



TAC-The Alumni Connector

*SIUE Department of Social Work
College of Arts and Sciences*

Volume 2, Issue 3

Summer-2007

Summer Greetings!

By Venessa A. Brown, Ph.D. - Professor and Department Chair



Dear Alumni and Friends,

“Where Academic Excellence and Community Commitment Meet” is the theme that guides the Department of Social Work as you will see in this edition of the TAC. Our commitment to the betterment of human mankind is

evident in all we do here at SIUE. We are particularly proud of our graduates who are very visible in the Metro East region.

The Department of Social Work has accomplished many goals this year. Our students continue to be some of the brightest students in the academy. Their commitment to social and economic justice is evident in the community service activities that they are engaged in. Our faculty, have had a number of accomplishments in teaching, research and service. The following are particularly noteworthy:

- Achieved reaffirmation of accreditation for the Master’s in Social Work program;
- Opened a new library in the department;
- Conducted our first faculty retreat and adjunct faculty orientation;
- Held our first alumni Christmas gathering;
- Developed new community partnerships; and
- Celebrated our first Scholarship Gala during National Social Work Month.

The Department of Social Work has enlisted new community partners to serve our students. We have renewed old community partnerships. Our field liaison, and clinical specialist, Kellene M. Hamilton and Director of Practica, Dr. Carol A. Wesley, have done an excellent job visiting our practicum sites and

continuing the relationships we have developed in the practice arena.

The committee for the Gala was composed of our alumni, friends and community partners, who did a spectacular job ensuring that our first event was a success. We were very pleased with the attendance of nearly 125 people for the Gala. The funds raised will go towards an Endowed Scholarship Fund to support social work students. Many of our alumni were present and vowed to stay involved with the department. Four community heroes were honored for their commitment to children and families. Find out more about these extraordinary awardees in the Scholarship Gala 2007 article on page 2. If you were unable to make the Gala we are hopeful that you will be a part of next year’s event.

Throughout this issue of the TAC you will read about the exciting work of our faculty. You will hear from our alumni who are making a difference in the lives of children and families and more importantly you will be given a glimpse of the exciting journey we have embarked on as a department. Our commitment to training and educating professional social work practitioners is evident in all that we do. Our academic programs are strong. We continue to refine our curriculum to stay abreast of the different fields of practice. Finally, we are encouraged by the outcomes of our graduates who are changing and professionalizing the Metro East Region of Southern Illinois.

Our Faculty, College and University Administrators share a sense of pride in our accomplishments, in our vision and with confidence that we are developing leaders that will continue to impact the region, nation, and ultimately the world. Thank you for sharing this moment with us, and we look forward to hearing from you and highlighting all of the exciting things you are doing to change the world. If you have any questions or just want to say hello please contact us at 618-650-5758, or you can reach me at 618-650-2450, or email vbrown@siue.edu.

“The Crossroads Where Academic Excellence and Community Commitment Meet”

Scholarship Gala—2007—First Class Celebration

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW

Morris University Center Meridian Ballroom was the site for the Department of Social Work's First Annual Scholarship Gala. The event took place on the evening of March 9, 2007. Keynote speaker for the evening was former Channel 4 news anchor, Julius K. Hunter now Vice President of Community Relations for St. Louis University. Master of Ceremonies was Steve Jankowski, Director SIUE Alumni Affairs. Music was provided by the SIUE Jazz Trio.

The evening began with a social hour and visual tribute to Social Work pioneers followed by a formal sit-down dinner, the keynote address, presentation of community awards, and a silent auction. Community awards were presented to Dr. Rudy Wilson, Associate Provost for Social and Cultural Diversity, SIUE (Social Work Humanitarian Award); Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (Social Services Agency Award), accepted on behalf of DCFS by Valda L. Haywood; Bill DeWitt, III, Sr. Vice President, Business Development, St. Louis Cardinals

(Child Advocacy Award); and Honorable James M. Radcliffe, III, Associate Judge, 20th Judicial Circuit Court, St. Clair County, Illinois (Child and Family Advocacy Award), accepted on his behalf by Ted Baugh.

The First Annual Scholarship Gala was a first class celebration with approximately 125 people in attendance including alumni, friends, community partners, Social Work faculty and staff, and others from the university community. Funds from the event will go towards an Endowed scholarship fund to benefit students seeking an education in professional social work leading to a Bachelor and/or Master's Degree in Social Work.

The Scholarship Gala Committee would like to thank our generous sponsors and all in attendance for your support of this first annual event.

The Second Annual Scholarship Gala will be held on Saturday, March 01, 2008, Morris University Center, Meridian Ballroom. Mark your calendars now.

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Today's Students Tomorrow's Leaders

By Kory May, MSW — Linda S. Spriggs, MSW, LCSW — and Carla Crawford, MSW



Hello, my name is Kory May. I graduated from the SIUE MSW Program in 2001. Since that time, I have transferred from the Department of Corrections as a Correctional Counselor, to the Department of Children and Family Services as a Child

Welfare Specialist. As a Child Welfare Specialist, I was responsible for providing services to and advocating for families in need in the Southern Region of Illinois. Shortly thereafter, I was promoted to a Child Protection Specialist, and from 2002-2004, I investigated child abuse and neglect. In 2004, after being recognized for my passion, diligence, and efforts to protect children, I was promoted to an Advanced Child Protection Specialist and was designated to handle serious infractions of child abuse and neglect.

