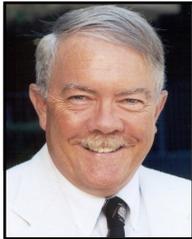


From the Desk of the Chair

By Larry Kreuger, Ph.D., Department Chair and Professor



We are delighted to have some exciting events at hand and we are making steady progress in a number of important areas in the Department. Our Fifth Annual Social Work Scholarship Gala evening at SIUE is fast approaching, coming up on April 9, 2011 with our silent auction beginning

at 5pm, dinner at 6pm and our program begins at 7:30 pm. The location again this year is in the Meridian Ballroom of the Morris University Center. You will find a reservation form in this issue of TAC. The evening promises to be an enjoyable time with music, an exciting group of award recipients, and Gigi Dowling-Urban, Director of the Williams Learning Center, East Saint Louis School District 189, is our featured speaker. Please join us for this most important fifth annual Gala. Remember that your ticket cost covers the dinner and all proceeds provide funding for our next round of student scholarships!

In other news we continue to work hard to prepare the considerable amount of documentation required for our BSW and MSW reaffirmation of accreditation review that will be building toward submission of our application in the fall semester 2011. We hope for final approval due in 2012. Needless to say we are both pleased to be making progress in this critically important area and look forward to successfully attaining full accreditation. April 8, 2011 we are offering a 6-CEU workshop on Asperger's Syndrome presented by Sherri Luttrell and held at MUC. We are actively conducting our faculty search to fill the position being vacated by Dr. Roger Boyd's retirement. We will miss Roger's many years of contribution to the development of the social work program at SIUE. Finally Suzanne Houston, our wonderful part time secretary is departing her position with us March 1 as she and her family move to Louisville, Kentucky. Thanks Suzanne for your good work and sunny presence!

Calling all Alumni—CSWE Re-accreditation

By Kathleen J. Tunney, Ph.D., Associate Professor



The Department of Social Work is seeking alumni interested in helping with the upcoming Council on Social Work Education review for reaffirmation of accreditation. The BSW Program and MSW Programs are both up for re-accreditation in 2012. As former students, your input will be a valuable contribution toward preparing our

documents and reflecting what we have learned from our alumni about their career paths. Alumni interested in joining this effort should contact Dr. Kathleen J. Tunney at 650-5428 or by e-mail: ktunney@siue.edu.

SIUE Department of Social Work

**“Where Crossroads
of Academic Excellence**

and

Community Commitment Meet”

BSW News/Update

By Gerald V. O'Brien, Ph.D., Professor



By the time everyone receives this copy of the TAC, we will hopefully be well out of the long frigid winter. It seems to me that spring is an apt metaphor for social work; perhaps this is why Social Work Month is always in March. The BSW Program continues to chug along well.

Our students are slowly recovering from the trauma of several lost days due to the weather, and the BSW Curriculum Committee continues to attend to completing the self-study for our up-coming CSWE reaffirmation.

The Program is in the process of making several curriculum and administrative changes, due in part to the input of graduating BSWs last year. We have reviewed our pre-requisite course requirements, and revised some of these, and are in the process of attempting to develop a writing in the profession course specifically designed for our students. This would include not only APA format and research paper devel-

opment, but other forms of social work writing, such as case-notes, developing reports for legal proceedings, and other types of profession-specific communications. We also have revised our Senior Assignment project, and are initiating Portfolios as of this year. These are similar to the Projects that the MSW students have been completing for the past five or so years.

This year the College has begun to advise our students, and so faculty are moving from an advising (issues related to curriculum completion) to a mentoring (issues related to student professional development) role. So far, this process has gone fairly smoothly. The Student Social Work Association (SSAW) has been heavily involved in University and Community activities and will be co-sponsoring a Poverty Simulation later in the spring semester. These are only a few of the recent or future issues that pertain to the BSW Program; we'll share more in the next TAC.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Social Work Program.

Giving Back to Youth in Need over the Holiday Season

By Tracy Mathias, GSSWA, Second Year Chair



The Graduate Student Social Worker's Association is always looking for ways to enrich the lives of individuals and families in our community. We investigate many great organizations and causes that can use our assistance and then try to help in any way possible.

