



## **The National Rural Social Work Caucus – Organization by Rumor**

The Rural Social Work Caucus is an informal organization; members often say it is an organization that operates by rumor as opposed to structure, established as a “loose” membership body at the First National Institute on Social Work in Rural Areas hosted by the University of Tennessee in 1976. The caucus has operated since that time basically as a “commons” with a set of voluntary leaders that work to keep a voice for social work practice with rural places active within the social work profession.

Over the past 30 plus years the caucus has partnered with universities and colleges across the United States to host an annual National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas. Additionally, the caucus has worked to add to the knowledge base for social work practice within rural contexts by encouraging those with interests in rural places to publish and share their research and expertise. The annual institute was designed to move around the country to showcase the diversity of rural America and to provide social workers in rural areas with access to a substantial professional development activity that might not otherwise be available to them. This was one of the reasons the caucus originally worked with colleges and universities with active missions to serve rural areas as the location for the institute.

## **The Department of Social Work at the University of Memphis**

Housed in the School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy within the College of Arts & Sciences, the Department of Social Work offers two degree programs in two campuses. The Bachelors of Arts in Social Work program and the Master of Social Work program are both fully accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE).

Since 1978, the Department has had a tradition of excellence in undergraduate education, and in 2011, we launched our Master of Social Work program, which has been fully accredited since 2014. We are proud of the past and energized about the future. Our accomplishments include: Over 9 million in grants over the last 10 years; over 300 social work undergraduate majors & pre-majors; over 130 Master of Social Work students; over 120 MSW Graduates. All of our tenure & tenure track faculty are research active and deeply involved with the Memphis community and leaders in professional organizations such as NASW, CSWE, BPD, SSWR, and others. The 2016 U.S. News rankings placed the MSW program at #123, or in the top half of all social work graduate schools in the country. We are second in the State of Tennessee. Our work with at-risk populations is making a significant impact on the Memphis and greater Midsouth community.

## **The Lambuth Campus**

The Lambuth Campus of the University of Memphis located in historical Jackson, TN, is home to over 20 undergraduate majors and minors, as well as a number of master’s degrees, including the MSW, and doctorate degrees. This beautiful 57-acre residential campus offers students the excellence and world-class education of a large regional university with the advantages of a small, rural campus, the best of both worlds! The setting is absolutely pristine, but the city of Memphis is merely an hour away. The plant biodiversity of this beautiful campus is so special that it has been classified as an arboretum. The Lambuth Campus became part of the University of Memphis system in 2011, and it only keeps getting better and better since then.

## Welcome

### **Susan Neely-Barnes, Department of Social Work Chair & Professor, University of Memphis**

Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 am – 1:30 pm

### **Niles Reddick, Vice Provost, University of Memphis**

Dinner Reception, Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

## Keynote Speaker Information

### **Opening Keynote: Susan Elswick, BA Program Coordinator & Assistant Professor**

*Informatics in Social Work: Technology and Ethical Practices within the Field*

Opening Luncheon, Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 am – 1:30 pm

Susan Elswick received her masters in social work from the University of Tennessee, and her doctorate in Special Education with a specialty in Applied Behavior Analysis from the University of Memphis. She is a Licensed School Social Worker, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and she runs a small private practice and consulting firm that provides site-based behavioral and mental health services to the Mid-South area. She has over 15 years of clinical mental health experience that includes community mental health, case management, residential programming, ABA-based programming, school-based programming, parent coaching, and home-based services.

Prior to joining the University of Memphis Department of Social Work she was a site-based school social worker for 10 years. She has provided site-based social work services in the both rural and urban school settings. She has recently been published in educational, behavior, and social work journals (Children and Schools, The Clearing House, and Beyond Behavior).

Her research interests include assessment and intervention for children with both academic and behavioral difficulties, the use of Response to Intervention in multiple settings, improving outcomes for students through effective teacher training and supports, and the use of informatics and technology in the field of social work. During her time as a Field Director for the University Of Memphis Department Of Social Work, she also conducted research on the use of non-traditional field placements as a way to enhance student critical thinking and improve engaged scholarship with community partnerships.

### **Keynote: Jimmy Eldridge, Tennessee State Representative**

*Rural Leadership and Community Engagement*

Dinner Reception, Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Jimmy Eldridge, a resident of Jackson, Tennessee, currently serves as the representative for District 73 in the Tennessee State Legislature. Representative Eldridge is the chair of the House Consumer and Human Resources Committee, and a member of the House Calendar and Rules and House Local Government Committees, as well as the House Consumer and Human Resources Subcommittee.

Representative Eldridge obtained his B.S. in Chemistry and Biology from Lambuth University and completed his graduate studies at the University of Memphis. He is a businessman and former owner of

Allison-Eldridge Insurance Group, Inc. and has served the local community in many roles: member of the Jackson Rotary Club, since 1977, member of the Jackson-Madison County Chamber of Commerce – member of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Advisory Board Member of Bancorp South, ex officio member of the Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation, Board of Directors for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and lifetime member of the NRA, among many others.

