March is National Social Work Month!

This month marks the national celebration of the social work profession, and the University of Memphis Department of Social Work wants to wish you a very happy Social Work Month! Is your office or department doing something special to celebrate? Let us know about it, and we may feature it in our next newsletter!

Deanna Nick
Newsletter Manager

Jump Start Your Career Dinner

The West Branch of NASW Tennessee would like to welcome you to the profession of social work!

Wednesday, April 2, 2014
Jason’s Deli
3473 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN
6:00pm

Meet one-on-one with practicing social workers in the community to get career advice, support, and encouragement as you begin your professional career!

Mentors and mentees are still needed! Apply here: https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eEVTw8Y5BDgYXli.

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Keep Calm and Jump Start Your Career
Nation’s Social Workers Celebrate National Social Work Month in March

Press Release: March 1, 2014

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The nation’s largest group of social workers, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), today begins its month-long celebration of the profession.

Social workers in hospitals, clinics, schools, universities, non-profit and government social service agencies, community centers, corporations, think tanks, elected offices, and numerous private practices will work to remind the public why they joined the profession in a campaign called “All People Matter.”

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, social work continues to be a fast-growing occupation in the United States. More than 600,000 social work college graduates hold social work positions, and an additional 130,000 people are employed as community and social service managers.

As the country addresses issues of growing income inequality, educational achievement gaps, health care disparities, mental health access, and improved veterans support, social workers in communities across the nation are raising awareness about critical family needs and social injustice.

“I’m proud to belong to a profession that recognizes that all people matter,” says NASW CEO Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW. “The field of social work requires its members to put the ideals of citizenship into action every day.”

To recognize all the ways social workers make a difference, and how they help turn public attention to complex social issues that affect millions of lives, the 2014 Social Work Month campaign will highlight some of the profession’s most accomplished authors, educators, researchers and practice leaders through its 1,000 Experts initiative.

More details about social work contributions on topics ranging from domestic violence, foster care and depression to addictions, chronic illness and senior caregiving can be found at SocialWorkers.org or SocialWorkMonth.org.

Social workers are also invited to tell their stories online this month using the hashtags #allpeoplematter and #socialworkmonth.

Meet the Faculty

In celebration of Social Work Month, we want to highlight the social work professionals that make up the University of Memphis Department of Social Work!

Dr. Steven Soifer
Chair and Professor
For more information about Dr. Soifer, click here:

Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing
Assistant Professor
For more information about Dr. Lennon-Dearing, click here:

Kenya Anderson, LCSW
Lecturer
For contact information, click here:
https://www.memphis.edu/socialwork/faculty.htm.

Dr. Susan Neely-Barnes
MSW Program Coordinator & Associate Professor
For more information about Dr. Neely-Barnes, click here:

Dr. M. Elena Delavega
Assistant Professor
For more information about Dr. Delavega, click here:

Dr. Gary Schneider
BA Program Coordinator & Assistant Professor
For more information about Dr. Schneider, click here:

Dr. Susan E. Elswick
Director of MSW Field Placement
For more information about Dr. Elswick, click here:

Dr. Catherine Simmons
Associate Professor
For more information about Dr. Catherine Simmons, click here:

James Jones
Lecturer
For more information about James Jones, click here:
http://umwa.memphis.edu/fcv/viewprofile.php?uuid=jjones44.

Dr. Lamont Simmons
Lecturer
For more information about Dr. Lamont Simmons, click here:
Meet the Faculty (cont’d)

Laura Taylor, LCSW
Director of BA Field Placement

For more information about Laura Taylor, click here:

Dr. Gregory Washington
Associate Professor

For more information about Dr. Washington, click here:

For more information about the University of Memphis Department of Social Work faculty including a list of adjunct faculty members, click here:
https://www.memphis.edu/socialwork/faculty.htm.

Announcing the 2nd Social Work Symposium!

The Department of Social Work at the University of Memphis is pleased to announce its 2nd Social Work Symposium:

Social Work Practice:
At the Intersection of Advocacy and Ethics
April 11, 2014
8:00am-4:30pm
University Center at the University of Memphis

Paid registrations include seven (7) Social Work CEUs (all CEUs may be in Ethics), coffee breaks, hot lunch, and parking in the Zach Curlin Garage

Keynote Speaker
Lorraine M. Gutierrez
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work

REGISTER NOW AT https://emsreg.memphis.edu//socialwork!

