John R. Gyourko

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

2020—	PhD	Social Welfare University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice Faculty advisor: Dr. Johanna Greeson, PhD, MSS, MLSP Dissertation committee: Drs. J. Greeson (chair), D. Culhane, & G. Ridgeway Expected graduation: May 2024
2020	MSW	Clinical Practice concentration Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work
2008	BS	Psychology Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, College of Science

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

- Child identity fraud, with special emphasis on identity crime victimization among adolescents and young adults currently or formerly in foster care.
- * Financial capabilities (e.g., credit utilization, asset development) of foster care-involved youth and their caregivers.
- * Risk and protective factors influencing key developmental outcomes (e.g., educational attainment, employment, health, housing stability) of young people with lived experience in out-of-home care.
- * Policies and practices to support older adolescents during the transition to adulthood.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Summer Research Institute National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) Competitively selected to participate in NDACAN's 2023 Summer Research Institute event.
2022	Hal Levin Award University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice Annual PhD student award for meritorious scholarship. [\$1,500]
2022	Field Research Scholar University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work
	Competitively selected for appointment as a Field Research Scholar with the University of Calgary's <i>Transforming the Field Education Landscape</i> (TFEL)

project. Honorarium sponsored by TFEL in partnership with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. [\$500]

2022 President Gutmann Leadership Award

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate & Professional Student Assembly

Individual grant to support the presentation and dissemination of original research.

[\$600]

2020 MSW Student of the Year

National Association of Social Workers, Virginia chapter

Annual statewide award for distinguished achievement in a Master of Social Work

degree program.

2020 Elaine Rothenberg Social Work Award

Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work

Annual MSW program award for outstanding academic achievement.

2020 Service and Leadership Award

Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work

Annual MSW program award for distinguished leadership and service in the School

of Social Work.

2008 Phi Beta Kappa

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Inducted into the academic honor society.

2007 Undergraduate Literary Contest

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Awarded prize for best short fiction.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

2022-2023 Evaluation of Agape Children's Ministry's Field Counseling Program to

Prevent Family Separation in Kenya

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Johanna Greeson, PhD, MSS, MLSP)

Funding mechanism: CAFO Center on Applied Research For Vulnerable Children

and Families [\$10,000]

2021 Annual Credit Checks for Adolescent Youth in Foster Care: Modeling

Outcomes With Binary Logistic Regression

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding mechanism: PhD Summer Research Fellowship, School of Social Policy

& Practice, University of Pennsylvania [\$6,100]

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Drake, B., Jones, D., Kim, H., Gyourko, J. R., Garcia, A., Barth, R., Font, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Berrick, J. D., Greeson, J. K. P., Cook, V., Kohl, P. L., & Jonson-Reid, M. (2023). Racial/ethnic differences in Child Protective Services reporting, substantiation, and placement, with comparison to non-CPS risks and outcomes: 2005—2019. *Child Maltreatment*. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595231167320
- 2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2022). Annual credit checks for adolescent youth in foster care: Factors associated with identity fraud victimization. *Child Maltreatment*, 28(2), 372-383. https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595221101504
- 3. Berrick, J. D., Barth, R., Garcia, A. R., Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2022). Research to consider while effectively re-designing child welfare services: A response to commentaries. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 32(5), 542-552. https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315221095497
- 4. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (2022). The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during the COVID-19 pandemic: Material and financial well-being by foster care status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and race. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 92(3), 334-348. https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000615
- Barth, R., Berrick, J. D., Garcia, A. R., Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., Gyourko, J. R., & Greeson, J. K. P. (2021). Research to consider while effectively re-designing child welfare services. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 32(5), 483-498. https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315211050000
- Greeson, J. K. P., Gyourko, J. R., Ortiz, A. J., Coleman, D., & Cancel, S. (2021). 'One hundred and ninety-four got licensed by Monday': Application of design thinking for foster care innovation and transformation in Rhode Island. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 128, 106166. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106166
- Barth, R., Jonson-Reid, M., Greeson, J. K. P., Drake, B., Berrick, J. D., Garcia, A. R., Shaw, T. V., & Gyourko, J. R. (2020). Outcomes following child welfare services: What are they and do they differ for Black children? *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 14(5), 477-499. https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2020.1814541

