I just returned from the Council on Social Work Education’s (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting in Chicago. This is the third national social work conference I attended this year; I also went to the Baccalaureate Program Director’s (BPD) conference in October and the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) in January. Each of these conferences includes sessions about social work research, practice, and education. They also offer a chance to meet scholars and educators from social work programs throughout the country. The conferences are a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow.

Each of these conferences allows students to volunteer and attend the conference sessions for free. This year, six BSW students went to national conferences. Amittia Davis, Lori Fuqua, and Beth Chronister went to BPD in Austin, TX. In addition to attending sessions, they sat in on an MSW class at the University of Texas in Austin, attended a meeting of a BPD committee, and met students and faculty from across the nation. Kaela Byers, Lisa Crook, and Chris Veeh attended SSWR in San Antonio, listening to research presentations from nationally renowned social work scholars and helping us host a KU reception. Strangely enough, none of you wanted to make the trip to Chicago in the cold winds of February! Still, I saw plenty of students in Chicago, attending sessions, talking to representatives from various MSW Programs, and comparing notes with other BSW and MSW students.

I encourage you to talk to the students who attended the conferences and find out about what they offer. You can learn more about each of the sponsoring organizations online: BPD (http://www.bpdonline.org); CSWE (http://www.cswe.org); and SSWR (http://www.sswr.org). Think about joining me at a national conference in California next year: BPD will be in Los Angeles in October and SSWR will be in San Francisco in January.

Also, the BSW Program Committee will meet on Friday, February 24 at 10:30 -12:00 in 208 Twente. On the agenda are discussions about ways that the School of Social Work could participate in the Thematic Learning Communities and the University Honors Program. We will also be reviewing syllabi for the mini-topics courses next Fall, half-semester-long courses that will replace SW611: Case Management in the required social work curriculum. Finally, we will be strategizing about recruitment of students to the major and other curriculum issues. Minutes from the meeting will be available on the BSW Board outside Vicki’s office and on the shared [S] drive.

Your representatives are: Junior Jacqueline Clark (email: kansasjck21@hotmail.com) and Seniors Amy Nutter (anutter@mail.ku.edu) and Brett Siegel (brett26@ku.edu). Feel free to contact them if you have thoughts, concerns, or issues that you would like raised with the committee.
News and Information from Vicki

--Vicki Mignot

I am currently working with the BSW Program Director and Academic Technology Services to update the ARTS Form and the Advising Forms to make them more user friendly. I hope to have this completed by the summer of 2006.

Pre-Social Welfare students: If you missed the February 1st application deadline you still have a chance to be admitted to begin your 500-level social work coursework in the Fall 2006 semester. Applications will be accepted for a June 1, 2006 review. The June review is typically reserved for transfer students because of the enrollment problems it creates for continuing students but exceptions can be made. If you have questions about the June deadline, feel free to email me or Lori Messinger.

Also, pre-social work advising is just around the corner, beginning immediately after spring break. Pre-Social Work group advising sessions will be on Wednesday March 29th, Thursday April 6th, and Friday April 14th. All group advising sessions will be held in Room 208 of Twente Hall and will be from 10am until noon.

BSW Students: Advising is fast approaching. Faculty advisors will be taking appointments immediately after spring break for a period lasting approximately three weeks. You should start looking at your schedule now and plan for the summer and fall semesters. Be sure to sign up early for appointments and be in contact with your advisor by phone or email if advising issues arise. An advisor list is posted on the bulletin board outside of my office (107 Twente) if you need to check it. Make sure that you have completed all general education requirements and are on track to go you’re field placement/graduate on time!

Seniors: Continue to check to make sure all of your graduation requirements (courses and hours) have been met. If you are transferring in hours from another university/college make sure that they show on your ARTS Form. Until they are on your KU record they don’t count!

The Application For Degree deadline is March 1st. Make sure to complete this process in Enroll and Pay or you will not be listed in the Commencement Program and you will not be identified as a May 2006 KU Graduate. In plain English, that means you won’t receive your degree! Without your degree, you cannot get your license from the Kansas Behavioral Science Regulatory Board.

A list of the May 2006 BSW Graduates has been forwarded to KSBSRB (http://www.ksbsrb.org). When completing the application process to sit for the test you do NOT need to have the Social Welfare Dean sign the form; just indicate on that page to “see KU graduate list for May 2006”.

