry Wu, Dalton Conley, and Sherry Deren.

Outreach was made to multiple community-based organizations to pursue potential poverty research oriented partnerships. Organizations include: United Neighborhood Houses (Ed Alliance, Henry Street Settlement, Hamilton Madison, Greenwich House, Chinese American Planning Council, Grant Street Settlement), Greater New York YMCA, Lower Eastside Girls Club, All Our Kin, Community Voices Heard, Presbyterian Senior Services GrandParent Family Apartments and Young Governors.



Contact was also made with public policy makers and system officials.

- Manhattan Borough President's Office
- New York City Council General Welfare Committee, Health Committee and Mental Health Committee
- New York State Office of Mental Health
- New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
- Office of the City Council Speaker (Director of Policy; Finance)
- Office of Assembly member Deborah Glick
- Office of State Senator Tom Duane

In addition, McSilver (in collaboration with the Silver School Department of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning) convened local and statewide leaders related to integrated health/mental health efforts. Participants included:

Luke Bergmann, Director of Recovery, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, **Donna Colonna**, CEO, Services for the Under Served; President of Board, Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, **Trish Marsik**, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, **Phillip Saperia**, CEO, Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, **Jody Silver**, Director/Office of Consumer Affairs, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, **Anthony Salerno**, Policy Scholar, McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy & Research, **Andrew Cleek**, Executive Director, Urban Institute for Behavioral Health, **Anita Apel**, Director of New York City Field Office, New York State Office of Mental Health, **Susan Thaler**, Director of Children's Services at New York City Field Office, New York State Office of Mental Health, **Peter Campanelli**, President/CEO, Institute for Community Living, Inc., **Stella Pappas**, Vice President, Institute for Community Living, Inc., and Silver faculty, **Lynn Videka**, **Ellen Tuchman**, **Helle Thorning**, **Phil Coltoff**, **Jerald Landsberg**, **Martha Gabriel**, **Tazuko Shibuzawa**, **Gisselle Pardo**.



2. Engaging in Strategic Partnerships

McSilver UIBH

McSilver has also engaged in a strategic partnership with the Urban Institute for Behavioral Health (UIBH) to create a new entity, McSilver Urban Institute for Building Health Communities (McSilver UIBH). Under the direction of Dr. Andrew Cleek (joining NYU in July 2012), McSilver UIBH will organize key community-based organizations serving poverty-impacted populations locally, nationally and globally to collaborate actively in research studies focused on the eradication of poverty and its related consequences. McSilver UIBH greatly benefits from this strategic partnership since 100% of existing service member organizations have agreed to participate actively in this partnership and demonstrated their commitment to McSilver's research mission by each pledging \$2,000 in start-up funds to enhance McSilver's organizational infrastructure.

Founding McSilver UIBH members are: 1) The Bridge; 2) The Institute for Community Living; 3) FECS; 4) Comunilife; 5) Services for the Underserved; 6) PSCH; 7) CUCS; 8) The Astor Home for Children; 9) The Child Center of New York; 10) Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services; 11) The Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services; 12) Jewish Child Care Association; 13) Northside Center for Child Development; 14) Postgraduate Center for Mental Health; 15) Puerto Rican Family Institute; 16) Staten Island Mental Health Society; 17) Steinway Child and Family Services; 18) The Visiting Nurse Services of New York.

3. Internal/External Communication & Dissemination

Developing a strong communications infrastructure has been a priority over the last year. The McSilver website was launched and has already undergone several revisions to accommodate the need for poverty related resources and information. Additionally, a bulk email system was instituted to send out The McSilver Messenger, a monthly newsletter, as well as Poverty Policy Briefs that consists of links to articles, reports and news items covering poverty related issues and information.