Manuscripts Under Review

- 1. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Ridgeway, G. (under review). Predictors of identity fraud victimization of adolescent youth in foster care. Preprint available at https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/pkqv7
- 2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, Silver, J., & Greeson, J. K. P. (under review). Financial and psychosocial challenges reported by social work students: Findings from a cross-sectional online survey. Preprint available at https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/uath2

- 3. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., & Page, C. S. (under review). Reintegration of street-connected children and youth in Kenya: Evaluation of Agape Children's Ministry's Family Strengthening Program.
- 4. Garcia, A. R., Berrick, J. D., Jonson-Reid, M., Barth, R., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Kohl, P., Greeson, J. K. P., & Drake, B. (under review). The stark implications of abolishing child welfare: An alternative path toward support and safety.

Manuscripts In Preparation

- 1. **Gyourko, J. R.,** Greeson, J. K. P., Vasquez, N., Mack, L., & Barth, R. (in preparation). A systematic scoping review of 'lived experience' data in foster care research.
- 2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Ridgeway, G. (in preparation). An evaluation of identity protection interventions for adolescent youth in foster care: What reduces risk of fraud victimization?
- 3. **Gyourko, J. R.,** Silver, J., & Vasquez, N. (in preparation). 'We shouldn't have to struggle this hard to help others': Student perspectives on challenges, barriers, and ethics in social work education.
- 4. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Wasch, S., & Page, C. (in preparation). Attitudes and beliefs of service providers, caregivers, and children involved in Agape Children's Ministry's Family Strengthening Program in Kenya.
- 5. **Gyourko, J. R.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Jaffee, S., Wasch, S., & Gzesh, S. (in preparation). The experiences of older youth in and recently aged out of foster care during COVID-19: Associations between depression, technology, and perceived social support.

Research Reports, Policy Briefs, & Other Publications

- 1. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2022). Voices from the frontline: Local Department of Social Services worker perspectives on Virginia's credit freeze mandate for children and youth in foster care [Research report]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
- 2. Greeson, J. K. P., Jaffee, S., Wasch, S., & **Gyourko**, **J. R.** (2020). *The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19* [Research report]. Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research at the University of Pennsylvania. https://fieldcenteratpenn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Foster-Youth-COVID-19-FINAL_Corrected.pdf
- 3. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2021). Voices of young people aging out of Virginia's foster care system: Summary findings from the Youth Exit Survey, July 2019—December 2020 [Research report]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
- 4. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019). *Identity protection and financial literacy programming for adolescent youth in foster care* [Issue brief]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.
- 5. **Gyourko, J. R.** & Moore-Jones, L. (2019). *Credit freezes for children and youth in foster care: Policy and practice guidebook.* Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

6. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Moore-Jones, L. (2018). *Annual credit checks for youth in foster care* [Policy brief]. Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers & Posters

- 1. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, October). Social work student perspectives on the challenges and costs of field education. Paper accepted for presentation at the 69th Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Atlanta, GA.
- 2. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Silver, J. (2023, October). *Financial and psychosocial challenges reported by social work students: Findings from a cross-sectional online survey.* Paper accepted for presentation at the 2023 Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Pocono Manor, PA.
- 3. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Greeson, J. K. P. (2023, January). *Factors associated with identity fraud victimization of adolescent youth in foster care*. Paper presented at the 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ. https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2023/webprogram/Paper50162.html
- 4. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, January). *Credit freezes as protective interventions for children in foster care: Exploring child welfare workers' experiences with implementation*. Poster presented at the 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ. https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2023/webprogram/Paper51200.html
- 5. Greeson, J. K. P., **Gyourko, J. R.**, Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (2021, January). *The experiences of older youth in foster care and aged out of foster care during COVID-19*. Poster presented at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research [virtual conference event]. https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2021/webprogram/Paper42255.html
- Gyourko, J. R., & Cage, J. (2020, January). Credit checks for youth in foster care: Detecting, addressing, and preventing child identity theft. Poster presented at the 24th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC. https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2020/webprogram/Paper39553.html
- 7. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & King, H. (2019, April.) *Is counseling integral to buprenorphine-assisted opioid addiction treatment? Examining counseling participation and treatment retention at a Richmond, Virginia clinic.* Poster presented at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work Student Research Symposium, Richmond, VA. https://t.co/yFULW6RajU?amp=1
- 8. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Oder, R. (2008, April). *Factors in virtual reality performance: The role of external stimuli in video games*. Poster presented at the Virginia Tech Undergraduate and Prospective Graduate Student Symposium, Blacksburg, VA.