Recently a worker from Covenant House Youth Homeless Shelter reached out to the GSSWA to see if we could help in collecting various gift items for youth in their crisis unit over the holiday season. Not only did we accept her invitation for help, but we tried to meet and exceed their expectations. We started collecting items for the drive upon our return from Thanksgiving break and donations continued to be accepted until December 15th. A sign-up list was posted on the Graduate Student Lounge door and item drop-boxes were located in the lounge. Our sign-up sheet consisted of things such as basic clothing (socks, belts, t-shirts, etc.) and varied all the way up to St. Louis Rams football tickets.

Between the graduate students, Social Work Department faculty and staff, and outside contributors we were able to collect enough gifts to give every boy and girl on the crisis unit more than one present. Because of everyone's hard work and dedication in assisting with this drive, we were able to truly make a difference in the lives of deserving youth this holiday season...and that is something we should all be very proud of.



Invitation to the 2011 Grammy's

By Linda Wittman, MSW, LCSW (2004 BSW and 2006 MSW)



Hi, my name is Linda Wittman. I am a school social worker at Alton High School in Alton, IL. Throughout the United States, schools are struggling to address the over representation of black students in special education. Research shows that expulsion and suspension rates are higher for black students, in particular black males. In almost all my student sessions, I worked with the students on strategies to improve choices and behavior. But when it came to implementing the strategies in structured and unstructured settings, the kids failed to do so. I had to think of a way for the kids to be put in supervised situations where they would have to learn and use appropriate life skills. I came up with the idea of a rap group. I decided to use what they loved to help them learn necessary skills that would enable them to work within a group.

Alton High School 618's mission is to affect a positive change in self and others through the creation and performance of positive rap music. Our Goal is to provide an environment that encourages creativity and enthusiasm, involvement in school and community, independence and interdependence within a group setting, tolerance and respect for individual differences, self-esteem and self-confidence, responsibility and self discipline, and leadership opportunities through the creation and performance of positive rap. The participants are thereby equipped with the skills and disposition to become personally fulfilled and socially responsible adults. It is hoped that their music will inspire their listeners to reach for the same standard.

Since our inception in January 2010, we have written and produced six songs and have performed at Stop the



Drama, Stop the Beef, Alton Middle School, the Motivational Achievement Center for emotionally disturbed children, Step Out The Violence, Artsy, the St. Louis metropolitan area art event for youth, Juneteenth, the Salvation Army, the Boys and Girls Club of Alton, local churches and the Martin Luther King basketball game sponsored by the NAACP. We have produced two videos, "I Had A Dream" celebrating Martin Luther King and "Drug Free State of Mind", an anti-drug video which won first place in the Musicares and Grammy Foundation's Teen Substance Abuse Awareness Through Music Contest. We have been featured on Channel 5, in the Alton Telegraph and the Riverbender. Their winning song is

onYouTube, the National Institute on Drug Abuse's site, Grammy 365, Think MTV, and other national sites. The 618 Boyz and I went to Los Angeles, CA. We attended the Grammy Backstage Experience, as well as, other planned Grammy events. But most importantly the young men in the group have been extremely successful at school. One

student has worked his way out of the Behavior Disorder Program, two students are in Minority Excellence and are college bound, and one student went from failing most of his classes to passing most of them. All are more involved at school. They are playing football, basketball, and one is an A-town stepper. I am extremely proud of what they have accomplished. But most importantly I have learned that in order to reach kids today we have to be willing to take risks and think outside of the box. If we social workers are willing to do so, we can truly make a difference in the lives of our clients.

Today's Student's Tomorrow's Leaders



**William C. White, Jr., LMSW,
SAP (1995-BSW, 2004-MSW)**

Hello, my name is William C. White, Jr., and I received a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (BSW) in 1995 from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and upon graduation, I accepted a job as a Director of Social Services at a long-term care facility in Phoenix

City, Alabama. From there, I went to work as a crisis counselor and supervisor at Charter Peachford Mental Health Hospital's national call center. The call center's closure resulted in me working as a contract case manager for the Department of Family and Children Services in Clayton County, Georgia in the child protective services investigative unit.