These cases include: sex abuse, head trauma, skull fractures, and death. After working two years as a Child Protection Advanced Specialist, I was promoted to the position of Child Protection Supervisor in the Madison County Granite City Field Office. Although I am excited about my career advancement through DCFS, my passion is the Difference Makers Mentorship Program. Darren Suggs, Christopher Belt, Anthony Bird, and I founded the Difference Makers in 2003. This empowerment program is designed to work with young men who have no male role models, and have been identified as being at risk due to their environment and poor choices.

(www.differencemakersnfg.org/)

My future plans are to obtain LCSW status; to inspire, teach, and educate society on a broader spectrum; and to continue serving families in need by facilitating the development of more preventative services throughout



Hello, my name is Carla Crawford, and I have always enjoyed hearing about the experiences of BSW and MSW graduates. I feel honored to be represented in this feature of The Alumni Connector. Several years after getting a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health Education in

1998, I decided to return to graduate school to pursue an MSW degree. During my studies, I developed an interest in the field of disabilities. I sought out a practicum in this field and had a wonderful experience in the Family Support Unit at the William M. BeDell Achievement and Resource Center (ARC) in Wood River. Soon after graduating, a position at ARC became available. I was happy to return to the agency that initiated my experience and interest in the field of developmental disabilities. I began working as a Service Facilitator for the Home-Based Support

Services Program, and was privileged to be promoted to Program Director of the Family Support Unit last October. The Family Support Unit includes Case Management, Case Coordination, the Home-Based Support Services Program, the Family Assistance Program and a Respite Care Program. It serves 157 individuals and/or their families in Madison County and the surrounding area. The Family Support Unit employs six full-time staff and one part-time staff member. I feel blessed to have found such a rewarding career in an environment that promotes the values and principles inherent in the field of social work. The curriculum and expertise of the professors within the Social Work Department at SIUE helped prepare me for the daily challenges that I face. They also continue to provide opportunities for networking and continuing education through their seminars and field instructor trainings. Agencies all throughout the area are able to benefit from the high quality of social work students and graduates



Hello, I am Linda S. Spriggs and I graduated in May 2001 from SIUE with an undergraduate degrees in psychology and social work. I began my career in the mental health field upon graduation. While working as a case manager and a crisis outreach worker, at Chestnut Health Systems,

I continued my studies on the graduate level. I received my Master in Social Work in August, 2002 from SIUE. At that time, I was promoted to the

position of Outpatient Mental Health Therapist at Chestnut Health Systems. Later, In February, 2006, I obtained my license in clinical social work. In August 2006, I was recruited by a friend and co-worker, Mitzi Hunter, to join her in launching a private practice known as Belleville Counseling Associates. Our office is located in Belleville, Illinois. Together as therapists, we offer a wide range of therapeutic intervention in our practice. More information is available on our website www.cahope.com. My dream has been to offer Christ centered counseling, and I now have the opportunity in

MSW Program Director: News and Notes

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



Greetings! As usual, this has been a busy semester. Here are the highlights:

Part time program: MSW students now have the option of completing the program on a part-time basis, starting in Fall 2007. This may be a better plan for students with full time jobs and/or heavy family responsibilities. Nothing about the program has changed—same application process, same curriculum, same sequencing of courses. The only thing that's changed: People can take two years to complete the program if accepted into Advanced Standing, and four years to complete the program if accepted into Regular Standing (for students without an accredited BSW degree within the last 7 years). See the SOCW website: www.siu.edu/SOCIAL/ for more information; the application deadline for new applicants is July 15, 2007.

Curriculum revision: The MSW committee is working on curriculum changes which would go into effect in Fall 2008 at the earliest. We are working on developing a curriculum which responds to the needs of students and the human services community, in the context of accreditation guidelines, University, College, and Department Mission and Goals. Quite a tall order, but we have been working diligently this year on a plan which will do all this, resulting in graduates who are excellent practitioners and who understand and can advocate for social justice. Please send along your thoughts and suggestions about what needs to be added

or deleted from our current curriculum to make it more useful and responsive to the “real world” needs of social work practice at all systems levels.

SAGE: The Department received a small grant from the College of Arts & Sciences and the Graduate School through a project called SAGE (Strategic Initiatives for Graduate Education). This grant has allowed us to develop new and improved recruitment strategies and materials. As a part of this project, we are going to survey area agency staff in regards to how we can do a better job of creating and sustaining partnerships in the community. We are also doing more outreach in the SIUE community and beyond, in terms of telling people who we are and what we do.

New faculty: As you may know, we have two new faculty members joining us in the fall. Dr. Bryan Duckham and Dr. Shonda Lawrence bring a variety of excellent skills in policy, practice, research, and theory—they also have strong practice records and we are very lucky to have them. You will hear more about these faculty members in upcoming issues.