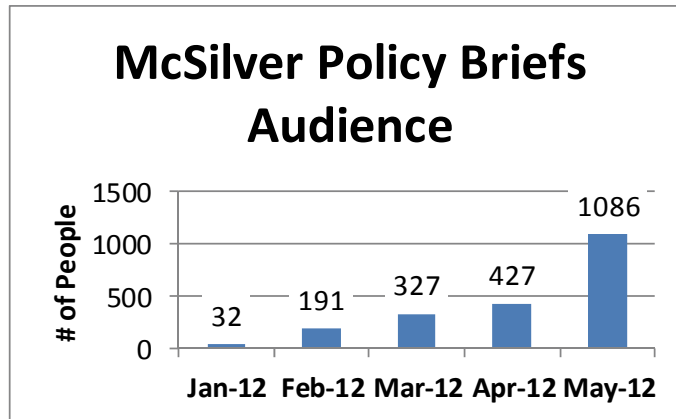


Chart 1

The number of recipients of the weekly policy briefs has grown substantially since the launch of this initiative. See chart 1.

During the spring semester, a series of five lectures were held featuring the work of renowned researchers, policy makers, service providers and community members. To further raise the Institute's visibility, McSilver faculty and staff were involved in a number of speaking engagements, guest lectures, and presentations.

Select speaking engagements/presentations:

- New Student Orientation
- Common Day
- Phi Alpha Honor Society Presentation
- NASW Congressional Caucus
- Manhattan Borough President's Women & Reentry
- NASW Conference Capitol Hill
- National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
- Advanced CIFI
- Silver Faculty Meeting
- School of Nursing Faculty Rounds
- NASW-NYC Emerging Leaders



Select guest lectures within Silver School of Social Work:

- Advanced Health Care Policy
- Children and Social Justice
- Mental Health Policy
- Policy Focused Learning Opportunity (FLO) Seminar
- Social Welfare Programs & Policies (SWPP) I

4. Research Funding

Seeking additional research funding and revenue streams has been a top priority. Working with Dean Videka's Chief of Staff Andrew Davis, and Director of Development, Karen Wright, McSilver pursued research grants and responded to RFPs for both private and public funding. See list of select applications below:

- Chase Foundation
- HHS ASPE
- NICHD R01**
- Robin Hood Foundation ** *
- NYC City Council Appropriations Request (under review)
- VA Homeless Grant*
- New York Community Trust**
- Ohio Department of Mental Health**

** funded

*expected to be funded in 2012



5. Human Subjects Protections

All of McSilver's staff have been certified by the University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects. Administrative staff have begun preparing and supporting the submission of Institutional Review Board (IRB) applications for McSilver Faculty affiliates.

6. Education, Training and Technical Assistance

McSilver has been offering trainings and technical assistance to social workers and provider organizations working with poverty impacted populations. Additionally, McSilver affiliates are dedicated to supporting the academic mission of the Silver School of Social Work.

Economic Literacy

Last year, the Deans from seven NYC social work schools created an Economic Literacy Consortium. The outcome of this effort is a curriculum entitled "Bringing Economic Literacy into Social Work Education." It is designed as a blended-learning/online course that will provide the necessary competency-based training, skills and tools to enable frontline social workers and case managers to help clients increase access to entitlements and asset-building strategies. It includes information that will deepen their understanding of the economic factors negatively affecting their clients and communities, as well as advocacy resources. A training on this curriculum was offered to Silver School Field Instructors. Deputy Director Gary Parker provides leadership in relation to dissemination efforts for McSilver.

The New York State Office of Mental Health Children's Technical Assistance Center

McSilver is pleased to house the Children's Technical Assistance Center (CTAC), an evidence-informed training, consultation, and educational resource center available to all child-serving clinics in New York State. With five years of substantial funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health, CTAC aims to assist child mental health outpatient clinics address the challenges associated with the recent changes in clinic regulations, financing, and overall healthcare reforms, while simultaneously focusing on uptake, integration and sustainability of evidence-informed, high quality practices.



