

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Special Announcement!



The University of Memphis Department of Social Work is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)!

Hello, readers! Did you hear our very important announcement earlier this month? The University of Memphis Department of Social Work proudly announced that the Master of Social Work (MSW) program is now fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Please join us in celebrating this great accomplishment! More information on page 2.

In addition to bringing you this new and exciting program development, we would like to remind you about some action

items from our January 2014 issue. The Department of Social Work is currently accepting nominations for both Student of the Year and Field Instructor of the Year. We are also making preparations for this year's Field Agency Fair, and we want to see your organization there! For more information about dates and deadlines for these items, see page 3. Send us your nominations and reservations before it's too late!

Deanna Nick
Newsletter Manager

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February is American Heart Month

If you noticed an unusually large number of your coworkers or those around you in the community wearing red on Friday, February 7th, it was no coincidence. Hundreds of thousands of people around the country joined together and donned clothing in all shades of red in support of the American Heart Association's Wear Red Day and

American Heart Month. Another important part of American Heart Month is the Go Red for Women campaign. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number one killer of women. We've got some information about American Heart Month and tips you can use to stay healthy on page 4. Check it out!

A Special Announcement from the Department of Social Work



PRESS RELEASE – FEBRUARY 10, 2014

The University of Memphis' Master of Social Work (MSW) program was granted initial accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the recent Commission on Accreditation meeting. The program will be reviewed for reaffirmation of accreditation in February 2018.

The CSWE is the sole accrediting body for social work education in the United States. In the state of Tennessee, licensure at the LMSW (masters social worker), LCSW (clinical social worker) and LAPSW (advanced practice social worker) requires a master's degree from a CSWE-accredited program.

Seventy-four students are currently enrolled in the 60-hour program. Twenty students graduated last spring; another 27 are expected to graduate in May.

"Whether through coursework, field internships or extracurricular events with community partners, the University of Memphis MSW program has continuously provided me unique opportunities to learn and to further develop the wide range of professional skills needed for ethical and competent social work practice," said Stacy Elliot, a full-time, second year MSW student. "Our diverse and talented faculty members are accessible, supportive and willing to engage with students collaboratively. I love the MSW program's cohort model as it has been an incredible asset throughout grad school to have learned so much from and because of my fellow classmates."

Accreditation of the program allows MSW students like Elliot to be prepared to explore numerous opportunities and to advance their profession within the field of social work.

"This is a great day for the University of Memphis' Department of Social Work," said Dr. Steve Soifer, professor and chair of Social Work. "We have put a lot of work into getting our Master's of Social Work program accredited, and it has paid off. Congratulations to everyone who made this happen and, especially, to the first graduating class who had faith we would get there."

Dr. Stan Hyland, head of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, added, "The University of Memphis responded to the needs of the Memphis community by moving quickly to institute a Master's of Social Work program that is clearly directed to communities and families. The Social Work Program enables us to be a major partner with the city of Memphis, local foundations and social service agencies in their joint efforts to address those in need because of poverty and related challenges. In the coming years, this program will make a difference in the quality of life for many in the Mid-South."

The MSW program is accepting applications for the 2014-2015 academic year. Those interested may apply at <http://www.memphis.edu/socialwork>.

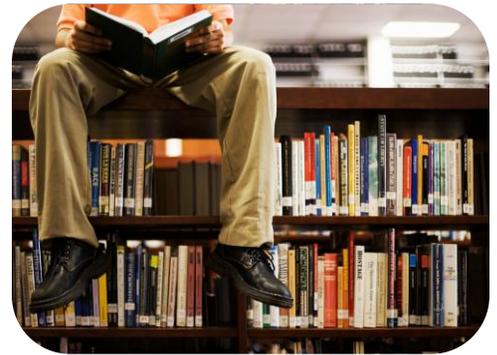
Nominations for Student and Field Instructor of the Year

Calling all Field Instructors! Do you have a student completing field placement in your agency that is performing above and beyond expectations? You have the opportunity to honor that student in a very unique way! Every year, field instructors have the ability to nominate an outstanding student (either BSW or MSW) for the Student of Year Field Award. Please take the time to complete this nomination and provide detailed information about the student's abilities. The student will be honored at both the Field Instructor Luncheon and at the Student Awards Ceremony later this year. The deadline for student nominations is **March 31, 2014**. Nominations should be submitted online via the following link:

https://umcas.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1BQiEpyYoAxxHuJ.

Calling all field students! Do you have an outstanding field instructor? Every year, students have the ability to nominate their 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, 2014**:

https://umcas.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bll0C270h4fboPj.



Have an outstanding field student? What about a great field instructor? You don't want to miss this unique opportunity to nominate them for a prestigious award!

Social Work Field Agency Fair Day



Social Work Field Agency Fair to be held March 28th, 2014.