New MSW orientation: Again this year, we will be having a full-day orientation for new MSW students. The date is Thursday, August 16. This day is always useful, especially because new students have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of current students and recent graduates—arguably, this is more important even than the faculty contribution!

Good education grown out of good partnership, and we

Partnership in Field Education

By Carol Wesley, Ph.D., Director of Practica



This spring semester, Kellene Hamilton and I shared the liaison responsibilities for our undergraduate and graduate field programs. I was able to visit a number of the agencies and field instructors who help us educate our undergraduate students. I want to emphasize how much I enjoyed my

liaison visits and how much I was impressed with the quality supervision you provide our students. This is a collaborative effort between the University and your agencies – your work is highly valued and appreciated by the entire Social Work Department Faculty. We trust that our students bring energy, skill and a desire to learn to your agencies.

In April, we welcomed twenty field supervisors to the campus for a field orientation workshop. The field orientation program is geared to educating social work practicum supervisors to the specific program and requirements for both undergraduate and graduate field work at SIUE. Field training (a CEU event), which seeks to educate practicum supervisors in field education topics such as learning styles and supervisory skills, will be offered again in the fall for new field instructors and those wanting a refresher courses in field learning. Informational flyers will be mailed in early fall.

Again, thank you for all you do. You are most appreciated!

BSW Program Update

By Shirley Rakers, MSW, Coordinator BSW Program



The BSW program continues to adapt and change as does the social work profession and society. What a great example of systems theory. As the needs of our community partners, accrediting body (CSWE), clientele, and students change, social work programs strive to meet this on-going challenge. We here at SIUE are no exception; and therefore, changes are once again in the works.

First, the Department has requested that the degree earned by our undergraduates be changed to a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. This more clearly identifies the Department as a professional program, and the graduating students as professionals. In addition, the new degree title distinguishes our graduates from persons with human service degrees or persons with non-social work degrees for our many community partners in the region

seeking to hire social workers.

Second, the Department is striving to become more visible on campus by opening up social work electives to upper-level students from other disciplines. Electives such as Chemical Dependency, Mental Health, and Domestic Violence have a broad appeal and significance to students majoring in fields other than social work. The Department is also offering upper-level students the opportunity to take our Diversity course which meets the Universities' Intergroup Relations requirement. As we become more well known on campus, the Department hopes to attract majors from all sectors of the campus to increase our own diverse identity, which more clearly relates to the populations that social workers serve.

Last, the addition of our two new faculty will also change the dynamics of the Department. The faculty and students will have the opportunity to review long held ideals, and embrace new concepts and perspectives - the ultimate

Social Work Interns Start — OTHS Clothing Closet

By Jennifer Huelsmann, MSW and Emily Kath, MSW



While most people view O'Fallon, Illinois as a middle-to-upper-class community, social workers at O'Fallon Township High School have the opportunity to provide services to students from all economic backgrounds. MSW School Social Work interns

Jennifer Huelsmann and Emily Kath recognized that some students lacked basic needs to help them survive high school. Such needs included book bags, clothing,

coats, and other outer wear. With the encouragement of our supervisors, Mike Engel, MSW and Mara Koerkenmeier, MSW, we asked for faculty and staff's help in donating new and/or gently used clothing items to offer those students in need. Fortunately, we received an overwhelming response from the very generous and caring staff members of OTHS. Thus was born the first clothing closet! As more students begin to utilize this service, we have high hopes that "our closet" will also include necessary hygiene products and school supplies.

Faculty Growth Spurt

By Judy Zimmerman, Department Secretary

Fall 2007 will see an increase in the number of Department faculty. Joining the faculty this fall will be Drs. Bryan Duckham and Shonda Lawrence.

Dr. Duckham received his PhD. in April 2007 from Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois. He currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Lawrence earned her PhD. from the University of Illinois, Chicago in August 2002. Dr. Lawrence now lives in Edwardsville.

Both Dr. Duckham and Dr. Lawrence will be featured in the Winter/Spring 2008 edition of the TAC.

Practicum Spotlight

By Kellene M. Hamilton, MSW, LCSW, DCSW



The summer 2007 TAC Practicum Spotlight shines on Dianne Parker, MSW, Public Service Administrator/Intact Family Supervisor, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, East St. Louis, field office. Ms. Parker is a graduate of Tuskegee University (BSW) in Alabama and earned a

Master's in Social Work from the University of Illinois. Prior to her employment with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Ms. Parker worked for the State of Alabama, Department of Human Resources (10 years) as a Child Welfare Supervisor. She has served children and families through the Illinois DCFS child welfare system for 23 years.

Ms. Parker has provided field supervision for numerous Social Work students completing practicum internships

with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for 13 year. When asked what she likes about having practicum students, Ms. Parker replied, "The joy of being part of the shaping of the minds of young social workers. Helping young people to realize early in their career path the reality of dealing with child welfare issues and accepting the reality of drugs, poverty, and mental illness in the lives of the families we serve. I enjoy the innocent and fresh perspective they bring to the table. This task is very time consuming, and I would not agree to be a part of it if I could not provide ample time, knowledge, and the commitment that it takes."

