

May 2015

# Monthly Newsletter

University of Memphis Department of Social Work



Hey everybody!

I want to thank you for reading the newsletter this year, and for the kind compliments many of you extended to Dr. Elswick and me on its design. I have enjoyed being a part of its design and production.

I hope you relax as much as you can this summer and have a happy, safe time! Thanks again!

Catherine Clubb-Brown,  
Newsletter Manager

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Learn about recent events our faculty and students participated in

## Spotlights

### Dr. Elena Delavega

Dr. Elena Delavega [pictured at right] was recently interviewed for a piece by WREG about poverty. See the segment here:

<http://wreg.com/2015/03/31/breaking-the-cycle-the-face-of-poverty-in-memphis/>.



### Kim Brown

Our own Kim Brown [pictured at left], Administrative Assistant for the Department of Social Work at the University of Memphis, has won the “Outstanding Employee of the Year Award” from the College of Arts and Sciences. Congratulations, Kim!

### Dr. Steven Soifer

On Saturday April 18th, the Messick-Bunytn Neighborhood Association (MBNA) had their annual spring cleanup.

Participating in the event were about 20 people, including neighbors and MSW students from the University of Memphis Department of Social Work. Participants spent half the day cleaning up the park at the Davis Community Center and also the nearby railroad tracks. The Department has had several field placements working with the neighborhood association over the past two years, under the direction of Dr. Steven Soifer [pictured at right]. These field students work to help revitalize this University District group, with great success. Good work, everybody! And thank you, Dr. Soifer, for all you do.



## Spotlights



### **Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing**

A manuscript written by Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing, titled “Embracing Life: The Gift of a Day Program,” was recently accepted by the journal *Illness, Crisis & Loss* and is scheduled for publication in 2016.

Dr. Lennon-Dearing’s proposal “Social Workers Attitudes Toward Legislation Discriminatory of the LGBT Community” has been accepted as an interactive poster in the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues Track for the 2015 APM.

On March 27th Dr. Lennon-Dearing gave a presentation entitled, “Health Literacy: What Do Your Clients Understand?” at HelpCare Homemaker Services 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary In-Service Training.

Additionally, Dr. Lennon-Dearing has been granted funding for her Strengthening Communities grant. Congratulations, Dr. Lennon-Dearing!

### **Lauren Reed and Artice Carter**

Lauren Reed and Artice Carter [pictured at right], full-time MSW students in their foundation year, also presented at the HelpCare Homemaker Services Anniversary. Their Presentation, “Hoarding: Attacking the Issue, Not the Person” was a big hit! Good work, Lauren and Artice!





## Spotlights

### Student Social Work Organization

Please join me in congratulating your Student Social Work Organization (SSWO) Officers for 2015-2016.

President – Larry Foster  
Vice President – Jacqueline Murray  
Secretary – Chadarica Echols  
Treasurer – Tiffany White  
Project Coordinator – Willie MacDavid  
Public Relations – Meagan Williams

The SSWO provides students with opportunities to get involved with important social issues, and to foster communication and interaction between students, faculty, and administrators in the Department of Social Work.

Congratulations to the new officers!

### 2015 Field Instructor and Intern Awards

Every year we receive nominations for field instructor of the year and for student intern excellence. The following are the 2015 recipients:

The MSW Field Instructor of the Year Award this year went to Kena Vassar from the Law Office of Shelby County Public Defenders.

The recipient of the BA Field Instructor of the Year Award this year was Erin Harrington from Westside Middle School. (she has been nominated 3 times previously!)

This year the Corri R. Thomas MSW Excellence in Field Award went to Emily Hice from Grizzlies Prep.

The BA Student Excellence in Field Award this year went to Deronique Hayes.

Congratulations to all award recipients!



### Job Postings

Are you a new graduate seeking employment? Looking for new job within the social work field?