After seven years of working in the field, I returned to SIUE in 2002 and earned a Master Degree in Social Work in 2005. Following graduation, I accepted a position as a Peer Group Counselor at a Therapeutic Boarding School in Dahlonga, Georgia and worked there several years before relocating to Deming, New Mexico to work as a contract Medical Social Worker. I worked at Demining Memorial Hospital & Nursing Home for one year before returning to Georgia and to the Department of Family and Children Services child protective services unit in Fulton County, Georgia. Through my interactions with the Juvenile Court, I was offered my current position with Fulton Co. CASA as an Advocacy Coordinator for Family Drug Court, and I also coordinated the 2010 Holiday Toy Drive filling the "Wish List" of 250

children.

Subsequent to meeting the licensing exam requirements I began working in private practice at Sharon Community Church providing pre-marriage counseling and group therapy. Due to the high number of deprivation cases that came before the juvenile court where fathers were reported as "unknown", I founded the Father Support Center Inc. The objective of this 501(c) 3 is to attempt to address the pattern of fatherlessness in the community. The Father's Support Center mission is to promote the notion of a father's importance within the home as not just a parent, but more as a mentor, role-model, and co-provider of the positive emotional and behavioral stability of children.

I now live in Atlanta, Georgia with my wife Jemma and two children Briana and Billy. I am an active life member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. and serve as the Gulf Coast Regional Parliamentarian. I am the son of the retired Rev. Dr. William C. White Sr. and the late Alice Jeffries White, and like my father, I am a proud military veteran.

Along with advocating on behalf of children in Family Drug Court, I continue in private practice; supervise BSW and MSW interns for Clark Atlanta University, Georgia State, Georgia Southern and the University of Georgia; serve as the CCNLI as representative for the NASW Georgia Chapter; and I am currently enrolled at the Harold Abel School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Department of Social Work, working toward my Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) at Capella University.



**Linda Wittman, MSW, LCSW
(2004-BSW, 2006-MSW)**

Hi. My name is Linda Wittman. I graduated from the SIUE Social Work Bachelors program in 2004. I continued with my education and graduated from the SIUE Social Work Master program in 2006. I was hired in the fall of 2006 by Alton High School in Alton, IL. My

first 4 years there, I worked as the social worker for

the Behavior Disorder Program at the high school. I worked with around 40 IEP ED teenagers. This year I am working as the social worker for the 10th thru 12th graders whose last names start with M-Z. I sat for my LCSW in 2010. I am thrilled with the opportunities that have opened up to me since receiving my LCSW. I definitely recommend licensure of some type for all social workers. I also have taken on my first intern this year. Maybe one day I will have the opportunity to supervise a fellow SIUE social worker. (*See Article on page 3*)

Over 80 Attend Trauma and Interventions Workshop

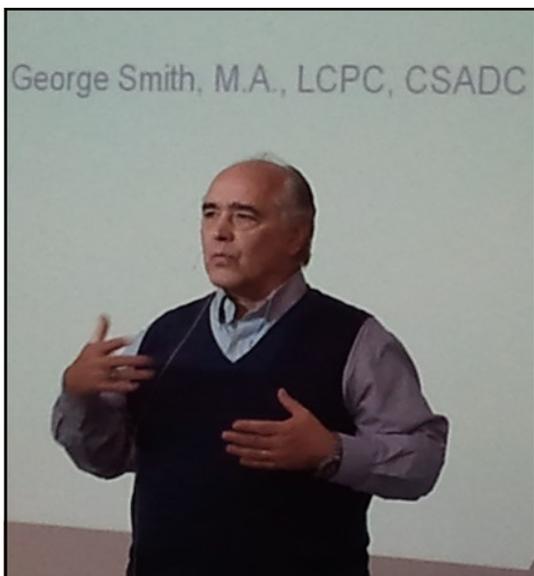
By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW



Along with an understanding of the individual's experience of trauma, health care professionals also need to know where they fit in when crisis occurs.

On February 11, 2011, George Smith, MA, LCPC, CSADC, presented a full day workshop to over 80 community professionals that examined and elaborated on the processes of crisis intervention, short and long term effects of PTSD, conducting a critical incident debriefing, and specific treatment approaches specific to trauma. Mr. Smith indicated that in spite of our awareness of the dev-

astating effects of trauma, that research suggests that there is still uncertainty among mental health and health care professionals regarding what really constitutes standard of care for trauma victims. Workshop participants were provided with specific information on the impact of trauma; the unique responses of trauma victims—both short-term and long-term; what interventions are supposed to accomplish; and what are the treatments that have been found to be healing and constructive. In addition, Mr. Smith discussed the efficacy of such treatment approaches as EMDR, Imagery Rescripting and Reprocessing Therapy, and relaxations techniques.