The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Department of Social Work faculty, staff, and students appreciate the contributions Ms. Parker makes in facilitating the professional growth and development of our students and her willingness to serve on the Department's Continuing Education (CEU) Committee.

New DCFS Assessment Tool Created by MSW Intern

By Sara Wiseman, MSW, Student



MSW student, Sara Wiseman, is completing her practicum with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Carlinville Field Office, Carlinville, Illinois. As an employee of the Department of Children and Family Services, she is very familiar with the dread a new tool created for already overburdened staff.

However, in an attempt to assist herself with addressing the challenges of a new role within the agency (adoption consultant—practicum

role), Sara developed a new assessment tool for working with prospective adoptive parents. This new assessment tool includes prompts to ensure all pertinent topic areas such as health, finances, and back up caregiver plans are covered with the adoptive family. After developing the new tool, Sara shared the assessment with other adoption consultants in her area. It was determined that the new assessment tool would be useful not only for Sara but also for other DCFS adoption consultant staff. What began as an idea to better organize her work and ensure completeness of assigned tasks has resulted in the development of an assessment tool to assist workers in the adoption unit that will be around long after Sara's

October 5, 2007 — Continuing Education Workshop

The Realities of Child Welfare (Part Two): This all day workshop will focus on mandated reporting, recent changes in the Department of Children and Family Services, programs and services offered to children and families, information on the role and responsibilities of DCFS staff when called to schools, hospitals and other community settings. 6 CEU's are available for this full day workshop. Free parking, morning continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Workshop starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Advanced registration is preferred by calling Emily Coffin at (618) 650-3207 or email: ecoffin@siue.edu

Community Partner—Illinois DCFS Southern Region

By Larry Lolley, BA, MS, MSW, DCFS Intact Family Manager



We are so much smarter as a group than we are individually. The core values related to helping others involves the responsibility of meshing our “practice” with the “science” of human behavior for the sake of human service delivery. Truthfully, no one person and/or no one agency will ever be able to keep abreast of the ever changing expectations

associated within the field of Human Services. None of us have the ability to be human service savants. All of us have the power of knowledge and the power of opinion. Through our combined application of these powers, we find the strength to apply best practice options for our client populations. So many of the human service things that we do are overlapping and interconnected, the thought that any one agency, private practitioner, or interested group could successfully address their independent interests without being in full partnership with all of the other community providers in their geographic service areas is simply faulty thinking. We need each other. Our individual client populations need for us to partner, and to maintain those partnerships for their benefit. Like the saying “it takes a village to save a child”, it takes all service providers working very closely together to save our communities.

In my role as the Intact Family Manager for DCFS, I have the responsibility of serving DCFS teams (they do the work and I serve them) throughout a large Metropolitan 7 County Area. All of those teams work extremely well within their individual communities and they strive to develop as many partnerships as possible. Those teams know and understand that they are much smarter when they team with other service providers for the sake of their own client assignments.

Of the many communities that DCFS serves, today we are highlighting the one that serves the E. St. Louis community and the one that is supervised by MSW

Dianne Parker. The associated article highlighting Dianne will serve to outline Dianne’s team efforts. But, in a very brief but concise way I want to suggest that Dianne’s team should be recognized in a very special way.

I am biased, but I consider Intact Family work to be very specialized clinical work. Intact family work involves working with abused/neglected children who continue to live with their moms/dads, who have been found guilty of a child offense. These are complicated and clinically challenging cases because of the risks involved. These Intact Family staff must rely upon a combined group/team expertise and upon their combined community partnerships to achieve success.

Historic Social Work was designed to seek the most needy of our people and help them to resolve their needs to the extent possible. While need exists everywhere, some communities have more resources than do others and the need for partnerships is lower because of the greater availability of individualized resources. Ms. Parker and her team members have chosen to work in a community to administer their social work skills wherein the challenges are great. I am so very proud of their commitment to the E. St. Louis community. The staff on Ms. Parker’s team has approximately a combined 100 years of experience, and while they have all had the opportunity to move into other communities to work, they stay in the E. St. Louis community. These DCFS intact team members are committed to helping those who live in East St. Louis. It must be emphasized that they stay because of the challenges associated with their service community, not in spite of them. I know them all, and admire them deeply. They are a special team of social workers, with an equally special supervisor. They work in a classic social work situation, with people who have the greatest need. Jane Adams would be proud of them. Still, they would/could not be successful, without the power of community partnership. It is through these combined partnerships that we achieve our greatest strength. They are simply smarter

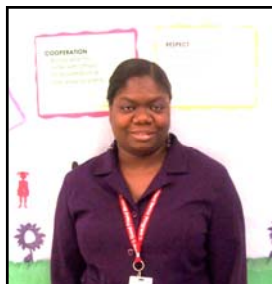


The Mission of DCFS is to: “Protect children who are reported to be abused or neglected and to increase their families’ capacity to safely care for them; provide for the well being of children in our care; provide appropriate, permanent families as quickly as possible for those children who cannot safely return home; support early intervention and child abuse prevention activities; work in partnerships with communities to fulfill this mission”. (Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, n.d,p.1)



