Welcome back to another semester! I am pleased to welcome you to the first edition of the KU BSW Newsletter. We are planning to make this a monthly email newsletter, full of updates about all aspects of the School of Social Welfare and the BSW Program. We will maintain a calendar, a list of upcoming University and School deadlines, and just a few notes from those of us who work to make your lives run a little smoother!

As most of you on the Lawrence campus know, we have established a new BSW degree completion program on the campus of Kansas City Kansas Community College. We have approximately 20 students enrolled in that program. At this time, the courses on that campus, including a social work elective on urban social work, are open to students from the Lawrence campus. I hope that you will get to know some of the students in the KCKCC program; they are very smart and engaging students who have a lot to offer! Hopefully, you will all get to know one another through the activities of the BSW Student Group!

Please tell everyone you know about our new pre-social work listserv. This listserv is intended for students considering a social work major. Anyone can join. (If you have already declared your social work major, you are already on the BSW listserv and do not need to join.) Please pass the word about the listserv along to those who might be thinking about social work as a major. They can sign up by sending an email to “listproc@listproc.cc.ku.edu” and write in the body of the email “SUBSCRIBE PRESOCIALWORK” (without the quotation marks). If that doesn’t work, feel free to email me at lorim@ku.edu and I will get you on the listserv. Subscribers will get the newsletter and other updates.

We will have space in the newsletter that we make open to students to communicate with one another. Appropriate topics would include your experiences at a social work professional conference, an advocacy experience that you would like to invite others to attend, and other social work-related discussions. If you have something you would like to contribute, email it to me before the 10th of the month.

Well, that’s all from my desk right now. Feel free to stop by my office at 205 Twente and say hello!
News and Information from Vicki

--Vicki Mignot

Hello, all. This section will be my way of updating you about student services issues.

Pre-Social Welfare students: The next review of BSW applications will be February 1, 2006. It will take approximately 4-6 weeks to review applications before decisions are mailed out. All applicants will receive a written notification of the admission decision. Applicants admitted at this review will begin the BSW curriculum in fall 2006.

BSW students: As we begin the new semester, remember to review your degree requirements. All students must have a minimum of 124 credit hours to graduate. Also, be sure that you are meeting all of the general education, elective, and social work requirements for the BSW. If you have questions about your credit hours or requirements, you should check with your advisor or me. Don’t forget to reference the SW General Education Course List located at this link (http://www.socwel.ku.edu/academics/BSW/bswgen.shtml) or in hardcopy outside of Room 107 Twente Hall.

Seniors: If you will be graduating in May 2006, you must complete the “Application for Degree” on Enroll and Pay. The deadline is in March, so don’t procrastinate. Completion of this form alerts the Registrar’s Office that you will be graduating. Without it, you will not be listed in the graduation program and you will not receive your degree.

Also, licensure testing is just around the corner. It wouldn’t hurt to get a jump start on it! Visit the Kansas Behavioral Science Regulatory Board website at http://www.ksbsrb.org to get started today. I will be sending a list of names to the Board of all students expected to graduate in May 2006.

Seniors! If graduating in May 2006, fill out an “Application for Degree” on Enroll & Pay. The deadline is March!

2+2 = BSW

News from the BSW Completion Program at KCKCC

--Maxine Elmore, MSW

Greetings from the KU BSW Program at Kansas City Kansas Community College! This spring semester has seen tremendous increase in the number of students enrolled in the 2+2 BSW Degree Completion Program: Fifteen new students enrolled in the part-time program. They join 6 continuing students for a total of 21.

A full time schedule of junior-level courses will begin in fall 2006. There are also 3 social work electives being offered:

- Professional Writing for Social Workers (SW 410)
- Social Work in an Urban Setting (SW 420)
- TBA (SW 430)

The BSW Program at KCKCC also has a Professional Mentor Program. The mentors assist BSW students as they transition from the liberal arts courses at the community college to the upper-level social work professional courses. More than 25 Kansas City BSW and MSW-level practitioners, many of whom are KU alumni, have expressed the mentoring program. A Welcome Session was held in November 2005 for assigned mentors and students, and a new session will be held in February 2006 for incoming students.

UPCOMING EVENT

Saturday, January 28, 2006. Prospective Student Information Session held at KU-Edwards Campus from 9 am until 11:15 am.
BSW Student Organization

The BSW Student Group began five years ago within the School of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas. Our faculty sponsor is Steve Kapp. We are a student-driven group dedicated to raising money for local agencies, performing community service and increasing the interaction between the various levels of social welfare students. We had a very busy and successful fall semester, and we are looking forward to our plans for the spring.