- 1. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, May). 'We shouldn't have to struggle this hard to help others': Student perspectives on challenges and barriers in social work education. Invited presentation for the Transforming the Field Education Landscape (TFEL) project, University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work [virtual event].
- 2. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2023, March). 'We shouldn't have to struggle this hard to help others': Student perspectives on challenges and barriers in social work education. Invited presentation for the Board of Directors Meeting, National Association of Social Workers (Pennsylvania Chapter), Mechanicsburg, PA.
- 3. **Gyourko, J. R.**, Greeson, J. K. P., Jaffee, S., & Wasch, S. (2022, January). The experiences of older youth in and aged out of foster care during COVID-19: Health and social connectedness. In E. Aparicio (Chair), *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth in and transitioning from foster care*. Symposium paper presented at the 26th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington, DC. https://sswr.confex.com/sswr/2022/webprogram/Session12566.html
- 4. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019, October). Supporting successful transitions from foster care to adulthood: Credit checks, credit freezes, and the Youth Exit Survey. Invited presentation for the Independent Living Services Annual Training event, Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA.
- 5. **Gyourko, J. R.** (2019, June). *Virginia's Youth Exit Survey initiative: Statewide launch and survey administration protocols*. Invited presentation for the Northern Region Child Welfare Supervisory Meeting, Virginia Department of Social Services, Warrenton, VA.
- 6. **Gyourko, J. R.**, & Moore-Jones, L. (2019, February). *Piloting the Youth Exit Survey instrument*. Invited presentation for the Piedmont Region Child Welfare Supervisory Meeting, Virginia Department of Social Services, Roanoke, VA.
- 7. **Gyourko, J. R.,** & Moore-Jones, L. (2018, September). *Youth Exit Survey design and implementation*. Invited panel presentation and workshop for the Central Region Independent Living Coordinators Committee Retreat, Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022–present

Student Perspectives on Challenges and Barriers in Social Work Education Role: Principal Investigator

In collaboration with the National Association of Social Workers (Pennsylvania chapter), leads a cross-sectional, mixed-methods survey study examining the costs and challenges that students attribute to their pursuit of social work degrees, with special emphasis on field practicum. Uses parametric and nonparametric methods to test bivariate associations between study variables. Uses multivariable and ordinal logistic regression to model relationships between degree- and field-related challenges and participants' sociodemographic characteristics. Applies thematic and summative content analysis methods to explore patterns and themes emerging

from qualitative textual responses to open-ended survey items.

2022-present

Evaluation of Agape Children's Ministry's Field Counseling Program to Prevent Family Separation in Kenya

Role: Co-Investigator

In collaboration with Dr. Johanna Greeson (PI), performs varied data analytics and project administration tasks for an intervention evaluation study funded by the CAFO Center on Applied Research For Vulnerable Children and Families. Uses paired-samples *t*-tests, multilevel modeling, and thematic and summative content analysis methods to assess the effectiveness of family preservation services provided by non-governmental organizations in Kenya.

2018–present

Identity Crime Victimization Among Youth in Foster Care in Virginia

Role: Principal Investigator

Investigates the prevalence, incidence, and demographic correlates of identity fraud victimization experienced by adolescent youth in foster care. Collaborates with state government stakeholders to access and analyze multisource datasets. Uses machine learning methods (e.g., gradient boosted models) and spatial analytics to identify factors influencing the likelihood of fraud victimization.

2018-present

Youth Exit Survey Initiative

Role: Co-Investigator

Administers a web-based survey to gather feedback from young people aging out of foster care in Virginia. Developed and piloted the survey instrument in collaboration with stakeholders including youth in or emancipated from foster care, frontline social workers, local agency leaders, and policy advocates. Partners with local child welfare agencies to facilitate ongoing data collection. Analyzes survey response data and synthesizes research findings in semi-annual reports.