Alumni Corner

By Angela Scott, MSW



Hello Everyone! I'm Angela Scott. I am deeply honored to be featured in the Alumni Corner. I graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. I knew at a very early age that I wanted to be a social worker. I believe that passion came to me when my family experienced

several injustices and hardships while living in one of Alton's Housing Projects. I wanted to be able to assist young people, especially young girls, who also battled low self-esteem, insecurity, and feelings of inadequacy. During my undergraduate career, I met several women who mentored me such as, Dr. Venessa Brown. Dr. Brown was very hard on me because she saw gifts and talents that I didn't see within myself. I was not focused on my academics like I should have been. In 1995, I did not pass Dr. Brown's class but I chose to retake her class again. I'm glad I did. I was more focused on my grades.

I have always been involved in community service projects and events. In 1995, I became an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority because of their active involvement in the community. My passion is clearly to work with young girls and women. In 1995, I developed Sister 2 Sister to help build support among black women involved in social organizations at SIUE. After graduation, I developed Sister 2 Sister in Joesting Housing Projects. This was a six week program highlighting topics such as self-esteem, AIDS/HIV, sisterhood, and developing a healthy body image.

I have worked in several social service agencies involving youth such as a case manager for DCFS pregnant and parenting girls, residential worker at Marygrove Treatment Center, and a case manager for Upward Bound. I am presently a school social worker for Alton High School. This is my 6th year in this position. I received my Master of Science in Social Work and Type 73 School Social Work certification in 2002. While interning for the Alton School District, I incorporated Sister 2 Sister as a social skills group.

I developed the Good Friend Mentoring Program for students who are socially isolated, disruptive, or black males searching for male role models. Katie Terwelp is also the co-facilitator. This program has been an outlet for students who needs someone to talk to them and listen to them. By the success of our mentoring program, it encouraged me to become a mentor with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program.

In 2006, I helped organize and develop Alton High's first step team. The team consists of 26 girls and 4 boys. The other sponsors are Rosa Burton and Ben Golley. This has been a rewarding but challenging year for us. We faced racism, opposition, and stereotyping by some people who did not want this step team to exist. Well, it did! We overcame all the adversity. The students increased their grades by a 75% increase and a 90% decrease in discipline problems. We won a step competition in December 2006. We were also featured on Channel 2 morning news. We have also performed at community events, basketball games, and step exhibitions. I am very proud to be a founder of this wonderful program. This program has helped to close the achievement gap between academics and student involvement.

I give my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ all the glory for everything good or challenging that has occurred in my life. He has kept me humble and sane. I realize that without Jesus in my life, I am nothing. My mother, Ida Scott, is my best friend. She has taught me to never give up when things get tough. My sister, Lisa, encourages me to laugh at myself. I like to bargain shop and decorate my home during my "spare" time. I also take time out to relax and socialize with friends. In addition, I have begun to exercise more and make healthier eating choices.

I plan to pursue a Master degree in Public Administration this summer. I would like to develop Sister-2-Sister in area schools. I would also like to become a motivational speaker for young girls who have come from similar backgrounds such as mine. One day, I plan to write a book about how to overcome low self-esteem and negative body images.

December 7, 2007 — Continuing Education Workshop

Managing Passive-Aggressive Behavior/a practical guide to Nicholas Long's "The Angry Smile", presented by, Gigi Dowling-Urban, Principal, Pathways, Belleville, Illinois: This half-day (morning) workshop will focus on defining passive-aggressive behavior, etiology of the behavior, and practical interventions and solutions to working with children and students exhibiting these behavioral characteristics. 3 CEU's are available, free parking with continental breakfast provided. Workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 12:00 noon. Advanced registration is preferred by calling Emily Coffin at (618) 650-3207 or email: ecoffin@siue.edu.

Practicum Student Conducts Diversity Training

By Carla Crawford, MSW

No matter what the setting, practicum students have a wonderful opportunity to enhance programs and the lives of those served by the agency. Recently, Daad Hariri, a BSW practicum student, conducted a diversity training at her practicum site. She has spent the past two semesters with the William M. BeDell Achievement and Resource Center. Four times per year the community-based clients with developmental disabilities are invited to a Consumer Advisory Meeting where the staff and guest speakers present information on topics relevant to the lives of the clients. The meetings are a useful way to meet the clients' needs, while providing an opportunity for socializing with their peers. After a short introduction by the agency's clinical psychologist,



Daad Hariri

Daad presented information on ethnic and cultural diversity. She was able to draw from her personal experience as an emigrant from her native country of Lebanon. Although Daad is a United States citizen and has been for numerous years, her experiences and those of others within her culture in the U.S. provided an enlightening and humorous presentation for the 21 attendees. They enjoyed her anecdotes about the differences between American and Lebanese culture. They were also enthusiastic about her demonstrations with items she brought for display. The program participants and agency staff took great pleasure in an authentic Lebanese meal that Daad graciously prepared. Her contributions made the Consumer Advisory Meeting a huge success!

