

S U M M E R 2 0 1 4

Monthly Newsletter

University of Memphis Department of Social Work

2014 Phi Alpha Officers

We would like to give special recognition to the 2014 officers of the University of Memphis' Phi Alpha chapter:

President: Marguerite "Missy" McGowan

Vice President: Kristen Bowen

Secretary/Treasurer: Jherrel Jones

Please join us in recognizing Missy, Kristen, and Jherrel (pictured below) and their leadership of our Phi Alpha chapter.

For more information about Phi Alpha and this year's inductees, please see page 2.



Enjoy your summer!

We would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who have contributed stories and photos to the Monthly Newsletter over the last several months! We have truly enjoyed bringing you news and information from the University of Memphis Department of Social Work and other organizations around the city of Memphis. The Summer 2014 issue of the newsletter will be the final edition for the 2013-2014 academic year, so we would like to wish everyone a safe and fun summer!

Deanna Nick
Newsletter Manager

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2014 Phi Alpha Inductions

The Epsilon Upsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Honors Society at the University of Memphis was pleased to induct its newest members on April 18th, 2014. Phi Alpha is the honors society, and its purpose is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. In order to be eligible for Phi Alpha membership, undergraduate social work majors must maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average while graduate social work students must maintain a 3.75 or higher grade point average.

This year's BASW inductees included the following students:

Amber L. Day
 Amber Wallace
 Cameo J. Monroe
 Camille Coffey Hadley
 Charity Y'vette Thomas
 Falon Amelia Roberson
 Jessica Quinn
 Jherrel Nicole Jones
 Jonelle Rae Spicer
 Kristen Bowen
 Lauren Rose
 Marguerite Earp McGowan
 Meagan LeeAnn Meador
 Patricia A. White
 Patty Belle
 Phyliscia D. Smith

Sharikka S. Henderson
 Tanqua Small
 Terica Angelica Bell
 Trista Noelle Young
 Victoria Paige Golden

This year's MSW inductees included the following students:

Betsy Mays
 Brittney Jordan
 Chadwick Golden
 Cheryl Ferguson
 Crystal Lloyd Stallings
 Jeanine T. M. Claiborne
 Jenna Bonnell
 Kellie Lynne Cole
 Minna Zhao
 Olivia J. McMillan
 Stacy Elliot
 Wendy Brown
 Werner Viser Robinson

In addition to the students listed above, a posthumous honorary membership was awarded to former first year MSW student Corri R. Thomas who passed away unexpectedly last year. The membership was accepted by Corri's mother, Mary Thomas-Vickery.

Please join us in congratulating the newest Phi Alpha Epsilon Upsilon chapter members!

Congratulations Graduates!

Please enjoy just a handful of our many photos from this year's commencement service and other graduation festivities!



Job Postings

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

Don't forget that 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/>

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Steven Soifer

Dr. Steven Soifer was prominently featured in a recent article in The Atlantic online called “The Private Lives of Public Bathrooms,” which has been a trending topic on social media. The article is an excellent description of the topic of paruresis, or shy bladder syndrome, and the role public bathrooms play in its development and maintenance. Paruresis, a social phobia, affects about 21 million people in the U.S. and over 220 million people worldwide. Interested in reading the article? Click here:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/04/the-private-lives-of-public-bathrooms/360497/>

Dr. Soifer was also interviewed about paruresis on Radio Ireland’s award winning Moncrieff Newstalk program on April 22, 2014. Paruresis affects 350,000 people in Ireland alone. You can listen to the interview here:

http://www.newstalk.ie/player/podcasts/Moncrieff/Highlights_from_Moncrieff/51512/1/have_you_a_shy_bladder

Proposals Accepted by CSWE

Two new faculty proposals have been selected for the CSWE 2014 Annual Program Meeting to be held October 23-26 in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Robin Lennon-Dearing’s proposal, Social Workers’ Perspective on Proposed Legislation that Discriminates Against LGBT Equality, was accepted as a poster presentation, and a proposal by Dr. Elena Delavega, Dr. Steven Soifer, and Dr. Susan Elswick, The Benefits and Challenges of Non-traditional Field Placements in Social Work Education was accepted as a 60-minute think tank session. Congratulations!

The Commercial Appeal

Our very own Dr. Elena Delavega was quoted in a recent Commercial Appeal article on March 27, 2014. The article is entitled “Population growth stagnant in Memphis metro area, new census estimates show.” To read the article, click here:

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2014/mar/27/population-growth-stagnant-in-memphis-metro-area/>



Student Spotlight

Student Prepares for International Field Placement

For the summer of 2014, MSW student Megan Broadstreet has been given the opportunity to complete a field placement in Jinja, Uganda during the month of July. During this time, Megan plans to study social work in the Ugandan culture. She will focus on working with and learning from professional social workers in Uganda with the goal of creating and promoting a well-being curriculum based specifically on the needs of Ugandan children. Megan will be working alongside Providence World Mission, Sera's Place (an all boys orphanage), some local hospitals, and other local organizations in Jinja. She is excited to learn through her experiences, and she hopes to build partnerships so that another student may be able to return in the future. She plans to share her knowledge when she returns to help others understand that all people matter—locally and globally.



