

# Doris Duke Fellowships

## *for the Promotion of Child Well-Being*

*Seeking innovations to prevent child abuse and neglect*



## Graduated Fellow Interview: Tamara Hurst, Ph.D.

The Doris Duke Fellowship emphasizes the intersection of academic research and policy. One of our Cohort One fellows, [Tamara Hurst](#), is a great example of this intersection. Dr. Hurst's work focuses on child sex trafficking; she was recently appointed to the [Mississippi task-force on human trafficking](#).



### **What work have you been doing since you graduated?**

I have been working as an assistant professor at The University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work. Using my research platform on child sex trafficking as a base, I've implemented an elective on forensic social work and have been working on formalizing an interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Studies certificate program. I'm also co-director of the Mississippi Wraparound Initiative, our state's wraparound facilitation program, which is designed to divert youth from psychiatric residential treatment facilities by engaging families and empowering community support. We've added wraparound modules to social work courses to help with workforce development-especially for Mississippi's child serving agencies such as the Department of Human Services.

### **How did you become involved in the Mississippi task force on human trafficking?**

I started an informal task force to address the issue of human trafficking in Mississippi. The group enjoyed regular attendance by leaders within our major state agencies. It caught the attention of our governor, who then

created a formal state task force on the issue, and I was one of those appointed to serve as a member. The task force produced a report with low-cost, practical strategies. Unfortunately, the report has not been acted upon by our legislature, so I am currently working to identify someone who will champion this issue.

### How did working with your policy mentor during the fellowship shape your work?

My policy mentor, Kirsten Widner, was a great role model for me in the policy arena. I was able to observe her work and I learned that policy change takes much more time than some people realize (especially students).

### Is there anything else you want to share about your work?

Einstein once said that if he had an hour to save the world he would spend 55 minutes defining the problem and 5 minutes finding the solution. Defining the problem in Mississippi is extremely complex. It has the distinction of either being first or last on lists that rank education, poverty, child health, maternal health, employment, etc. We are constantly battling human rights issues and deep-seated prejudices. We are also in a state that is mostly rural and transportation/access to services is extremely difficult. My work is challenging, intellectually stimulating, and never boring.



## Reminder: Cohort Six Applications Closing Soon

A reminder that the application period for Cohort Six is currently open! Materials and instructions are available on the [fellowship website](#). Applications will be accepted until December 1.

Questions should be directed to [ddfellowship@chapinhall.org](mailto:ddfellowship@chapinhall.org).

We hosted an application webinar on Wednesday, Oct. 21. The webinar content focused on the purpose of the fellowship, eligibility, dissertation topics, performance expectations, mentor roles and expectations, and application and selection process. Presenters included Lee Ann Huang, Fellowship Manager; Dr. Kimberly Boller, Selection Committee Member; Kaela Byers, Cohort Three Fellow; and Megan Madison, Cohort Four Fellow.

The webinar slides are available [here](#).



## Fellow Updates

Cohort Five fellow [Francesca Longo](#) has received the two-year Head Start Research Scholars Grant through OPRE. Congratulations, Francesca!



## Application Period Open: Harold A. Richman Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Chicago

The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration (SSA), in collaboration with Chapin Hall, invites outstanding researchers to apply for the Harold A. Richman Fellowship. This fellowship is a postdoctoral position named for Chapin Hall's founding director and SSA's former Dean. It offers recent graduates or early career researchers the opportunity to strengthen their intellectual and scholarly qualifications and launch careers in policy research. The application deadline is December 15, 2015.

Richman fellows will receive advanced research training and mentoring, develop independent research ideas, and participate in educational exchanges with scholars at SSA, Chapin Hall, and across the University of Chicago.

For further information, please see the frequently asked questions [here](#).

Only online applications are accepted. Please apply online to Posting Number 02828 at the Academic Career Opportunities web page at the University of Chicago website [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

[National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference](#)

November 18-21, 2015  
Orlando, FL

**Doris Duke Fellowship Reception**  
January 14, 2016, 7:00 PM  
Location TBD, Washington, DC

[Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting](#)

March 31-April 2, 2016  
Baltimore, MD

**Doris Duke Fellowship Mid-Year Meeting**

April 4-6, 2016  
UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke

[San Diego International Conference  
on Child and Family Maltreatment](#)

January 25-29, 2016  
San Diego, CA

[2016 APSAC Colloquium](#)

June 22-25, 2016  
New Orleans, LA



## Quick Links

- [Doris Duke Fellowships for the Promotion of Child Well-Being](#)
- [Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago](#)
- [Doris Duke Charitable Foundation](#)

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