George Smith, making a point



George fielding questions from the group



George talks about steps of debriefing



Dean Romero—Welcoming participants

5th Annual Scholarship GALA

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW

The Department of Social Work will host its' 5th Annual Scholarship Gala on Saturday, April 9, 2011. The event will be held in the Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center on the SIUE campus. The annual Scholarship Gala is held to raise money for students seeking scholarship benefits for an education in professional social work leading to a Bachelors and/or Masters Degree.

The keynote speaker for the 2011 Scholarship Gala is Gigi Dowling-Urban, MSW, Director of the Williams Learning Center, East St. Louis School District 189. Ms. Dowling-Urban is the former principal of Pathways School, Belleville, Illinois. She has provided consultation and in-service presentations for many of the public school districts throughout St. Clair and Madison Counties, as well as school districts in the Chicago area and New Orleans, Louisiana and Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

Ms. Dowling-Urban earned a Bachelors Degree with concentrations in social welfare and education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 1974 and a Masters in Social Work Degree from St. Louis University in 1979. She began her social work career working for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services as a caseworker and went on to work for the

Belleville Area Special Education District and the Mascoutah School District 19 as a school social worker. She is a recipient of the *Those Who Excel: Award of Excellence* from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Ms. Dowling-Urban is president of the Looking Glass Playhouse in Lebanon, Illinois and she has directed and/or choreographed more than 50 main-stage productions for community theater groups in Belleville and Lebanon. The Belleville News Democrat honored Gigi Dowling-Urban with its' *Woman of Achievement in the Arts Award*. We are very proud to have her as our Keynote Speaker for the 5th Annual Gala.

The Scholarship Gala will commence with live music on saxophone and electric jazz guitar by James Morgan and John Farrar, with an open cash bar and social hour (5:00-6:00 p.m.) followed by dinner (6:00-7:15 pm); keynote address (7:30 pm); awards presentations; and announcement of the silent auction winners. Master of Ceremonies for this annual event is Steve Jankowski, SIUE Director of Alumni Affairs.

The SIUE Department of Social Work Scholarship Gala Committee, faculty, staff and students appreciate the contributions to the silent auction and support of alumni and friends for this annual event.

APRIL 9, 2011 5:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m. / RESERVATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Mail Reservations by
3/25/11 to:

SIUE Department of
Social Work
Campus Box 1450
Edwardsville IL 62026-1450

OR Call: Judy Zimmerman
(618) 650-5429

\$30.00 per ticket is tax
deductible as allowable by law
and will be utilized for Social
Work Scholarships.

TICKETS: ___ \$50.00 Each ___ \$350.00 Table
of 8 persons.

DINNER Choice:

Indicate number of each

_____ Roast Beef w / Au Jus
_____ Baked Salmon w / Capers and
Lemon Butter
_____ Portabella Mushroom Steak

Method of Payment:

Checks made payable to "SIUE Foundation"
Credit Cards accepted - complete and sign

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Charge my credit card \$ _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. date: _____

MC ___ Visa ___ Amir Express ___ Discover ___

Signature: _____

Tickets are non-refundable. Purchased Tickets will be held at the "Will Call Table" at the event.

FREE PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN VISITOR'S LOT "B"



Saturday, April 9, 2011
SIUE
Department of Social Work
5th Annual
Scholarship Gala
 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Meridian Ballroom
 Morris University Center
Keynote Speaker
Gigi Dowling-Urban, MSW

<p><i>Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jennifer E. Kremmel</p> <p><i>Outstanding Graduate Student Award</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tracy L. Mathias</p> <p><i>Outstanding Alumni Award</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">William C. White, Jr., LMSW, SAP</p> <p><i>Outstanding Agency/Organization Award</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hospice of Southern Illinois</p> <p><i>Social Worker of the Year Award</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ruth Anne Scott, MSW, LCSW</p> <p><i>Humanitarian Award</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kelly Gable, Pharm. D., BCPP</p>	 <p><i>Alumni and Friends Scholarship</i></p> <p><i>Recipient</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brigid Nalewajka</p> 
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Alumni Corner



By Virginia Berry-Howlett, MSW

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work in 1994 at age 59, I returned to SIUE and received a Master of Social Work degree in 2002 (age 66). I served as pastor of Wilkerson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Belleville from 1993 to 2009, during which time I attended and graduated from SIUE. I also served as pastor of Parks Chapel AME Church in Centreville from 2009 to 2010 when, having reached mandatory retirement age (75) in the AME church, I retired from pastoral duties.