2018-present

Open Social Work project: Graduate Research Methods in Social Work

Roles: Student advisor and copy editor [\$500 honorarium]

In collaboration with project leader Dr. M. DeCarlo (St. Joseph's University) and an intercollegiate team of student and faculty contributors, creates, reviews, and updates content for *Graduate Research Methods in Social Work*, an open-source MSW-level academic textbook. https://pressbooks.rampages.us/msw-research

2021

Think of Us Microcash Grant Applications: Youth Voice Report

Role: Consultant

In collaboration with project leader Sixto Cancel (*Think of Us*) and a diverse team of researchers, advocates, and youth stakeholders, analyzed data from financial assistance applications submitted in November 2020 by young people currently and formerly in foster care in the United States (N = 27,342). Conducted bivariate tests of association to examine relationships between respondents' sociodemographic characteristics and the financial, material, and health challenges respondents attributed to COVID-19. Synthesized research findings to promote the equitable and effective allocation of pandemic relief funds by state child welfare agencies.

2020–2022 The Experiences of Foster Care-Involved Youth During COVID-19

Role: Co-Investigator

In collaboration with Dr. Johanna Greeson (PI) and an interdisciplinary team of scholars at Penn's Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research, analyzed response data from a cross-sectional online survey of young adults in or aged out of foster care during COVID-19. Employed bivariate tests of association, binary logistic regression, and thematic analysis to examine respondents' self-reported financial and material circumstances, physical/mental health, and social and emotional experiences during the initial months of the pandemic.

2006–2007 Center for Applied Behavior Systems

Role: Undergraduate research assistant

Contributed to Virginia Tech doctoral student- and faculty-led research projects investigating pedestrian safety, alcohol consumption, and road signage in Blacksburg, VA. Recorded behavioral observations in the field, performed data entry tasks, and trained fellow undergraduate research assistants.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania

2023 **Teaching assistantship**, Criminal Justice Data Analytics

In collaboration with Dr. Greg Ridgeway (Wharton Professor of Statistics and Data Science; Professor and Chair of Criminology), leads supplemental lectures and lab sessions demonstrating the acquisition, organization, and visualization of complex data in R. Mentors individual students, provides technical assistance, and grades assignments.

2023 **Guest lecturer**, Advanced Social Work Practice II

Engaged with MSW students to facilitate group discussions on the planning and implementation of program evaluation research in nonprofit agency settings.

2023 **Guest lecturer**, *Integrative Seminar in Child Welfare*

Delivered multimedia presentation and facilitated class discussion concerning the integration of stakeholder perspectives in child welfare policy, practice, and research. Lectured on the conduct and utility of scoping reviews in child welfare research.

Penn Center for Teaching & Learning

2024	CTL Teaching Certificate (to be conferred April 2024)
2023	Training for Teaching Assistants (3-day training course)
2023	Teaching Your First Course After Graduation (workshop)
2023	Engaging Students Through Group Work (workshop)
2023	Teaching Statistics to Non-Statisticians (workshop)

2022	Designing a New Course: From Syllabus to Implementation (workshop)
2022	Integrating Your Research Projects Into Courses (workshop)
2020	Technology Tools: Introduction to Canvas (training course)

SERVICE

Editorial Service for Professional Journals

2022–present Child Welfare (ad-hoc reviewer)
2022–present Families in Society (ad-hoc reviewer)

National Association of Social Workers

2022–present Workforce Committee

In partnership with clinical practitioners, policy advocates, and other NASW (Pennsylvania chapter) affiliates, serves on committee dedicated to researching, engaging, and promoting the Pennsylvania social work workforce.

University of Pennsylvania

2021–2022 School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2) Student Government

Appointed by the Doctoral Student Steering Committee to serve as PhD in Social Welfare cohort representative to the SP2 student government.

2021 Bringing Science to Bear on Child Welfare Reforms

Collaborated with scholars from Washington University in Saint Louis (Brown School) and the University of Kentucky (College of Social Work) to organize and convene the *Bringing Science to Bear on Child Welfare Reforms* summit event. Served as co-host during panel discussions and breakout room sessions.

2021 Social Responsibility Advisory Committee

Engaged with faculty, staff, and students to deliberate social and environmental justice issues surrounding university endowment investments and shareholder proxy votes. Provided issue briefs and proxy vote recommendations as requested by the Trustee Proxy Voting Subcommittee and/or the university President.