CTAC's goal is to provide clinics with a set of technical assistance and training activities and tools that promote effective care, as well as efficient organizational processes. CTAC provides training and support on quality improvement strategies for clinics -- including training on specific clinical skills and evidence-based practices. Importantly, CTAC helps publicly funded clinics develop strong business and financial models to ensure sustainability.

Academic Commitment

Dr. Robert Hawkins, McSilver Assistant Professor of Poverty Studies, and Dr. Michelle Munson were both awarded tenure. Dr. Hawkins was also promoted to Associate Professor of Social Work. Robert has contributed a great deal to the Silver School since he joined the School in 2005. Tenure was awarded to Robert on the basis of his strong record of scholarship, teaching, and service. Dr. Hawkins' new status takes effect on September 1, 2012.

McSilver now serves as a field placement for 6 BSW interns, 5 MSW interns and provides intensive mentorship to 4 SW doctoral students and 2 doctoral students from Steinhardt. Additionally, McSilver affiliates and staff teach several classes within the Masters and Doctoral Programs:

- Research I (McKay)
- Community Organizing (Parker)
- Healthcare Policy (Salerno)
- Social and Behavioral Intervention Research (McKay)
- Foundations of Social Work Practice I and II (Pardo)
- SWPP I (Parker)
- HBSE (Jackson)
- Research I (Gopalan)

7. Pilot Research Funding



The purpose of McSilver pilot grants is to encourage collaborative projects between researchers across NYU representing different disciplines, as well as, stakeholders (e.g. public policy makers, organizations providing direct services to poverty impacted individuals, affected communities) to advance knowledge in areas related to poverty studies. The dates for application submission are July 15, 2012 or November 1, 2012.

Two to four applications per cycle will be funded. Studies that involve collaborations between two or more institutes/departments will be given priority. Intensive collaboration with key stakeholders is also strongly encouraged.

The criteria on which the proposal will be judged include the significance of the project, innovation of the project, and approach (i.e., methods and design), as well as contribution to a high impact poverty research agenda.

The maximum amount of award for a project is \$10,000.

8. New Research

The VUKA Family Program (VUKA)

The McSilver Institute was awarded a five-year, \$5 million R01 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to examine the impact of the VUKA Family Program in South Africa. The primary aim of VUKA is to meet the urgent need for theory-driven, empirically-informed, effective, and sustainable HIV prevention and care approaches for the unprecedented numbers of perinatally HIV-infected (PHIV+) youth in South Africa. With one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, communities within KwaZulu-Natal and the South Africa Department of Health are severely challenged to meet the complex needs of a growing number of surviving perinatally HIV-infected youth who must now cope with HIV as a chronic, highly stigmatized, and transmittable illness. There is an urgent need for interventions to help PHIV+ youth achieve health-promoting behaviors before risk behaviors are likely to emerge. This is particularly true in SA where the number of PHIV+ youth will reach crisis proportion.



Although there are considerable efforts to address the basic needs of youth affected by AIDS in Africa, few theory-driven programs have addressed children’s health, mental health or prevention needs simultaneously, particularly the needs of PHIV+ youth. VUKA is an example of a much needed comprehensive intervention to address health, mental health and behavioral outcomes, with the potential to significantly advance HIV science and practice for PHIV+ youth in Africa.

9. Evidence Informed Delivery

Step-Up

Now fully operating out of the McSilver Institute, STEP-UP, a program designed by African-American and Latino adolescents (14 to 17 years of age) experiencing significant academic, social and emotional issues for teens in similar circumstances, continues provide services in two urban high schools. STEP-UP, designed in collaboration with the NIMH funded Center for Collaborative Inner-city Child Mental Health Services Research (CCCR) at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, connects young people with mental health clinical supports, positive young adult role models, supported internships, employment opportunities and non-stigmatizing family-level interventions. The ultimate goal of STEP-UP is to offer intensive programming for young people within their natural contexts (home, school and community) in order to organize supports geared towards high school graduation, college preparedness and eventual employment success. The program is funded through the generous support of the Robin Hood Foundation.



