Happy February!

Welcome to the beginning of a new semester! If you win an award, start a study, want to promote a community event for social workers or other individuals, or anything else you feel is relevant, please send the information to Dr. Susan Elswick at selswick@memphis.edu. Thank you!

Catherine Clubb-Brown,
Newsletter Manager
Information for students

**Field Instructor of the Year Award**

Nominate your field instructor for the Field Instructor of the Year Award. This is a prestigious honor for field instructors and a great way for students to thank their field instructors for all of their guidance and supervision. The Field Instructor of the Year will be announced at the Field Instructor Luncheon. Please take the time to nominate your field instructor by completing a brief evaluation by March 31, 2015:

[https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_blloC270h4fboPj](https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_blloC270h4fboPj)

**Social Work Field Agency Fair**

The University of Memphis’ Department of Social Work will host its Annual Field Agency Fair on Friday, March 27, 2015 from 9am – 12pm in the Rose Theater on the University of Memphis campus. This is a wonderful opportunity for BA and MSW students to meet clinicians from the community, discuss agency programming, identify potential field placements and job opportunities, distribute resumes, and network with other local clinicians and agencies.

**Second Year Field Internships**

It’s that time of year again – Field Internship preparation! Complete the following form by noting your top three preferences for field placement next year. Completing this form does not mean that you are guaranteed your preferred agency, but all requests will be reviewed and your placement will be based on the MSW Field Directors decision, the agency’s interview findings, and the agency’s capacity to accept the student. Reference the online directory (found on our website under field placement, click on directory) to identify agencies you are interested in. Online form:

[https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_b8lWG1HQtBDqW8d](https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_b8lWG1HQtBDqW8d)

Information for field instructors

**Student of the Year Nominations**

Nominate your social work student intern for the Student of the Year Award. This is a prestigious honor for students and a great way for Field Instructors and agencies to thank their interns for all of their hard work and dedication. The Social Work Student of the Year will be announced at the Student Graduation Ceremony and dinner party. Please take the time to nominate your field instructor by completing a brief evaluation by March 31, 2015:

[https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1BQiEpyYoAxhHuJ](https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1BQiEpyYoAxhHuJ)

**Field Agency Fair Registration**

The University of Memphis’ Department of Social Work will host its annual Field Agency Fair on Friday, March 27, 2015 from 9am – 12pm in the Rose Theater on the University of Memphis campus. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet our MSW and BA students, pre-interview them, gather resume’s, and network with other local clinicians and agencies. The fair this year will focus on providing internships for students (both BA and MSW) for the 2015-2016 academic year, and if your agency is hiring new graduates this will also be an opportunity to recruit new employees. We will provide up to two parking passes per agency (carpooling is suggested and recommended). Instructions on how to access the University Parking Garage and Rose Theater will be emailed to you at a later date. Register here:

[https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6YfU1ak7NR2Weix](https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6YfU1ak7NR2Weix)
Faculty and Student Spotlights

**Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing**

More than thirty women living with HIV in the Memphis area were joined by fifteen community agencies and 25 social work student volunteers for the Second Annual Women’s Empowerment Forum held on December 4, 2014 at the Urban Child Institute.

The women participated in a full-day educational and healing-oriented event where they received information and encouragement to be proactive in their self-care. This event was planned and implemented by a committee of volunteers, chaired by Dr. Lennon-Dearing, and supported through donations from community organizations and agencies.

Special appreciation goes to Frannie Harper, MSW ’15, for her creativity and community connections that made this event a success. And thanks to the student volunteers from Dr. Lennon-Dearing’s SWRK 3904 Practice II class for their willingness to volunteer their time and enthusiasm.

**Bria Gibson**

Bria Gibson, a senior in the BASW Program, is completing a semester-long internship in Nashville, TN with the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program.

In the spring semester of each year, promising seniors or graduate students enrolled in degree programs in social work, political science, laws, history, administration, economics, sociology, journalism, or related fields are placed with Tennessee General Assembly legislators to gain hands-on experience in government. Bria’s duties include bill and policy analysis, constituent work, and computer and library research.

Bria has been assigned to the following senators: Representative Steve McManus (Republican – Cordova/District 96) and Representative Antonio Parkinson (Democrat – Memphis/District 98). While completing her field practicum in Nashville, Bria plans to learn about developing and reforming federal policies, and advocating for oppressed groups.
Upcoming event

2015 Special Education Symposium
February 27, 2015
1:00 pm—4:30 pm

Location: Room 150 A, 711 Jefferson Ave, Memphis, TN

Welcome
Dr. Susan Neely-Barnes, PhD, MSW
Associate Professor, MSW Program Coordinator
University of Memphis Department of Social Work

First Session: Response to Intervention and Children with Disabilities
Dr. Laura Casey, PhD, BCBA-D
Assistant Professor, Instruction and Curriculum Leadership/Special Education (ABA),
University of Memphis College of Education, Health & Human Sciences
Dr. Susan Elswick, EdD, LCSW, LSSW
Assistant Professor,
University of Memphis Department of Social Work

Second Session: Instructionally Appropriate IEPs and the Common Core
Jenness Roth, M.Ed
Family Faculty Coordinator
University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities
Gina Brady
Advocate
Disability Rights of Tennessee

Third Session: Advanced Advocacy
Craig Barnes
Staff Attorney
Memphis Area Legal Services
Derek Flake
Regional Coordinator, West TN
Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP)

Come learn from experts in this event provides 3 credit hours towards Continuing Education (CE) or Continuing Legal Education (CLE).