His contributions have been recognized by organizations locally and across the state, including 2005 Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Development District Association, 2009 United Way Legislator of the Year, 2012 NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award, and 2014 Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award by the Tennessee Men's Health Network.

## **Keynote: Frank McMeen, President, West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation**

### ***Fostering Access to Care***

#### **Dinner Reception, Thursday, July 20th, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Frank McMeen, a native of Columbia, Tennessee, is the President of the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation. He received his B.S. from Freed-Hardeman University in 1979 and his Master's Degree in 2008 from the University of Memphis.

Frank works with many charitable causes in the Jackson area, including service on the board of directors of Aspell Recovery Center, an alcohol and drug recovery center in Midtown Jackson, and as past president of the Health & Healing Clinic, a charitable healthcare clinic for the working poor of Madison County, and the board of directors for the Jackson Rotary Club.

He is a past president of the Lambuth Area Neighborhood Association (L.A.N.A.), the city's largest historic neighborhood and the state's third largest neighborhood. He has further contributed to local development through service on the Jackson Downtown Development Corporation board of directors and the Advisory Board and the National Alumni Board of Freed-Hardeman, and as past chairman of the Historical Zoning Commission.

In addition to his work at the WTH Foundation, Mr. McMeen is an adjunct professor for the University of Memphis, where he teaches on the graduate and undergraduate levels.

## July 18, 2017

**2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Advisory Board Meeting

Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal

TBA

(By Invitation)

## July 19, 2017

**8:00 am – 8:30 am**

Registration and Networking

Hamilton Room

**8:30 am – 10:00 am**

Concurrent Session 1

WSU Classrooms

**10:15 am – 11:45 am**

Concurrent Session 2

WSU Classrooms

**11:45 am – 1:30 pm**

Opening Luncheon

Hamilton Room

**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

Concurrent Session 3

WSU Classrooms

**3:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

Afternoon Break

Coffee & Cookies

Hamilton Room

Planetarium Shows:

**3:15-3:45 pm – The Hubble Space Telescope**

**3:55-4:20 pm – Black Holes**

**4:30 pm – 5:30 pm**

ACOSA Meet and Greet

Hamilton Room

**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Reception for Reviewers and Board Members

Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal

TBA

(By Invitation)

## July 20, 2017

**8:00 am – 8:30 am**

Registration and Networking

Hamilton Room

**8:30 am – 10:00 am**

Concurrent Session 4

WSU Classrooms

**10:15 am – 11:45 am**

Concurrent Session 5

WSU Classrooms

**11:45 am – 2:15 pm**

Networking Luncheon

Student Poster Session

Hamilton Room

**2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

Concurrent Session 6

WSU Classrooms

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Networking Coffee Break

Hamilton Room

**5:15 pm – 6:00 pm**

Rural Caucus Business Meeting

WSU Classroom 218

**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Dinner Reception

Hamilton Room

## July 21, 2017

**8:00 am – 8:30 am**

Registration and Networking

Hamilton Room

**8:30 am – 10:00 am**

Concurrent Session 7

WSU Classrooms

**10:15 am – 11:45 am**

Concurrent Session 8

WSU Classrooms

**11:45 – 12:00 pm**

Closing Remarks

Hamilton Room

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

### July 21, 2017

**12:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

Lunch & Museum Tour

Casey Jones Restaurant & Museum

Cost Not Included in Registration

### July 22, 2017

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm – No Cost**

Group Visit

Arboretum

No Cost to Participants – Sign-up Required

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**We would like to thank Dr. Niles Reddick, Vice Provost, for his support and trust.**

**We would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Jackson, TN, for their financial and logistic support.**

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I want to offer a heartfelt thanks to our presenters, our supporters, and our volunteers, without whom this event would not have been possible.

I would also like to recognize the work of Ms. Fawn Pettet and Ms. Cherry Malone, who are my right and left hands (I am not saying which is which, but I need them both).

Elena Delavega  
42<sup>nd</sup> Institute Chair  
July 19, 2017

## Theme Song of the National Rural Social Work Caucus

Words: Jim Winship, Tune: Similar to Kate Wolf's 'Give Yourself to Love'

It's sort of like a rumor carried on the breeze,  
Words like *change*, *community* are drifting through the trees  
The Caucus don't have much structure, but it doesn't fade away,  
Blooms like some perennial on those hot and humid days.

A place of learning,  
A place of solace,  
Where folks don't put on airs  
Easy to talk about what needs to be done  
In the midst of those who care

As long as times, they (get) (stay) hard, then our work is never done  
And as long as people feel at home when to these Institutes they come  
As long as we can laugh and sing, and let down our thinning hair  
Then this traveling rural road show will pop up again somewhere

A place of learning,  
A place of solace,  
Where folks don't put on airs  
Easy to talk about what needs to be done  
In the midst of those who care

And it's sort of like a rumor  
Carried on the breeze