McSilver Goals for 2012 – 2013

Aligned with Silver School of Social Work Strategic Plan

Objective: Create and Strengthen Existing Collaborations with NYU Faculty, Schools and Research Institutes in order to expand applied research studies focused on addressing the root causes of poverty or reducing its effects.

1. NYU Poverty-Related Research Centers: Working with Vice Provost, Cybelle Raver, McSilver will convene faculty across the following poverty-related research centers for purpose of: 1) enhancing McSilver faculty research visibility; 2) identifying interdisciplinary opportunities for research collaboration; 3) creating a platform for pursuit of research funding across departments/centers.

Identified Centers:

Center for Advanced Social Science Research (CASSR; Wu); Institute for Education and Social Policy (Wagner; Schwartz); Institute for Human Development and Social Change (Wagner/Steinhardt; Morris); Child and Family Policy Center (Steinhardt; Allen); Center for Health, Identify, Behavior & Prevention Studies (Steinhardt; Halkitis); Institute for Prevention Science (Medical; Miller-Brotman)

2. McSilver to begin monthly poverty-focused “works in progress” luncheons for review of manuscripts and grant applications (faculty, postdoctoral fellows, advanced doctoral students to be invited)

3. McSilver to convene multi-disciplinary investigators across NYU funded by seed fund program to present at an end of year “works in progress” lecture.



Objective: Create a peer reviewed pilot funding program to encourage investigators to develop poverty related research projects.

1. McSilver Research Pilot Grants: McSilver will allocate pilot funding to selected NYU faculty developing multi-disciplinary poverty-related research.

Objective: Strengthen and expand partnerships between McSilver and community based and service provider organizations locally and internationally in order to examine the impact of evidence-informed policies and practices impacting impoverished populations.

1. The McSilver Urban Institute for Building Health Communities (UIBH): The McSilver Urban Institute for Building Health Communities (UIBH), under the direction of Dr. Andrew Cleek, will solicit, organize and seek funding for engaged, applied research studies with community-based and service systems locally and statewide.
2. Partnerships with Service Providers: In order to examine the impact of evidence-informed policies and practices impacting impoverished populations, McSilver affiliates will continue to pursue opportunities to engage in partnered research activities. We expect a number of new research applications will have key policy makers, service organizations and consumer groups represented within the investigative team.

Objective: Deepen partnerships with policy makers, governmental agencies and elected Officials.

1. Research and Information Resource: McSilver will develop the capacity to respond to requests by policy makers for existing research and evidence-supported information on emerging issues related to poverty.
2. Influence Public Policy: McSilver will prepare and disseminate policy briefs and white papers on topics identified by policy makers as being of high importance.



Objective: Widely disseminate research findings, programmatic outcomes and policy statements to social service agencies, governmental bodies, as well as academic and research institutions and the media.

Objective: Host a vibrant and visible program of lectures, symposia, trainings and conferences focused on cutting edge research and methods.

Objective: Elevate the visibility of McSilver as an authority on the causes and social consequences of poverty and on mitigating its effects.

1. Policy Briefs: McSilver will refine and expand weekly policy briefs analyzing recently released journals, reports and news articles.

2. Lecture Series: McSilver will continue to host a regular lecture series that features researchers, policy makers, service organizational leaders, practitioners, community members and consumers comments on discussing pressing poverty-related issues.

3. Conference: In collaboration with Silver School Division of Lifelong Learning, will organize a conference and present research related to delivery of public safety net services to poverty-impacted populations and communities.

4. White papers: McSilver will prepare and disseminate policy briefs and white papers on topics identified by policy makers as being of high importance.

Objective: Seek additional funding from public and private sources to support the continued growth of McSilver initiatives and science.

1. Grant Applications: McSilver will aggressively seek and respond to grant opportunities from public and private sources.