Don't forget tht you have access to many local and current job postings when you visit the Career Center for the Department of Social Work. Tons of great information is just a click away! Visit the Career Center for the Department of Social Work today at:

<http://deptofswrkuofmemphis.wordpress.com/>

## Spotlights

### **Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting**

Many students and faculty members from the Social Work Department at the University of Memphis will be traveling to Denver, Colorado for the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education this October. These include:

MSW students Artice Carter and Mallory Williams, with the support of social work faculty members Robin Lennon-Dearing and Susan Elswick, have been accepted. Their project, "Mentoring from the Masters: Students Helping Students," was accepted to the Higher Education/Nonprofit Leadership Track.

Additionally, Williams and assistant faculty member Susan Elswick will present their project, "Reaching In to Reach Out: Therapy Box for Escape-Maintained Aggression."

Treshain Norfleet and Megan Broadstreet, together with Dr. Catherine Simmons, will present their project "Safety-Planning with IPV Survivors Who Don't Trust Police or Other Helping Professionals."

Roslyn Brewer, together with Dr. Susan Neely-Barnes, will present her project: "Teaching social work students how to engage as advocates in special education."

Emily Hice and Wendi Albert will present their project, "Full Speed Ahead: The Track for Leadership Roles of School Social Workers."

Professors Lamont Simmons, Kenya Anderson, and Susan Neely-Barnes, and MSW student Stephanie Lovins will present their project: "Strategies for Promoting Academic Success among First-Generation Social Work Students" to the Baccalaureate Programs Track.

Congratulations professors and students!

[Pictured from top to bottom, left to right: Mallory Williams, Artice Carter, Dr. Susan Elswick, Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing, Megan Broadstreet, Treshain Norfleet, Roslyn Brewer, Dr. Catherine Simmons, Wendi Albert, Emily Hice, Prof. Kenya Anderson, Dr. Lamont Simmons, Stephanie Lovins, and Dr. Susan Neely-Barnes.]



## Phi Alpha

### Welcome New Phi Alpha Members

Please join me in congratulating the newest members and officers of Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work:

#### BASW:

Amber Crockett  
Catherine Ruth Maroon  
Charie Carroll  
Chasity G. Rodgers  
Claressa S. Glaspie  
Deronique LaShondra Hayes  
Ebony Mackin  
Jacqueline Murray  
Jennifer Pierce  
Laura Leigh Burpo  
Meagan Williams  
Olubunmi Edward Akinjinmi  
Robyn Crawford  
Rosalind Hines  
Ross Jerome Nagler  
Samantha Renfro  
Terrian Matthews  
Yomyko

#### MSW:

Ashley Warren  
Brandon Bernard Williams  
Beronna Ponder  
Christopher I. Mathews Jr.  
Emily M. Hice  
Falon Roberson  
Frances Leigh Harper  
Jasmine Johnson  
Jessica Michelle Cox  
John Barsotti  
Kimberly M. Vogt  
Lydia D. Walker  
Mallory C. Williams  
Meg Brown  
Megan Elizabeth Broadstreet  
Stephen McIvor  
Tangie L. Dotson  
Treshain Norfleet  
Wendi Albert  
William Kerrel Ard, Jr.

#### New Officers:

President – Frances Harper  
Vice President – Brandon Williams  
Secretary/Treasurer – Wendi Albert

Congratulations new members!



New Phi Alpha members



Brandon Williams and Frances Harper, [Wendi Albert not pictured]



Recent events



**Social Work Day on the Hill**

Social Work Day on the Hill was a great success! More than 60 students and faculty members of the Department of Social Work attended the event. See the photo to the left of the large group of professional and student social workers from Memphis who gathered at the Tennessee General Assembly.

**Lambuth Campus**

Dr. Elena Delavega recently visited the University of Memphis Lambuth Campus to speak to pre-social work and social work students. The discussion focused on ways to give back to the community in an effort to make it a more just society. See the photo to the right.



May 2015

**Don't be a stranger!**

Please send submissions to the Newsletter  
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**Department of Social Work**

*fostering ongoing professional development, preparing students as critical thinkers*

College of Arts & Sciences