General Public (Sessions & Lunch): $99.00 (early**) / $129.00 (regular)
Alumni (Sessions & Lunch): $79.00 (early**) / $99.00 (regular)
Faculty & Students (Sessions & Lunch): $44.00 (early**) / $49.00 (regular)
Current Field Instructors (Sessions & Lunch): $44.00 (early**) / $49.00 (regular)
Current Field Instructors (Lunch only): NO COST (Register directly at mdlavega@memphis.edu)

**Early registration ends at 11:59 pm on Thursday, March 25th, 2014. Regular registration begins at 12:00 am on March 26st, 2014.
Social Work Spotlight

Missy McGowan: NASW Tennessee Chapter BSW Student of the Year

BSW student Missy McGowan was recently named the NASW Tennessee Chapter BSW Student of the Year, and she will receive her award at the 2014 Social Work Day on the Hill in Nashville, TN on March 26th.

After experiencing pain and loss with the illness and death of her husband due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Missy committed herself to helping other ALS patients and their families. She joined the ALS Association and now works tirelessly as a member of that group. Missy was nominated by Dr. Gary Schneider, BA Program Director, for, among other things, her leadership both in the community and the classroom. Congratulations, Missy, on this well-deserved award!

MSW Student Barbara Tileman Gives Keynote Address

On Friday, March 7, 2014, MSW student Barbara Tileman was the keynote speaker at the Rust College Business Week Luncheon in Holly Springs, Mississippi. The luncheon was entitled “Preparing for a Diverse Business Future: ‘Personal Branding.’” Barbara spoke about business and social work and how the two go hand in hand.

Barbara holds a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Secretarial Science from Rust College and is currently a 2nd year Master’s of Social Work candidate at the University of Memphis with a completion date of 2015. Her 22 years of professional work experience includes working in several different fields and working with a diverse group of people in their cultures. Congratulations, Barbara, on this honor!
Social Work Spotlight

Dr. Soifer Interviewed by Swedish Science Radio

Dr. Steven Soifer, Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Work, was recently interviewed by Swedish science radio on the topic of paruresis, or shy bladder syndrome, which affects about 220 million people worldwide (http://sverigesradio.se/sida/default.aspx?programid=4131). He also appeared on ARTE, France’s Mona Lisa documentary show entitled “Urine Superpowers,” which will be airing in France.

Students Participate in BCDD Rotation

MSW students Wendi Albert, Jordan Hagg, Lindsey Bailey, Mallory Williams, Emily Hice, and Debbie Layton had the opportunity to participate in a field rotation hosted by the University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities. During the day-long rotation, students were able to observe Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Applied Behavior Analysis, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Speech Language Pathology, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and much more!

Psychopathology Class Welcomes Guest Speaker

Dr. Jody Long, LCSW, Instructor at UT Department of Psychiatry and University of Memphis’ Adjunct Professor was a guest lecturer in Dr. Lennon-Dearing’s Psychopathology class on Tuesday, February 18, 2014. Dr. Long demonstrated to the class how he would conduct a first interview with a new client. He also discussed his approach to working with clients presenting with various mental health concerns.
Intersection of Violence

Two therapists from the Exchange Club Family Center of the Mid-South spoke to the Second Year MSW students about the devastating affects that exposure to violence and trauma has on families in Memphis and the Mid-South.

Melissa Farrar and David Frankel used real world examples to help students better understand how the intersection of child abuse, intimate partner violence, and community violence affects all aspects of social work practice. When working in Memphis and the Mid-South, the importance of understanding violence is considerably different than it is elsewhere. Violence is an everyday part of life that social workers need to understand and address across all levels of practice.

To illustrate these factors, the speakers began their presentation with an experiential learning activity illustrating the difficulties people in the Memphis community face when seeking support for concerns stemming from violence. Developed from statements made by actual clients, the activity brought to life how difficult it is for clients to escape the violence that permeates all aspects of their world.