The University of Memphis Department of Social Work will host the 2nd Annual Field Agency Fair on Friday, March 28, 2014 from 9:00am- 12:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for agencies to meet our BSW and MSW students, pre-interview them, gather resumes, and network with other local clinicians and agencies. This year's fair will focus on providing internships for students (BSW and MSW) for the 2014-2015 academic year, and if your agency is hiring new graduates, this will also be an opportunity to recruit new employees. The Agency Fair will be held in the Rose Theater on the University of Memphis campus. If you are a field instructor that would like to attend, please complete this survey to confirm your attendance:

https://umcas.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6YfU1ak7NR2Weix.



American Heart Month: What is Your Risk for Heart Disease?

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. To prevent heart disease and increase awareness of its effects, the University of Memphis Department of Social Work is proudly participating in American Heart Month. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 4 deaths in Tennessee are caused by heart disease and related illnesses. In addition, the Tennessee Department of Health reports 1,290 per 100,000 Shelby County residents were hospitalized in 2009 due to heart disease related complications.

Worried about your risk for heart disease? You can make healthy changes to lower your risk of developing heart disease. Controlling and preventing risk factors is also important for people who already have heart disease.

To lower your risk:

- Watch your weight.
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.
- If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation.
- Get active and eat healthy.

For more information, visit the American Heart Association website at

<http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/>.

Doctoral Program Survey

Dr. Catherine Simmons, Associate Professor, is conducting a study with her colleague Dr. Stan Hyland, Head of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, into the need for a research oriented program leading to a Doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in Urban Affairs. Should a need be identified, the degree would have a interdisciplinary focus on the needs of urban environments with a concentration in topics specific to the social sciences.

Brief Program Description: The nature, purpose, and scope of the proposed Ph.D. in Urban Affairs will be an interdisciplinary degree advancing theoretical understanding of urban affairs through inquiry-driven examination of urban issues and challenges. The program would provide graduates with the knowledge and ability to advance the understanding of urban systems, the capacity to demonstrate applied public policy problem-solving based on research and data, and the skills to engage with community constituents as partners in those enterprises. The combination of training in theory development and application would prepare graduates for careers in education, public, nonprofit, and private sector positions as careers as advanced policy analysts, researchers, and administrators.

Dr. Simmons would like to invite you to participate in this needs assessment. The survey consists of 3 parts and should take no more than 20 minutes to complete.

- The first part is a standard form asking for your consent to participate in this research study (needs assessment). Please review this document and select either affirm or deny button at the bottom of the first page.
- The second part includes the needs assessment questions. This section includes a mixture of close-ended and open-ended questions that will be used to help identify areas of interest and need in the community.
- The third part includes demographic questions that will help the research team target needed resources. Please answer these questions to the best of your ability.

The findings of the survey will be used to determine the need for such a program, construct a program proposal, and guide curriculum development. If you are willing to participate, please click here:

https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3Dx3T2IDiXb2St7.

Feel free to forward this survey link to others who may wish to participate. Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate.

GO!SW UPDATES

Graduate Organization of Social Work (GO!SW) Elects New Officers

Congratulations to the newly
elected GO!SW officers!

Megan Broadstreet - President
Treshain Norfleet - Vice-President
Jasmine Johnson - Secretary
Kerrel Ard - Liason
Wendi Albert - Treasurer
John Barsotti - Sergeant at Arms

GO!SW Upcoming Events

GO!SW meetings are held on
the first Tuesday of every
month, and at their next
meeting, the group will be
collecting art supplies to
donate to the Exchange Club
Family Center.

Members of GO!SW will join
with other MSW program
students to participate in the
Policy Poster/Presentation at
Social Work Day on the Hill.
MSW students interested in
participating should email
Megan Broadstreet at
mbrdstrt@memphis.edu.

Are you a graduate student
interested in GO!SW
membership? Contact Wendi
Albert at
wkalbert@memphis.edu.

Recent Department of Social Work Events

Social Work Success Seminar is a Huge Success!

On January 31st, 2014, the BA Faculty of the Department of Social Work hosted the Social Work Success Seminar. The Seminar is an extended orientation session for social work majors where Department of Social Work faculty can discuss several issues that are important for students to know in regard to the BASW program. There were over 155 undergraduate social work majors in attendance! Here are some photos from the



Social Work Success Seminar participants inside the University Center Theater Room



Social Work Success Seminar Volunteers: Stephanie Lovins, Alexis Batts, Beunca Logan, Jherrel Jones, Gwendolyn Nichols, not pictured-Britnee Stringfellow

Phi Alpha Honor Society Induction

Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing and Dr. Susan Elswick, faculty advisors for the Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work Students, are gearing up for the Spring 2014 induction of new Phi Alpha members. The induction and reception is scheduled for April 18th, 2014.

According to their website, “the purpose of Phi Alpha Honor society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.”

Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day

Dr. Elena Delavega, Assistant Professor, played a role in the recent Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day. The Awareness Day activities took place at the Hickory Ridge Mall Free Tax Prep site and included appearances by Congressman Steve Cohen, Mayor AC

Wharton, and Shelbv



Salary Negotiation Tips for Social Workers

By Danielle Seemann

My fellow social workers, are you often perplexed when thinking about applying for a new job? Don't know what to put for salary? You shouldn't list a salary at all! Never list a previous salary or an asking salary. Here's why:

By placing a previous salary on your application, you can hurt your chances of being called to an interview. You must remember, in most cases, your resume must cross paths with the human resources department prior to reaching the hiring manager. Human resources departments are looking for cookie cutter resumes. You may have all the skills required for a job, but may be passed over by human resources for a few different reasons:

1. Your previous salary is significantly less than what your desired agency pays. Human resources may pass you by automatically considering you unqualified.
2. You live out of town. (That is a topic for another day.)
3. Yours is likely one in hundreds of resumes.

If your eye-catching resume is lucky enough to be chosen, you may be pressured into giving a desired salary. Wait! Defer giving a desired salary until you are offered the job. Then, you have a bargaining chip. Once offered the job, your previous salary, if listed on your application, can harm your potential salary. For example, if you are making \$28,000 and you would like to earn \$40,000 at your desired job, they can argue that \$40,000 is too much when you were making only \$28,000 at your last job. **NEVER LIST YOUR PREVIOUS SALARY!** By waiting until the job offer to talk about salary, you can also negotiate benefits. If you have already scheduled a honeymoon or a vacation prior to being hired, don't cancel your plans. Negotiate your plans with the start of your new job. I have done this! You can also negotiate LCSW supervision with your job. Once you accept the job, you will never have that leeway again. Do not accept the first offer. Hold off and see if they will offer you more. Good Luck!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mental Illness & Power Conference

February 21-22, 2014

Hosted by the Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, this conference is free and open to the public. For details, visit

http://www.memphis.edu/philosophy/pgsa_2014.php

DSM-V Continuing Education February 27, 2014

Offered in Nashville, TN this DSM-V conference is \$100 for NASW members/\$130 for non-members. Visit

http://www.naswtn.com/events/event_details.asp?id=20140227 to register.



March 22, 2014

Comprehensive Grant Writing Workshop to be offered by A Bridge of Hope (ABOH). \$75 for ABOH members/\$100 for non-members. Visit

<http://abridgeofhope.org/grant-writing-conference-2014/> for details.

Job Postings

Bridge Builders Summer Conference Positions for Students

BRIDGES is excited to announce that they are currently accepting applications for Bridge Builders Summer Conference positions. Students can view position descriptions and apply now through Friday, February 28th at <http://www.bridgesusa.org/summerapply>. In total, there are over 42 open positions, including 30 AmeriCorps positions.

Friends for Life New Housing Program

Friends for Life is in need of a Program Manager and Case Manager for the Aloysius Scattered Site housing

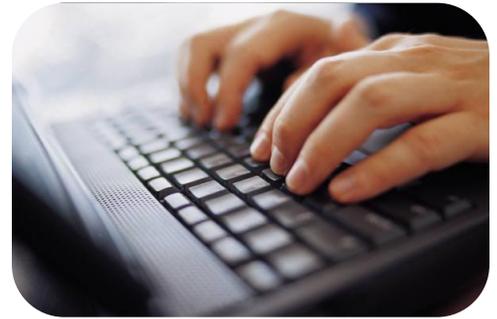
program. Applications can be obtained at

<http://www.friendsforlifecorp.org/employment/>.

Application materials can be sent to gina.fortner@friendsforlifecorp.org.

In-Home Family Service Providers with The Exchange Club Family Center

Independent contractual workers are needed by the Exchange Club Family Center to serve as In-home Family Service Providers (FSP) for children and families referred for intensive services through the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. Master's level counselors and social workers with at least one year of clinical experience preferred. Interested? Email your resume to



Looking for additional job postings like these? Visit the Career Center for the Department of Social Work at <http://deptofswrkuofmemphis.wordpress.com>.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities in and around the Memphis area? A Bridge of Hope has a variety of different ways that you can volunteer. For a list of opportunities are available throughout the year from serving the homeless, those in prison, human trafficking and abuse victims, and so much more, contact A Bridge of Hope at buildingbridgestogether@yahoo.com. For more information about this organization, visit their website: <http://abridgeofhope.org>.



Have a story to share?

If you would like to share information about an upcoming agency or community event, have a story to share, would like to highlight a student completing field placement at your agency, or would like to contribute other ideas for this newsletter, send submissions to the Newsletter Coordinator/Editor:

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fostering ongoing professional development, preparing students as critical thinkers

College of Arts & Sciences