This fall, we kicked off with a BBQ at treasurer Amy Nutter’s house and had a great time getting to know some of the juniors. Faculty members Lori Messinger, Helen Hartnett, Rick Spano, and Woohan Shim also attended. In November, we hosted the fifth annual BSW Benefit and silent auction for the Ballard Community Center. The Ballard center provides child-care, rent and utility assistance to families in need in Douglas County. We are very happy to say that, with the help of the community, the dedication of our members, and a little rock n’ roll, we raised over $2,400 this year – our most successful benefit to date. We closed out the fall semester with our service project. Members of the group, friends and family gathered in the kitchen generously donated by member Beth Chronister and her housemates in the ECM. We prepared, transported and served a meal for over thirty people at the Lawrence Community Shelter. We also had several memorable social outings following our various projects.

Our plans for this spring include another benefit (including a garage sale and activities for the whole family,) a service project and as many socials as we can fit into the semester! Membership is open to ALL pre-social work students, current BSW students and just about anybody else who would like to join! We welcome new members and hope all of you will consider attending a meeting, service project, fundraising event or social outing.

Spring 2006 meetings are the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of every month in Alcove C of the Kansas Union at 6:15 pm. We hope to see you there!

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BSW Students Lindsay Hollis, Brett Siegel, Cory Poull, and Advisor Steve Kapp prepare dinner at the Lawrence Community Shelter.
Notes from the Field Education Office

--Kris Matthews, LMSW,
Assistant Director of Field Education

Thanks to all of the juniors who took the time to come and meet with me about practicum planning. All of you should have submitted practicum planning materials by now. If you have not, you will not be included in the placement process, so be sure to communicate with us if you have had any barriers to doing so or if your plans have changed. I have begun the process of reviewing your materials and referring you to agencies. We will look forward to seeing you on March 31st in the Malott Room at the Kansas Union where you will pick up your agency assignments and hear from the Field Education staff, faculty, and a panel of seniors who are currently in practicum placements (a reminder email with details will be sent closer to the date).

Seniors, I welcome your feedback about placements and be aware that it is possible that juniors may be contacting you to get the student perspective on a particular placement. If you are anxious to share your experiences with juniors and want to consider being part of the senior panel for their meeting, please let me know. Remember that updates to your Learning Contracts are due to your liaison by February 3rd. This is a great "built-in" opportunity to exchange feedback with your field instructors and set the tone for the spring semester. Remember to include your liaison in that process if you feel it would be helpful. They are there for you, so please use them!

We are excited to have a new addition to the Field Education office staff. Julie Solomon, LSCSW, MBA, has joined us part time to help coordinate various components of the program. While she will be doing a lot of planning work with issues that involve field instructors and liaisons, I know she will also enjoy getting to know the students. You will likely see her name on various emails and mailings, so feel free to stop by and greet her in Room 103 if you get a moment.

Have a great spring semester!

BSW Student Voices: How to be heard

Got something to say? This is your space to do it! Submit an article or essay to the BSW Newsletter. Just send it to Lori Messinger, BSW Director, at lorim@ku.edu before the 10th of the month. Let your peers hear from you.

You can also let your student representatives to the BSW Program Committee know if you have concerns about the program. They represent your voice on the Committee. Your representatives are: Junior Jacqueline Clark (email: kansasjack21@hotmail.com) and Seniors Amy Nutter (anutter@mail.ku.edu) and Brett Siegel (brett26@ku.edu). The committee meets at least twice a semester.
Events Calendar

JANUARY

24th  MSP Event
    7:30 pm, Lied Center
    TAP DOGS, Dance from Down Under

28th  KCKCC Prospective Student Information Session
    9-11:15 am
    KU-Edwards Campus

FEBRUARY

1st   BSW Student Group
    6:15 pm, Alcove C, Kansas Union

15th  KNASW Advocacy Day
    9 am -11 am, Washburn room, Memorial union
    Washburn University, Topeka, KS

    MSP Event
    7:30 pm, Lied Center
    Soweto Gospel Choir
    (preceded by business meeting in Twente Hall at 6pm)

16th  BSW Student Group
    6:15 pm, Alcove C, Kansas Union

16th-19th  CSWE Meeting
            Chicago, IL

MARCH

1st   BSW Student Group
    6:15 pm, Alcove C, Kansas Union

16th  BSW Student Group
    6:15 pm, Alcove C, Kansas Union

20th-26th  Spring Break; no classes

27th - April  Advising