From this experience, the importance of trauma informed care was emphasized. Indeed, the pervasive harms associated with violence and trauma generally manifest as emotional, physical, spiritual, and behavior problems across multiple life domains. Although such problems are evident in both adults and children, Melissa and David focused most of their talk on the unique experiences of children and evidence-based interventions that are helpful.

Students were exposed to three primary modes of intervention with children: group therapy, play therapy, and art therapy. Melissa Farrar stated, “Group therapy is a highly effective approach because it emphasizes relationships and teaches the kids that they are not alone.” David Frankel discussed the power of play with children and demonstrated tools students can use with their clients. Artwork from children was incorporated into the presentation as an essential way to work with children who often don’t have the words to describe their experiences and feelings.

Social workers in Memphis regularly work with families affected by multiple forms of violence. Melissa stated, “It’s not uncommon for kids to tell me they sleep on the floor so the bullets don’t get them.” She then explained that, Domestic Violence isn’t the only type of violence kids are exposed to. “Often, it’s general environmental issues. Kids live with a general lack of hope for the future and don’t see anything different. “ For this reason, its important to focus on their individual strengths and approach all interventions using trauma informed care models.

Programs and resources available through the Exchange Club Family Center of the Mid-South were also discussed. Their mission is to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect by replacing abusive and violent behaviors with effective parenting skills. As such, they offer a large assortment of programs that target three major areas 1.) Child abuse and family violence, 2.) Parenting education, and 3.) Anger management.

Students left the experience with a greater understanding about how to help children and families across all social work subspecialties. One student said, “even if you work in an area not generally associated with violence, you’ll see the aftermath of violence everyday.” Another student said, “There is no way we can be effective social workers without understanding violence and how to implement models of trauma informed care.”

More information about the Exchange Club Family Center can be found here: www.exchangeclub.net.
Upcoming Trainings and Events

NASW TN West Branch Lunch and Learn
March 20, 2014
Belmont Village Senior Living
11:30am-1:00pm
Dabney S. Collum, LCSW, BCD, C-SWHC, social worker with the Memphis VA Medical Center will present a training that will help attendees understand the differences between care homes and medical foster homes, the benefits to the veteran population and the community at large, and how long-term care is moving towards familial care. Registration is required. To register, click here: http://www.naswtn.com/events/event_details.asp?id=418227&group=.

Comprehensive Grant Writing Workshop
March 22, 2014
Cordova Community Center
8:30am-2:00pm
This workshop will bring together professionals in the field of grants, including grantees, grantors, and so many other professionals who focus on helping people and agencies in need of more funding to do something positive, greater projects, capacity building, networking/partnership building, and those who are beginning a new non-profit organization. Cost is $75 for A Bridge of Hope members and $100 for non-members, and pre-registration is required. For more information, click here: http://abridgeofhope.org/grant-writing-conference-2014/.

Social Work Day on the Hill
March 26, 2014
War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville, TN
7:30am-3:00pm
Please plan to attend the annual event where social workers meet with Tennessee legislators to make a difference in public policy!! Come and support University of Memphis’ BASW and MSW student groups presenting their Policy Posters! Register here: http://naswtn.site-ym.com/events/event_details.asp?id=396196#.

2nd Social Work Symposium
April 11, 2014
University Center, University of Memphis
8:00am-4:30pm
Please join us for the 2nd Social Work Symposium, Social Work Practice: At the Intersection of Advocacy and Ethics. See page 4 for more information.

Last Chance for Student or Field Instructor of the Year Nominations!

The deadline for nominations for Student of the Year or Field Instructor of the Year is quickly approaching! You have until March 31, 2014 to make your submissions. To nominate your field instructor, click here: https://umcas.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_blloC270h4fboPj. To nominate a field student, click here: https://umcas.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1BQiEpyYoAxhHuJ. Don't miss your chance to honor your field instructor or field student with this prestigious award!
Looking for job postings?

If you are looking for social work job postings, visit the Career Center for the Department of Social Work at http://deptofswrkuofmemphis.wordpress.com.

As always, if you have a story to share, we want to hear it! 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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