Objective: Offer administrative support and educational opportunities for graduate students, pre and post-doctoral students and junior investigators committed to conducting poverty-related research.

1. Administrative Support: Offer administrative support and educational opportunities for graduate students, pre and post-doctoral student and junior investigators committed to conducting poverty-related research.
2. Course Instruction: McSilver staff and affiliates will teach a number of policy, practice and research courses within the Silver School of Social Work.
3. New Investigator Development: McSilver will refine and formalize training opportunities and supports for all levels of students and junior faculty interested in pursuing poverty-related research. This will include begin monthly poverty-focused “works in progress” luncheons for review of manuscripts and grant applications.
4. MSW field placements: McSilver is prepared to create a field work unit under the direction of Deputy Director, Gary Parker and Adjunct faculty member, Gisselle Pardo for first and second year MSW students.
5. BSW field placements: McSilver has will continue to accept both junior and senior social work majors for field learning opportunities.
6. Pre and post-doctoral fellows: In the upcoming year, McSilver will work closely with three post docs (Gopalan, Vu and Williams) and numerous doctoral students (McGuire-Schwartz, Stephens, Small, Rotko).

Objective: Create an Evaluation and Technical Assistance center to support engaged research with area agencies.

1. McSilver UIBH: Under the direction of Dr. Andrew Cleek, plan for TA Center will be created and presented for consideration to the Dean of the Silver School of Social Work and the McSilver NYU Advisory Committee.



McSilver Faculty Fellows

Alma Carten, MSW, PhD, has worked for New York University Silver School of Social Work in varying capacities since 1979. She is currently Associate Professor of Social Work and a valuable member of the McSilver Advisory Committee. Throughout her career, Dr. Carten has held a number of prestigious appointments, including Chair of the Silver School's Social Welfare Programs and Policies division, Director and Chair of the Westchester Social Work Education Consortium, member of the Administration for Children's Services Commissioner's Task Force on Minority Agencies, and Director of Adolescent Services for NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA). Dr. Carten's research interests include developing culturally-competent programs to improve outcomes for African American families and children, as well as providing innovative programming for child welfare services.

Phil Coltoff, PhD, Executive in Residence. Philip Coltoff, special advisor and former CEO and executive director of the Children's Aid Society, joined the School of Social Work in 2006 as NYU's first Katherine W. and Howard Aibel Visiting Professor and Executive-in-Residence. Coltoff is also an alumnus of the school.

A leader and innovator in the field of social work and social services, Coltoff led the Children's Aid Society as it became an agent of positive change in communities across New York City and the U.S. His emphasis on both comprehensive social services and education produced a full-service model of public community schools in New York that has been adapted in over 100 communities in this country as well as in such nations as Cuba, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam. The Children's Aid Society is one of the largest and oldest voluntary, non-sectarian children's services agencies in the nation.

Liliana Goldín, PhD, joined the McSilver Institute and the NYU Silver School of Social Work



in September 2011. Dr. Goldín has conducted multiple projects surrounding labor options, attitudes toward the economy, and participation of Maya indigenous peoples in industrial work. These projects have been rooted in Dr. Goldín's passion to study Maya culture and the ways in which globalization processes have affected the lives of indigenous peoples. Dr. Goldín is interested in raising awareness of the conditions that generate global industrial production. "I hope that my work can increase awareness and result in educating consumers about the labor conditions of workers in the most impoverished areas of the world producing the clothes we purchase from US retail stores like Macy's, JC Penney, and Walmart," stated Goldín.

Geetha Gopalan, LCSW, PhD, received her doctoral training at the Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW) in 2009 and is currently is a post-doctoral fellow at the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research. Dr. Gopalan is conducting research that focuses on the mental health needs of adolescents in the foster care system. Currently, she is partnering with the Child Welfare Organizing Project (CWOP) to closely look at a multi-family curriculum and adapt it to CWOP's needs by developing clinical services for families recently reunified in foster care. "CWOP is an amazing resource for families with experiences in child welfare system. They have a combined extensive knowledge base as to how to navigate through complex services," Dr. Gopalan states.