For the past 14-plus years, I have worked as a social worker for Big Brothers Big Sisters Belleville, Illinois. An advocate for children, I am described as “Magical Miss Virginia” by my colleagues at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois, and I currently serve as a field instructor for SIUE social work students.

Among my accomplishments is recognition in 2009 by the Racial Harmony Group as a “Phenomenal Woman” for my community service activities: a tax preparer, advocate for voter registration, and liaison for the Circuit Breaker Assistance program for senior citizens. A champion for women, I recently launched a ministry which I have named “The Golden Pearls of Wisdom” where I mentor young women—particularly women in ministry. Although I am officially retired from the ministry, I still make my rounds as a preacher and motivational speaker.

Social work and ministry go hand-in-hand. Together they provide extraordinary opportunities to implement the strengths and empowerment perspective in the lives of people. My greatest joy in life is to empower people for change whereby they learn to help themselves and make the necessary changes that will improve their quality of life.

I may certainly wear out before I rust out, but really, I don’t see either of those happening any time soon!

From Candy Land to Chutes and Ladders...

By Tracy Mathias, GSSWA Second Year Chair

On January 10th, the GSSWA kicked off its recreation drive for Community Living. *Community Living, Inc.* is a nonprofit agency that provides various services to people with disabilities and special needs in the St. Charles, Missouri area. One specific service that this organization has is respite care. Their respite care can be utilized by parents, guardians, and caregivers that need to get a much deserved break from the demands of caring for their special needs children. While children are at the center, they are under the supervision of trained staff/professionals and are able to learn through different types of interactive play. One of our GSSWA officers works for Community Living and informed our organization that these kids are playing with games that have missing and/or broken pieces and do not have enough interactive games and craft supplies to play with. This need sparked an idea that grew into our recreation drive. The graduate students were asked to make donations of new games (board games, playing



cards, dominos, etc), coloring books, crayons, and craft supplies that could be used at the center. The drive got started with a list posted on the door of the Graduate Student Lounge and a drop-box for the donated items located in the lounge. The sign-up sheet listed the need for twenty board games, a number of card games, and a variety of craft supplies. All donation items were turned in by 4pm on Tuesday, January 25th.

After all the donations were collected, we were amazed at the drive’s success! Students donated a variety of board games, card games, puzzles, crayons, coloring books, paints, Play-Doh, and various craft supplies. The wonderful instructors and professors in our own Social Work department also generously contributed a total of \$100 to our drive, which was used to purchase more games and supplies for the children. With the help of all the great individuals who contributed their time and money for this great cause, children at Community Living will be able to expand their abilities and improve a variety of skills from the great items that were donated

GSSWA Activities Spring 2011

By Tracy Mathias, GSSWA Second Year Chair



The 2010/2011 GSSWA has begun its season with a big bang. We have already seen great success in two drives; the first of which benefited The Covenant House while the second benefited Community Living. Though we have positively affected two organizations and the many people involved in those organizations, the GSSWA has only just begun.

In February, the GSSWA is kicking off its “Sweaters for Sweethearts” campaign. It will be up to our fellow students and faculty to donate gently used winter apparel (sweaters, long sleeved-t’s, hoodies, pull overs, pants, coats, etc.) for children, youth, and young adults (sizes can begin from newborn and range to adult). Following our “Sweaters for Sweethearts” will be our annual Trivia Night, which tentatively is being held in late March. This year the GSSWA is not alone in our Trivia fun however. The GSSWA is teaming up with the SSWA to host an event which will hopefully be something that will continue for years to come. Our Trivia Night is a fabulous way to meet fellow social work peers and faculty, all while having a great time bidding on silent auction items, and testing your knowledge against individuals in our department. In April, we will continue our charitable work by gathering a support team to walk for Multiple Sclerosis and hosting a Blue Ribbon Bake Sale to support Child Abuse Prevention month. At our bake sale there will be a variety of delicious goodies and treats for purchase. However, these amazing little desserts will also be accompanied

by two items; a blue ribbon and a pamphlet. The ribbon can be proudly displayed and will let everyone know you made the decision to fight against child abuse. The pamphlet will have helpful information on how to support the cause of stopping child abuse.