Mandatory Ethics Training for LSWs and LCSWs

By Deborah F. Vogel, MSW, LCSW, CEU Committee Member

"Social work is a value-based profession, and professional ethics provide its underpinnings. The NASW Code of Ethics articulates the values, principles, and standards that guide decision-making and conduct for social work practitioners, regardless of their professional functions. Clearly, social work practice varies widely, as do the populations served, only reinforcing the mandate that social workers be cognizant of the times when straightforward answers are not available. All social workers encounter instances where professional judgment is required to resolve complex ethical issues, and although the Code is helpful, developing a systematic way to consider those questions is an essential part of our practice equipment." (Holzman, 2007)

We were honored to have Natalie Holzman, MSW, LCSW, Chair of the Ethics Committee of the Illinois NASW Chapter share her practice wisdom and experience with us during this workshop. This workshop fulfilled for many the requirement that all social workers must now complete 3 CEU's of Ethics Training every two years to meet requirements for continued licensure.



Natalie Holzman, MSW, LCSW

Many of us were surprised to learn that the Illinois State Legislature passed a rule that licenses are required to practice in most settings and are necessary to those who use the title **social worker** in this State. What this means is that all degreed BSW and MSW professionals must become licensed with an LSW or LCSW if they desire to identify themselves as a **social worker** in the State of Illinois. While this may seem stringent to many, it is a continued attempt by our professional standards to raise the level of competency and respect for the profession of social work. We encourage all degreed social workers to get licensed as soon as possible as this type of ruling is going to be applied more diligently in the future as managed healthcare looks to professional licensure for authorization of payment, skills and competency. Additionally, the fine for using

the title **social worker** without being licensed as an LSW or LCSW can be as high as \$5,000 per incident. For further information refer to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations (www.idfpr.com) or Illinois Chapter of NASW (www.naswil.org).

December 2006 Graduates and May 2007 Graduates Congratulations from Faculty and Staff!

December 2006 Graduates

Master in Social Work

Ylana Coleman, Andrea Rule and Amy Williamson

Bachelor of Arts

Jayne Reed and Tiffany Rigoni

Bachelor of Science

Nancy Cox, Beth Oaks and Marshall Ukena

May 2007 Graduates

Master in Social Work

Melissa Biggs, Jennifer Huelsmann, and Emily Kath

May 2007 Graduates

Bachelor of Arts

Andrea Bagaglio, Rachael Dompke, Suzanne Schrage, and Linda Whiteside

Bachelor of Science

Hilary Arnzen, Kimberly Blagoue, Michelle Cates, Ashly Colley, Jessica Collier, Cindy Collins, Stephanie Garner, La Shunda Gibson, Emily Gilbreth, Daad Hariri, Holly Hayes, Ashley Henke, Rachelle Jones, Bonnie Landwehr, Amy Norris, Julie Radloff, Nicole Scott, Megan Skrabacz, Christie Tieman, Kendra Wall, Abigail Wand, Rebecca Warren, Kimberly Williams, Danika Wilson, and Beverly Woody.



Where Have All The Alumni Gone?

Jennifer Evola, BSW, 1996, Supervisor, System of Care Kids Hope United, Collinsville, IL

Landen Harden, BSW, 2005, Mental Health Practitioner, Kids Hope United, Collinsville, IL

Kim Hoeflein, BSW, 2006, Case Manager, Catholic Social Services, Belleville, IL

Marcie Moehn, BA, 2006, Case Manager, Family Support Unit, William BeDell ARC, Wood River, IL

David Moore, BSW, 1987, Family Support Service Supervisor, Kids Hope United, Collinsville, IL

Susan Rehrig, BSW, 2002, Ryan White Case Manager

and Case Manager for Department of Rehabilitative Services at MADCAP, Granite City, IL

Sheila Rice, BSW, 2004, Mental Health Practitioner, Kids Hope United, Collinsville, IL

Lea Ann Varble, MSW, 2004, Rehabilitation Counselor II, Community Counseling Center, Alton, IL

Tyler Zipfel, BSW, 2004, Mental Health Professional, SASS Program, Kids Hope United, Collinsville, IL

← To appear in *Where Have all the Alumni Gone?* email information to kehamil@siue.edu or send to SIUE Social Work Department, Campus Box 1450, Edwardsville, IL 62026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8/04: Commencement Ceremonies
8/16: MSW Orientation
8/17: CEU Committee meeting
TBA: Faculty Retreat
8/20: Fall Classes Begin
9/07: BSW Orientation
9/14: Field Instructor Training
9/28: Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care Annual Conference, MUC (co-sponsored by the Department of Social Work)

10/05: CEU Workshop *Realities of the Child Welfare System (Part Two)*—(6 CEU's available)—
11/02: CEU Workshop—TBA
12/07: CEU Workshop *The Angry Smile*, presented by, Gigi Dowling-Urban—(3 CEU's available)—
12/06: 2nd Annual Holiday Gathering
12/15: Commencement Ceremonies
2008
1/14: Spring Classes Begin

3/01: 2nd Annual Scholarship Gala, Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center
3/07: Day 1—(NAMI) 5th Annual Piecing It Altogether Conference (co-sponsored by the Department of Social Work)
3/08: Day 2—(NAMI) 5th Annual Piecing It Altogether Conference (co-sponsored by the Department of Social Work)
3/10-3/16: Spring Break
5/10: Commencement Ceremonies

Alumni Survey Report—Outcome Assessment

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

Background: The Alumni Survey was mailed to persons who graduated from the MSW program between 1998 and 2006. A total of 175 surveys were mailed. Thirty-one surveys (18%) were returned.

