BSW Director’s Corner

--Lori Messinger, PhD

Reflecting on the activities in the last month, I want to begin my column this month by expressing my excitement and pride in the Cultural Diversity Series. BSW students came up with the idea, and working with MSW students and faculty, they made it happen. All of the presentations have been recognized by attendees as well-organized, thought-provoking, and informative. I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to attend the remaining presentations, listed on page 4.

It is also important for Juniors to take note of our new “special topics mini-courses” being offered next Fall. They are listed as SW 630, 631, 632, and 633. These courses will take the place of SW 611: Case Management, which is no longer available. Each of the mini-courses lasts for ½ of the semester, counts for 1.5 credits, and will be taught twice. Students must take 2 different courses (one for the first half of the semester and one for the second half) to complete the required 3 credit hours. As you look at the line numbers on the course listing, you will note (under section notes) that the first section listed is for the first ½ of the semester, and that the second section is for the second half of the semester. It is possible for students to sign up for a Monday mini-topics course for the first half of the semester, and a Wednesday mini-topics course for the second half. Please take this into account when designing your schedule.

As you head into advising, I want to remind you that advisors are there to assist you in a variety of ways. They can help you plan your schedule, be sure that you are on track for graduation and entry into field placement, and think about your professional development. They can also give advice about time management, handling conflict in the classroom and in placement, and accessing necessary resources on campus and within the School of Social Welfare. Your advisor is there to help you, but you need to ask! So, make the most of your advising.

2+2 = BSW

News from the BSW Completion Program at KCKCC

--Maxine Elmore, MSW

Tell your friends and co-workers about the 2+2 BSW degree completion program in Kansas City. We will be spreading the word at KCKCC, the Edwards campus, and Donnelly College. We are now accepting students for Fall 2006!

- KCKCC Education Fair, Tuesday, April 4, 2006 from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 18, 2006. Prospective Student Information Session to be held at KCKCC from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 pm.
- Saturday, April 22, 2006. Prospective Student Information Session to be held at KU-Edwards Campus from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 26, 2006. Donnelly College Education Fair 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
Welcome back! I hope that you have a relaxing spring break!

There is a new look to the Social Welfare ARTS Form so check it out. We are still working on getting the courses to fill in correctly, but it will happen.

All newly admitted students have been assigned Academic Advisors. Emails were sent out over spring break but if you missed yours you can check the list outside of my office. Advising is underway and you should be making appointments with your advisor now.

Pre-social work group advising started this week with a first meeting on March 29th. There are still two meeting times available. They are Thursday, April 6th and Friday, April 7th. Both dates are in Room 208 of Twente Hall and start at 10am. To sign up please email me at vmignot@ku.edu. If you are planning to apply to the BSW Program for fall 2006 then you will need to submit your application materials by June 1, 2006.

BSW Students: Advising is here. If you haven’t signed up yet for an appointment, then you need to do so ASAP. 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.

Seniors: If you haven’t already, you need to go to the Bookstore at the Kansas Union to get your cap and gown. Graduation will be here before you know it. 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!

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”.

Greetings from the BSW Student Group! We are quite busy planning our Spring Fundraiser. The event, which will benefit Headquarters Counseling Center, will be held April 29th at South Park from 8:00am until 2:00pm and will feature family activities and a rummage sale. We are anticipating a great, fun-filled day interacting with our community!

We are also looking forward to our Kansas City Service Project, a clean up day at Rosedale Park with the help of the Rosedale Community Project. The clean up day is this Saturday, April 1st, and the Lawrence students are meeting at the Union parking garage at 9:00am to carpool and/or caravan. KCKCC students will meet us there. If you have questions or would like more information about either event, e-mail us at bsw@ku.edu. So far, this has been a great semester, and we are really looking forward to making it even better!

Social Work students spend Spring Break working hard for others
--Lori Messinger, PhD

While some students are using Spring Break to have a little “fun-in-the-sun” or catch up on their schoolwork, others are working to make a difference in communities across the United States and abroad. More than 10 pre-social work and social work students have joined work teams in New Orleans, Mississippi, and Mexico. These are their stories...

Danielle Firsching (‘06)

For spring break this year, I went to New Orleans, Louisiana through Campus Crusade for Christ with about 120 other KU students. I wouldn’t have done anything else. It was an amazing experience. We stayed in a warehouse in the 9th ward. There were students from all over the country. There were about 1,300 students total. And that was just one week. About 5,000 other students were there weeks prior to and after the week we were there. We were split up into teams of about 8-12 people and sent to do jobs that needed to be done. Most of the jobs were gutting houses. I was surprised that almost seven months later, there are houses that haven’t even been touched. The experience was heartbreaking and amazing at the same time. Many people are uninsured and the destruction is so great that it will be many years before things are back to the way they were. It is still chaos. One of our groups found a body in the neighborhood right by where the levee broke. I cannot express how much people are still hurting from Hurricane Katrina. At the same time, it was amazing because we really did make a difference. In just the week we were there, about 500-700 houses were gutted. People were so grateful. I could go on forever about the experience I and many others had. We learned so much and built relationships. I can only hope I will be able to return to do more work.