Wen-Jui Han, MSW, PhD, joined the Silver School of Social Work in August 2011. Dr. Han has a broad background and extensive experience in social policy analysis, with specific training and expertise in the areas of child care, parental employment, and child well-being. As a former Foundation for Child Development (FCD) Young Scholar, she has conducted path-breaking research on the development of children of immigrants, with particular attention to issues involving language and country of origin. As a working mother, Dr. Han has studied the relationship between maternal employment and child cognitive, social, and emotional well-being. As an immigrant herself, she is also particularly interested in understanding the developmental experiences of children of immigrants.



Robert L. Hawkins, MPA, MA, PhD, is the McSilver Associate Professor of Poverty Studies at NYU School of Social Work. Dr. Hawkins' expertise is in the areas of family and children's policy analysis, welfare and poverty, program evaluation, quantitative and qualitative methods, and survey design and implementation. He also has extensive programming, research and teaching expertise in race, gender, and cultural competency issues. The New York Community Trust recently awarded Dr. Hawkins a \$78,000 grant to implement a workforce development program for low-income victims of domestic violence. The award supports Dr. Hawkins' work under NYU Silver's McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research.

Michelle R. Munson, MSW, PhD, arrived at New York University in the fall of 2010. Dr. Munson conducts research on the behavioral health needs and well being of youth and young adults, particularly individuals and families who have interacted with publicly-funded social service systems (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, public welfare, public education). Her research interests emerged while she was in clinical practice in community and hospital settings, where the mental health needs were high and the gaps in mental health services for this population were extensive.

Duy Nguyen, PhD, is an assistant professor at NYU's Silver School of Social Work, with professional interests in mental health services, older adults, and Asian American families. Dr. Nguyen's research sheds light on the experiences of Asian Americans who have traditionally been overlooked in the poverty literature. While often regarded as a 'model-minority' that does not experience the same hardships faced by other groups, Dr. Nguyen's collaborative, community-based research with Asian Americans for Equality found 62% of surveyed older Asian Americans in Queens received food stamps.

Deborah Padgett, MPH, PhD, came to NYU Silver School of Social Work in 1998. As a prominent researcher and advocate in the field of social work, she has also been an incredible asset to



the McSilver Institute's Advisory Committee. Recently, Dr. Padgett was honored by being the first faculty member at the Silver School to be inducted into the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and was appointed to their board this year. Additionally, Dr. Padgett has served as a Board Member and President of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), culminating in the establishment of the "Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Fellowship" in recognition of her contributions. Her research focuses on housing and homelessness and highlights attributes that contribute to recovery after individuals have lived on the streets. Dr. Padgett stated, "I am delighted to have my work recognized as part of McSilver's mission and believe that my research on homeless adults with serious mental illness speaks to the challenging work that McSilver has undertaken to address the root causes of poverty."

Lynn Videka, Ph.D., Dean and Professor. Lynn Videka joined the Silver School of Social Work as dean in September 2009. Videka came from the State University of New York (SUNY) - Albany, where she served as dean of the School of Social Welfare for a decade. Her tenure was notable for its many successes, including establishing new dual-degree programs in social work and sociology, as well as in social work and human development. In 2006, she was named vice president for research at SUNY-Albany, and was also honored as a distinguished service professor the same year.

Catherine Vu, MSW, MPA, PhD, is an Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow. Her research is driven by her interest in how contextual and organizational factors influence service utilization by low-income racial and ethnic communities. Dr. Vu's hypothesis is that community based organizations that are closely linked to their communities are better able to engage clients in services. She is working on a project in partnership with McSilver's Children's Technical Assistance Center (CTAC). One of the goals of this study is to understand how publicly funded, licensed mental health clinics respond to policy and socio-demographic changes