Profile of respondents: Nearly half (48%) of respondents were student in the Advance Standing program option. Prior to beginning course work as an MSW student, 79% had worked for a public or private non-profit agency. The average number of years of human service employment prior to beginning MSW studies was 3.37 years, with a range of zero years to 24 years. Over 90% of respondents are employed either full or part-time in human services, with nearly 84% employed full time. Close to 68% list their major function in their primary job as “direct services to individuals and families” another 16% list their primary function as supervision, management, or administration. Over 80% are working in public or private non-profit organizations.

In terms of agency types, approximately 26% work for social service agencies, 13% for hospitals, 16% for outpatient health/mental health agencies, 3% in hospice, and 29% in elementary or secondary schools. The rest are in a variety of other settings. In terms of practice areas, the top three areas are as follows: 32% of our graduates work with children and youth/family services; 16% work with mental health issues; 19% are in schools.

Graduates are working in the region; approximately 74% are in the Metro East Illinois-St. Louis area. Of those respondents to this item, 29% characterize their primary work location as rural, with 42% noting they work in suburban communities, and 26% say they work in urban areas.

In terms of diversity of client

populations, 29% of respondents say that over half of their clientele are African American; on another item, 45% of respondents say that over half of their clientele are White. In terms of other ethnic groups (Asian; American Indian; Latino/a), respondents notes that these groups comprise less than 25% of their clients.

In terms of sexual orientation and gender, 52% of respondents say that less than 25% of their caseloads are comprised of gays or lesbians. However, 55% of respondents note that over half of their caseload is female.

In terms of client types and problem areas, **Table 8.7** (page 12) reflects what our graduates are doing.

Opinions about specific courses; suggestions for curriculum revision: Respondents did not provide a great deal of information here. Only three students endorsed “psychopathology” as the most valuable course, with other courses garnering only one vote each, while most respondents checked “not applicable” for this question. Responses tended to be similar for the least valuable courses—in other words, most said “not applicable”.

When asked to comment on the usefulness of courses to their learning, and to suggest ways in which the program could improve its curriculum, narrative comments suggest strongly that graduates recommend more clinical classes. Comments included the following: “...a higher emphasis should be placed on clinical courses in the curriculum regardless of the area of concentration to help in preparing for the licensure test.” Other graduates are calling for “more practice-based classes...more emphasis on short term counseling...death and dying...substance abuse...more direct counseling techniques...more

practical skill-building...” In terms of graduates’ ongoing contribution to our education program, 70% report that they have never been a field instructor for our BSW or MSW programs.

Opinions on education received at SIUE: Quality of content of courses and instruction: 90% of respondents rate the quality of required courses are good to excellent, while 87% of respondents rate the quality of elective courses as good to excellent. 90% of graduates responding to the survey rate the quality of faculty as good to excellent, while 80% say the quality of instruction was good to excellent. In terms of quality of standards for academic work, 90% say these standards were good to excellent.

Usefulness of required courses: Close to 87% of our alumni say that the usefulness of these courses was good to excellent, while 90% say the same about the elective courses. Close to 87% feel that the capstone project was useful.

Recommending the program to other prospective students: When asked “would you recommend this program to others?” 67.7% said they would recommend without reservation. Narrative comments on this question suggest that student valued the faculty dedication, knowledge, and individualized attention which was possible with smaller class sizes. 33% said they would recommend with reservation. Narrative comments reflect alumni reservations about the demands of graduate study in a full-time program; also some students commented on the quality of instruction from some faculty as being less than they had expected for graduate school.

Final Alumni thoughts: The last question was a narrative question, asking graduates to comment on any

Alumni Survey Report (Continued)

(Cont. from page 11) that the curriculum should include regular updates on changes in law and policy in both concentrations.

Discussion: The typical respondent in this survey could be described as follows: Female, in her mid 30's; working in the Metro East/St. Louis region for a public or private non-profit agency. She earns under \$40,000 per year, and is working with low-income children and families with multiple problems, including mental health, substance abuse, violence, and disabling conditions. She is active in volunteer work and client advocacy, but not so much in policy or political advocacy; she is not likely to be a member of NASW. She takes her professional development seriously and participates in training opportunities at work and beyond.

This typical alumni survey

respondent is generally pleased with the education received in the MSW program at SIUE, especially in terms of education on values, ethics, diversity, and communication skills. She would like to see more emphasis in the program on practice skills, and the linkages between practice, policy, and research. She wants more flexible scheduling options, including a part-time program.