Notes from the Field Education Office

-- Kris Matthews, MSW

We are busy referring BSW juniors to field agencies. I have been getting a few calls and emails asking if there is anything else you need to be doing. All you need to do at this point is make sure you have the following date on your calendar: March 31st, 3:00 pm, Malott Room of the Kansas Union. This is the meeting in which you will pick up your assigned placement and hear from Field Education staff, current seniors, and faculty. Be there!
Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series

--Amittia Davis

A new initiative is starting in the social work program: a series of brown bag presentations on cultural diversity issues in practice. This initiative is the work of students in the BSW Program. Amittia Davis (BSW ‘06) had the idea for the series, and she worked with BSW students Beth Chronister, Doozie Midyette, Chris Veeh, and MSW student Beverly Dennis to plan and implement the events.

The group developed the following mission statement: Social workers and social work students have an ethical obligation to the pursuit of cultural competency. This includes a commitment to life-long learning and exploration into other cultures, as well as attaining a deeper understanding of one’s own culture. The Social Work Brown Bag Cultural Diversity Series will address this commitment by providing opportunities for KU students, faculty and staff to increase knowledge, understanding, and awareness of cultural diversity as it relates to social work practice.

Speakers will be brought in to discuss a variety of topics throughout the rest of the semester, including handling religious and moral conflicts in practice, working with immigrants, translation issues, domestic violence in diverse cultures, and practice with First Nations clients. A full list of March events is listed on the next page. Feel free to print out and post prominently!

Each session will be held in the Kansas Union between 11:15 am -12:15 pm. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the School of Social Welfare. These presentations are open to everyone: undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff members. So, come by and learn something new!

BSW Student Organization

The BSW Student Group is pleased to announce that our Spring 2006 Fundraiser will benefit Lawrence’s own Headquarters Counseling Center. Headquarters provides 24-hour-a-day counseling services, receives no federal funding and has been in continuous operation for over 20 years. We are excited about helping them out, especially because some of the funds raised may help them hire a full-time social worker! We will keep everyone posted on the exact date and location of the fundraiser—we are hoping for a Saturday in late April, so watch this column!

We do know that the fundraiser will consist of a garage sale and a family-friendly carnival—games, prizes, face-painting and finger food. We think it’s going to be a lot of fun and we hope you’ll consider attending. In order to make things run smoothly, we are going to need volunteers, so if you are interested, send us a message at bsw@ku.edu or come to a meeting. We meet on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month at 6:15 in Alcove C of the Kansas Union. Our next meeting is March 1st and we’d be absolutely thrilled to see you there!

We are also pleased to report that we have selected two service projects for the semester. We are going to collaborate with the seniors placed at Rosedale Community Project in Kansas City for an activity—we are still negotiating the date and nature of the project, but Rosedale is University-sponsored and we are sure it will be enjoyable and worthwhile. Our Lawrence service project will be a day with Habitat for Humanity sometime this spring. Again, watch this column for details. All are welcome to attend meetings, events and service projects, so just let us know if you want to join in. We are really looking forward to working with our fellow students and the community this semester, and we welcome your input and involvement!
Social Work Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series

Wednesday, March 1st
Martin Okapareke and Abdul Bakar
Work with People from Different Cultures
Alderson Auditorium

Monday, March 6th
Felix Makachia
Community-Based Practice in Kenya
Alderson Auditorium

Wednesday, March 8th
Emily McCave
Entering the “Safe Zone”: Building Cultural Competence with Individuals who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender
Alderson Auditorium

Monday, March 13th
Woochan Shim
Working with Korean Americans, Domestic Violence Survivors in Particular
Pine Room

Wednesday, March 15th
Boo Tyson
Managing Religious or Moral Conflicts in Social Work Practice
Pine Room

Wednesday, March 29th
Susana Mariscal
Domestic Violence and Latino Culture
International Room
Events Calendar

MARCH
1st
Application for Degree Deadline

Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series
11:15 am-12:15 pm, Alderson

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

2nd
KCKCC Information Session
5:30 – 7:00 pm, Room 2602, KCKC

6th
Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series
11:15 am-12:15 pm, Alderson

8th
Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series
11:15 am -12:15 pm, Alderson

13th
Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series
11:15 am-12:15 pm, Pine Room

15th
Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series
11:15 am -12:15 pm, Pine Room

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

20th-26th
Spring Break; no classes

27th - April 14
Advising

29th
Pre-Social Work Group Advising Session

Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series
11:15 am-12:15 pm, International Room

31st
BSW Practicum Meeting
3:00 – 4:30 pm, Mallott Room

APRIL
6th
Pre-Social Work Group Advising Session

KCKCC Information Session
5:30 – 7:00 pm, Room 2602, KCKC

14th
Pre-Social Work Group Advising Session

21st
Social Work Day, 8 am-4 pm

26th
Practicums end

27th
Recognition/Donor Reception

28th
Employment-Based Practicum Information Session
9 am-11 am & 3 pm-5 pm

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