New SSWO Officers Elected

On April 24, 2014, the Student Social Work Organization (SSWO) elected new officers. Congratulations to the following students:

President: Laura Burpo

Vice-President: Jasmine Miller

Secretary: Quinesia Isabel

Project Coordinator: Samantha Renfro

Public Relations: Amber Crockett

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. SSWO coordinates fundraising events, organizes volunteer activities, hosts special events with guest speakers, and sponsors social activities of interest to students.

SSWO





Special Thanks from Dr. Lennon-Dearing to SWRK 3094

Dr. Robin-Lennon Dearing wanted to send out a special note of thanks to her SWRK 3094 Practice II class. She wanted to be sure she said thanks for a great semester! The middle picture above is a photo of her SWRK 3094 students on their last night of class.

As part of their class requirements, all SWRK 3094 students must participate in a service-learning group experiences. Each student is responsible for co-leading, with a classmate, a four session social skills group at a local middle school in Memphis, Tennessee.

The additional photos above show students at their Service Learning experience location.

Left: Jonelle Spicer & Sharikka Henderson at Southside Middle School

Right: Seterica Jackson & Kurtricia West at Hamilton Middle School

Thank you, SWRK 3094 students, for all of your hard work throughout the semester and especially for your Service Learning experiences!



Stop Stigma with JCFN

Dr. Gregory Washington poses with some of his students (right) at the Just Care Family Network's (JCFN) "Stop Stigma! Filming in the Park" event. The students participated with JCFN youth and others to complete their anti-stigma mental health awareness music video. The JCFN youth were involved with the lyric writing, editing, production, and filming of the video, and they were excited to reveal the video at the Family Matters Forum on May 21-22. Want to see the finished product? You can find it on YouTube here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4-Mc1TXGqM>. Join Dr. Washington's students and the JCFN youth to help Stop Stigma!

Family Safety Center Tour

This spring, the second year M.S.W. students taking the course “*Violence and the Family*” had the opportunity to tour the Family Safety Center of Memphis and Shelby County. Established in April 2012, the Family Safety Center is one location that effectively combines civil, criminal, health, and social services for victims of family violence. By co-locating the services of the 30 partner agencies in one location, the Family Safety Center is able to better serve the hurting families of Memphis and Shelby County who are caught up in the trauma of family violence. The Family Safety Center provides assistance to the victims and helps them navigate through the many services available to them. Ultimately, they strive to reduce incidents of domestic violence and strengthen families in Memphis and Shelby County.

Violence within families can be very complicated. The people affected by family violence need help in a lot of different ways. To end the violence and help keep people safe, a vast assortment of services are available through the Family Safety Center. Among these include the following: Ex-Parte Order of Protection, Safety Planning, Emergency Housing, Law Enforcement Reporting, Legal Services, Court Advocacy, Individual and Family Counseling, Medical and Mental Health Services, Immigration-Sensitive Victim Services, Domestic Violence Education, and Childcare onsite. There are also two support groups operated at the Family Safety Center: women’s support group facilitated by the Exchange Club Family Center and Spanish speaking support group facilitated by YWCA. To help clients “navigate” these services, the Family Safety Center provides case managers (called “*Navigators*”) as a way to facilitate access to the large number of agencies, resources, and programs available for this important population.

To give the students better understanding about the interconnections, relationships, and partnerships necessary for this wrap-around service model to

work, a “*Navigator*” started the presentation by walking the students through a case example. Then, representatives from a number of the agency partners spoke about the work they do with/for survivors of violent crime in the community. Among the agencies that presented were the Shelby County Sheriff’s office, the Crime Victim’s Center, the Rape Crisis Center, the YWCA, the district attorney’s office, Memphis Area Legal Services, Dept. of Children’s Services, and the Exchange Club Family Center. Following the partner presentations, a survivor told her story about how the Family Safety Center helped her negotiate the various systems and successfully rebuild her life. Together with a tour of the facility, the visit afforded a powerful opportunity to apply classroom content to “*real world*” application across multiple systems of care.

Students left the experience with a greater understanding about the wealth of resources available in the Memphis and Mid South community. They also learned about how wrap-around service delivery can help survivors with varying needs and the importance of incorporating trauma informed care into all aspects of service delivery.

More information about the Family Safety Center of can be found on their webpage <http://www.familysafetycenter.org/> or by calling (901) 222-4400.



Submission by Dr. Cathy Simmons

Don't be a stranger!

If you would like to share information about an upcoming agency or community event or have a story to share, we will still be accepting submissions for our fall semester newsletters throughout the summer! Send submissions to the Newsletter Coordinator/Editor:

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The logo for The University of Memphis, featuring the text "THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS" in a blue, sans-serif font, with "MEMPHIS" in a larger, bold font. The logo is tilted slightly to the right and is set against a white background with a subtle drop shadow.

Deanna Nick
MSW Student/Newsletter Manager

Dr. Susan Elswick
Newsletter Coordinator/Editor
University of Memphis
Department of Social Work

Department of Social Work

fostering ongoing professional development, preparing students as critical thinkers

College of Arts & Sciences