The University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities (BCDD) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The BCDD is offering these activities for as many as 3.0 CE continuing education credits. The University of Tennessee adheres to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists.

If you have any questions feel free to email PEAP@malsi.org or call (901) 523-8822 ext. 101.

Please RSVP by Feb. 20th via PEAP@malsi.org or Eventbrite.

Parking is available on the streets around the Boling Center. As the university has resumed classes, allow time to find parking.
Free February Webinars

**Novel Findings in Brain DNA for Psychiatric Disorders**
Brain & Behavior Research Foundation
**Feb 10 at 1PM CST:** "Wade H. Berrettini, M.D., Ph.D… studying genetic and biologic influences on brain disorders and behavior…"

**Models of Trauma-Informed Integrated Care Part II: Identifying and Responding to Early Childhood Trauma in the Pediatric Setting**
NCTSN
**Feb 11 at 11-12:30PM CST:** "issues pertaining to the identification, management and treatment of traumatic stress in young children exposed to trauma… example will be discussed from the perspectives of both a pediatrician and mental health clinician"

**Stress and Anxiety Following Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**
DCoE
**Feb 12 at 12-1:30PM CST:** "complex interaction between the effects of stress and anxiety during the recovery course of TBI… strategies for treating co-morbid symptoms with the core symptoms of TBI… evidence-based practices…"

**Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence**
Children’s Safety Network & Suicide Prevention Resource Center
**Feb 12 at 2-3:30PM CST:** "overview of the research linking multiple forms of violence (including shared root causes) and examples from those in the field who are already working to prevent multiple forms of violence at the same time…"

**How Struggling Readers Might Qualify for Free Digital Books**
Understood.org
**Feb 13 at 12PM CST:** "What makes a book “accessible”? And how might kids with reading issues like dyslexia be eligible for free digital books?…"

**Practical Tips in Treating Eating Disorders**
CSAB
**Feb 13 at 12PM CST:** [CSAB usually charges $25 per webinar but is providing them for free during the month of February]

**Moving Beyond the Wheel: Understanding Domestic Violence in LGBTQ Communities**
BWJP
**Feb 17 at 2-3:30PM CST:** "understanding of the strengths, vulnerabilities and barriers LGBTQ survivors face in navigating systems and communities, as well as addressing the unique considerations for safety planning and advocacy rooted in the lived experiences of LGBTQ survivors…"

**Eating Disorders in Neurobiology**
CSAB
**Feb 20 at 12PM CST:** [CSAB usually charges $25 per webinar but is providing them for free during the month of February]

**Dealing With Trauma & Phobias Using NLP**
onlineevents.co
**Feb 25 at 1PM CST:** "What is NLP in terms of therapy? Which techniques will work? Which will not work? Can I use NLP alongside my existing therapeutic techniques and skills? How to use NLP to assist people in overcoming trauma and phobias?…"

**Understanding Clients who Engage in Self-Injurious Behaviors**
NAADAC
**Feb 25 at 2-3:30PM CST:** "various reasons clients self-harm as a coping mechanism, how this behavior can become addictive, and treatment options…”

**Family Violence Prevention – Building Trauma Informed Communities**
CHNET-Works
**Feb 26 at 12PM CST:** "how a culturally-competent, trauma-informed practice can easily be integrated across a continuum of supports and services together with diverse children, youth, adults, families and communities…”
Upcoming events

**Students Helping Students**

Drs. Barnes, Elswick, Lennon-Dearing, and Washington have received a TBR grant to fund Students Helping Students. Students Helping Students pairs undergraduate social work students with graduate social work students.

If you are interested in improving your academic skills, we invite you to be screened for this new program. The initial assessment takes approximately one hour. You will be assessed on your study skills, writing skills, reading fluency, stress level, and coping skills.

For a screening appointment call (901) 678-1748 or email studentshelpingstudents@memphis.edu.

**Social Work Day on the Hill**

This year the Social Work Department at the University of Memphis will participate in Social Work Day on the Hill on March 25, 2015 in Nashville, TN.


The Graduate Organization of Social Work is holding an interest meeting on February 12, 2015 at 4:30 in McCord 207/209.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Delavega or Roslyn Brewer, GO!SW president.

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**Save the Date**

for the Department of Social Work’s 3rd Symposium

150 Years after Appomattox:
Social Work & the Reconstruction of Human Dignity

Friday, April 24, 2015 • 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Featuring

**Beverly Robertson**

Celebrated Former Director of the National Civil Rights Museum

Social Work CEU’s will be offered, and ethics hours will also be available.
Don’t be a stranger!

Please send submissions to the Newsletter Coordinator/Editor:

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