The month of May holds some amazing charitable events for the GSSWA. We will be assembling our own walk teams to show support for breast cancer in the Relay for Life walk. In late May comes an event that has generated an incredible amount of excitement from SIUE students... we will be going to New Orleans to help build homes for Katrina victims. Details of this event will be available in the coming months for those students who would like to participate, and we encourage all of our fellow undergraduate and graduate students to consider volunteering for this great cause.

To wrap up a great year, we are going to follow the tradition of having a “Hooding Ceremony” for all graduate students who are walking in this summer’s commencement. This will be the perfect opportunity to have family come out and meet our fellow social work peers and professors. At this ceremony a member of the graduating student’s family will have the opportunity to attach the hood onto the graduating student’s robe. This will be the first step in symbolizing the great accomplishment of receiving an MSW degree.

As second year chair of the GSSWA, I am truly proud of all the great contributions and donations made to help others in and around our community.



SSWA ACTIVITIES

By Jessica Benton, BSW Student

The Student Social Work Association (SSWA) has many exciting events coming up for the remainder of the spring 2011 semester:

February: SSWA will be participating with the university’s activities for Black History Month. **March:** SSWA is putting on a poverty simulation for the Social Work department as well as the entire university in celebration of National Social Work month. The poverty simulation is part of *Focus St. Louis*’ broader *Leadership Saint Louis* program, which exposes participants

to poverty. Participants will not just observe how poverty affects millions; they will experience it by being casted in roles such as a single mother or unemployed auto worker. The university’s Student Government heard about the poverty simulation and has decided to co-sponsor it with the SSWA. The SSWA is hoping to make this an annual event.

April: SSWA will be participating in the campus’s Relay for Life to help raise money for the American Cancer Society. If you are interested in participating and/or making a donation, please contact Jessica Benton, SSWA Vice President/Secretary or e-mail: **jbenton@siue.edu**.

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PAST GALA KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



JULIUS K. HUNTER
1st GALA-2007



VICKIE NEWTON
2nd GALA-2008



MATT CHAMBERS
3rd GALA-2009



JOHN P. FOPPE
4th GALA-2010



GALA COMMITTEE 2008
JERRY STATEN
NANCY VETTER-STATEN
JUDY ZIMMERMAN
JANE VEST
DEBORAH VOGEL
KELLENE HAMILTON
SHIRLEY RAKERS
SANDRA BECKER-WARDEN

2011 Upcoming CEU Workshop

Friday, **April 8, 2011**

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Understanding Individuals with Asperger’s Syndrome: A Unique Perspective

Presented by:

Sherri Luttrell, M.S. CCC-SLP

Location: Morris University Center, SIUE

6 CEU’s

This seminar will help participants understand what is going on in the mind of an individual with Asperger’s Syndrome. Participants will be given an overview of the general characteristics of Asperger’s Syndrome (AS), what the individual with Asperger’s is thinking, and techniques that can be used with these individuals to effectively communicate and work with them.

If you have questions regarding this program’s content, please contact: Kellene M. Hamilton, Department of Social Work, 618/650-2620 or email kehamil@siue.edu
You may pre-register for this CEU events by calling: 618/650-3210 Office of Educational Outreach

Congratulations from Faculty and Staff!



Winter Commencement 2010 - Bachelors in Social Work

Shallah G. Irving



2007 GALA AWARDEES



2008 GALA AWARDEES



2009 GALA AWARDEES



2010 GALA AWARDEES

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EDWARDSVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Campus Box 1450
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St. Louis MO

TAC is published by the Social Work Department
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville — SIUE
Campus Box 1450, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1450
Phone: (618) 650-5429
Editor: Kellene M. Hamilton /e-mail: kehamil@siue.edu
Layout: Deborah F. Vogel
Distribution: Judy Zimmerman
Printing: SIUE Copy Services, Edwardsville, Illinois 62026