Virginia Commonwealth University

2019–2020 Master of Social Work (MSW) Program Committee

Engaged with faculty and fellow student representatives to initiate, review, and approve academic curricula and MSW program policies. Participated in meetings as a voting member.

2019–2020 School Programs Committee

Drafted and implemented School of Social Work policy related to student affairs, admissions, and academic standards. Participated in meetings as a voting member.

2019 Grade Review Committee

Participated in ad-hoc meetings to deliberate School of Social Work student grade appeals.

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Professional Positions

2018-present Youth Services Program Specialist

Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services, Richmond, VA

Administers credit monitoring and identity protection programming for children and youth in foster care. Collaborates with local departments of social services to administer state- and federally mandated surveys gathering feedback from transition-age youth in foster care and young adults exiting care. Maintains and analyzes state-level administrative datasets to track Independent Living program implementation and outcomes. Synthesizes research findings to support service provision and transition planning for older youth.

2015–2018 Employer Relations Coordinator

ServiceSource Inc., Oakton, VA

Led networking and partnership development for a nonprofit grant initiative with a mission to expand career opportunities for people with disabilities. Increased total number of employer partnerships by more than 500% during tenure. Negotiated customized employment opportunities matching the skills and support needs of individuals with disabilities.

2014–2015 Family and Youth Specialist

Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth, Las Vegas, NV

Managed a caseload of children and adolescents in foster care. Leveraged network of resource family contacts to preserve intact sibling group placements. Arranged respite foster care as needed. Conducted home visits; attended court proceedings, child and family team meetings, and education plan meetings; provided psychosocial rehabilitation services and Independent Living skills training; developed and implemented permanency and transition plans; and mentored older youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Periodically provided on-call crisis stabilization services.

2011–2013 Activities Counselor

Intercept Youth Services, Roanoke, VA

Supported child welfare- and justice system-involved adolescent males in a residential treatment facility. Planned and implemented psychoeducational interventions and recreational activities to support therapeutic milieu. Managed components of the facility budget.

2010–2011 Mental Health Clinician

Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Roanoke, VA

Provided intensive in-home services to support adolescents with mental health and substance use disorders. Developed and pursued treatment goals in collaboration with case managers, therapists, clients, and families.

2009–2011 Flex Counselor

Intercept Youth Services, Roanoke, VA

Supported therapeutic milieu in a residential treatment facility for child welfareand justice system-involved adolescent males. Delivered skills training interventions, supervised community outings, and mentored residents to support successful transitions to adulthood.

2009 Relief Counselor

Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Roanoke, VA

Provided on-call residential support services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Administered medications, assisted with daily living activities, and maintained health and safety standards in congregate care facilities.

2008 Area Supervisor

Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax, VA

Supervised 35 staffers and coordinated programming at six elementary school-based summer day camp program sites. Trained staff and volunteers, managed program budget, and coordinated weekly field trips for approximately 300 children (ages 6 to 13).

Student Internships

2019–2020 MSW Clinical Practice Intern

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, Richmond, VA

Engaged with children, adolescents, and families to provide behavioral health case management and therapeutic mentoring services. Conducted literature reviews, synthesized research findings, and authored issue briefs to augment crisis stabilization programming and service delivery.

2018 MSW Generalist Practice Intern

Virginia Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA

Provided therapeutic mentoring and mental health support services for older youth in foster care. Scoped literature on the Family First Prevention Services Act, Chafee-funded (Independent Living) programs, and psychotropic medication prescribing practices for youth in foster care. Created a compendium of evidence-based interventions to support local and state agency compliance with federal law.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2018 Youth Housing Stability Coalition

Engaged with adolescents and young adults, frontline social workers, and policymakers in focus groups to explore youth homelessness in the Richmond, VA area. Actively participated in advocacy planning sessions.

2000–2008 Hartwood Foundation

Actively participated in political demonstrations and community events in Fairfax and Richmond, VA, to support civil rights advocacy for persons with disabilities.

2000–2008 Central Fairfax Services

Engaged with participants and administrators at nonprofit day support program sites in Fairfax, VA. Facilitated recreational and vocational training activities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2022-present	Member, Council on Social Work Education
2021-present	Member, American Psychological Association
2020-present	Member, International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care
2019-present	Member, Society for Social Work and Research
2019-present	Member, National Association of Social Workers
2018-present	Member, Phi Alpha social work honor society
2008-present	Member, Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society