These results are consistent with other measures, in terms of the call for greater emphasis on practice (clinical) skills training along with more emphasis on policy advocacy skills. Results on this survey are also consistent with other measures, in terms of students, graduates, field instructors and employers recognizing the strength of our program in training communication skills.

Program Responses: We are working on being more concrete in our

delivery of counseling modalities, and the linkages between these modalities and the theories that underlie them. The advanced HBSE class addresses the relationship between theory and practice in a more explicit fashion. We are working on involving graduate students more directly in policy advocacy and NASW "Lobby Day" activities—an opportunity which is often difficult for our students because they often hold full-time jobs.

With the advent of "The Alumni Connector" (TAC) newsletter, we are working harder to involve the alumni in the day-to-day life of the program, and in sharing the news about CEU events sponsored by SIUE and the Department of Social Work. This newsletter also features alumni accomplishments in the region, as that information becomes

Alumni Survey Results

Table 8.7 Client Types

Client Type	% of Case Load
Homeless	61%
Violent Adults/Adolescents	61%
Developmentally disabled	61%
Physically disabled	61%
Victims of violence	55%
Low Income female-headed families	52%
Criminals	49%
Chronically mentally ill adults	48%
Mentally ill children	42%
Refugees or immigrants	29%
Frail elderly	26%
Terminally ill	23%
Incarcerated persons	22%
Hospice clients	16%

Table 8.8.A: Professional Development

Item	Percent Yes
Volunteered in a community effort	64.5
Worked for a political cause	19.4
Taught a college course	3.2
Presented a paper at a conference	12.9
Published an article or report	0
Participated in a research project	16.1
Took a social work continuing ed class	58.1
Participated in formal training at your work	93.5
Participated in cross cultural/diversity training	74.2
Actively participated in NASW	6.5
Member of NASW	29
Actively participated in other SWK organization	29

Table 8.8.B: Professional Development

Item	Percent Yes
Member of other SWK Org	25.8
Held leadership position in professional org.	12.9
Member of a community agency Board	9.7
Provided consultation to community group	32.3
Involved in community needs assessment	19.4
Advocated for client/community issues & rights	58.1
Attended Lobby Day or similar event	12.9
Wrote a "letter to the editor" or legislator	9.7
Member ACSW	0
Licensed as a social worker	38.7
Currently enrolled in degree program	3.2

Advisory Board Highlights

By Judy Zimmerman, Department Secretary

The Department of Social Work Advisory Board held its first meeting on June 28th with a luncheon to greet and introduce the new board members. Dr. Venessa Brown, Chair of the Department, introduced Stephen Hansen, Associate Provost for Research and Graduate School Dean who thanked the group for serving on the Advisory Board. Dr. Kent Neely, College of Arts and Sciences Dean also thanked the group for their time and service to the Social Work Department and the University. Carl Springer, CAS Associate Dean encouraged all to continue to work together for a better Social Work environment.

Faculty members Kellene M. Hamilton and Carol A. Wesley explained their position as Field Liaisons and how they work with the students and community agencies to help improve students' experiences in the field. Kellene also talked about the Department Newsletter - TAC – The Alumni Connector which is published each semester with the current issue being printed in color for the first time. The CEU committee has several workshops scheduled for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 and is working on the summer schedule for

2008.

Advisory Board members serving this year are Cindy Lolley, Valda Haywood — Child Welfare; Orville Mercer, Jane Vest and Deborah Humphrey — Health and Mental Health; Dr. Cullen Cullen and Dr. Shonta Smith — schools; Camille McCaskill — East St. Louis Center; Enrique Howell, — Latino Consultant; Kory May — Alumni; Sandra Becker Warden — Private Practice; Joseph Harper — NASW District Chair Metro East Chapter-II; John Ross, US Probation, Honorable Milton Wharton and Honorable James Radcliffe — Courts and Criminal Justice; and Richard Bush —SIUE Associate Professor.

Much of the discussion focused on partnering in the community and promoting services for the area. A priority for the Board will be creating a resource manual of service providers to share with others in the community.

The Department of Social Work is grateful for the dedication of the members of this Advisory Board and



Advisory Board (L-R) R. Bush, V. Haywood, J. Harper, D. Humphrey, J. Ross, J. Vest, E. Howell, C. Lolley



Dr. Carl Springer, Associate Dean, CAS, addresses the Board and Faculty



Dr. Kent Neely, CAS Dean, addresses the Board and Faculty



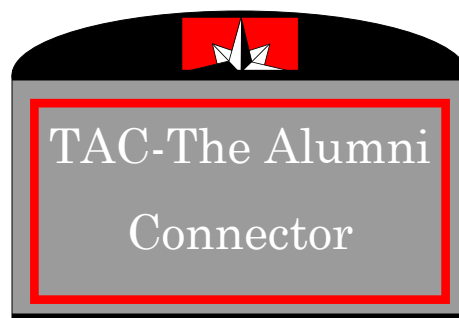
Advisory Board with Social Work Dept. Faculty

Respectfully, *Dr. Venessa A. Brown*
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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