(continued on next page)
Jebel Wilson (’08)

I volunteered with a group of five other students differing in age from freshmen to senior for twelve hours in Pecos, New Mexico. All six of us KU students joined up with a Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew and for three days we helped the crew build a barbed wire fence for the National Park Services. All of the crew members (ranging in age from 17 to 21) were participating in the program as one of their parole options after having been in jail. The experience was amazing. The crew at Pecos, the volunteer group I came with, and the beautiful scenery of the New Mexico mountains made the first three days perfect.

On Thursday and Friday, we left the fence building crew and traveled to Taos, New Mexico where we would be working with other crews that were put together by a joint effort of AmeriCorps and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. These crews worked in the schools of Taos that were in desperate need of outside assistance. My volunteer group split up and observed and assisted the AmeriCorps group that worked one on one with the teachers and students everyday, helping with prevention and outreach programs. When class was dismissed, our volunteer group assisted a few Rocky Mountain high schoolers who tutored elementary school children each afternoon. All in all, the break was fabulous. I traveled with five other KU students I had not known before and volunteered in a place I had never been. Everything was new and exciting, and definitely worth giving up a spring break for!

Derick Farmer (’07)

I went on an Alternative Spring Break to Washington D.C. to work with National Coalition for the Homeless. For the first three days we worked at various organizations in Washington D.C. that provide services to the homeless and low-income population. We worked a lot with the SOME (So Others Might Eat) organization. Within the SOME organization, there are a variety of different programs, each with a different purpose. One day we worked at their Center for Employment Training (CET). We helped students of CET with anything from Microsoft word and Excel to math, reading, and science. The next day we worked at SOME’s Jordan House. Jordan House provides a safe environment where clients can stay after completing the substance abuse treatment program. There we helped out by doing painting and general landscaping for the house. The next day we worked at DC Central Kitchen. This Kitchen cooks meals for 4,000+ people all around Washington every day. They are given food from restaurants all over Washington. They then take it and prepare well-balanced, nutritional meals. Those meals are then delivered to the various places throughout Washington D.C. that serve meals to the clients. The last couple of days, we participated in a 48 hour Urban Plunge that was organized by the National Coalition for the Homeless. We dressed up very warmly, and then we hit the streets. We had nothing except the clothes on our backs and anything we could carry. We had a variety of tasks, like panhandling for money, going into hotels and restaurants to use the restroom, and seeing how the general public reacted to us while we were in public places. I really enjoyed this trip. It provided me with some insights that I would never obtain in class. For anyone who hasn't participated in an Alternative Break, I would recommend it highly.

Lori Fuqua (’06)

In recent months here in Kansas there has been a strong anti-immigrant sentiment. This has been shown through the recent efforts of Representative Becky Hutchins of Holton Kansas and her dogged determination to try and repeal the immigrant in-state tuition act. Other immigration legislation in the house this session includes a bill that would allow undocumented immigrants to get a drivers license. In following these bills, I’ve seen the debate turn ugly. Editorials in newspapers statewide written by community members have been referring to derogatory racial stereotypes. The immigration issue is a hot topic nationwide as well; right now, our federal government has several bills being heavily debated. I found an alternative spring break trip that felt was very fitting for the intensifying political climate. It was the opportunity to go to El Paso, TX, which is a city along the Mexico-U.S. border. This was an alternative spring break trip that was focused on putting names and faces to the undocumented immigrant issues. As social workers, we need to learn about and try to understand our clients’ situations. With the undocumented immigrant number on the rise in Kansas, it is highly likely that most of us will end up working with this population at one time or another.

Our spring break group stayed in Juarez, Mexico which is the border town on the other side of El Paso. Our evenings were spent in Mexico and then one morning was spent visiting with a woman in the community about her work in the maquiladoras (foreign-owned assembly plants in Mexico). Most of our days were spent in El Paso. We visited the two main agencies that work with the undocumented immigrant population by providing shelter, food, and clothing; Annunciation House and Casa Vides. These agencies are run solely by private donations. They could not survive if it were not for the support of their community. I heard personal narratives of crossing the border and detailed accounts of the sacrifices each person makes in order to cross. Our group also met with the other side, the Federal Border Patrol who prides itself on making “American cities safer” by keeping out the “illegal aliens”. On our final day, we met with a government agency of Chihuahua that works specifically with women and deals with issues such as domestic violence, sexual education, and sexual harassment.
Social Work Cultural Diversity Brown Bag Series
University of Kansas Campus, Kansas Union
Time: 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Monday, April 3rd
Bethany Roberts
Immigrant Rights to Social Services
Location: Alderson

Wednesday, April 5th
Cindy Treaste
Communicating Effectively Through an Interpreter
Location: Alderson

Monday, April 10th
Woochan Shim
Working with Korean Americans, Domestic Violence Survivors in Particular
Location: Alderson

Wednesday, April 19th
Deyavanni Chandran
Social Work Practice with Asian Immigrants in the U.S.
Location: Alderson

Monday, April 24th
Michael Yellow Bird
Social work practice with First Nations People
Location: Centennial
## Events Calendar

### MARCH

**27th - April 14**

Advising

**29th**

Pre-Social Work Group Advising Session
10 am - 12 pm, 208 Twente Hall

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

**1st**

Rosedale Community Service Project
10am-12pm, Rosedale Park, KCK

**3rd**

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

**5th**

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

**6th**

Pre-Social Work Group Advising Session
10 am - 12 pm, 208 Twente Hall

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

**10th**

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

**14th**

Pre-Social Work Group Advising Session
10 am - 12 pm, 208 Twente Hall

**19th**

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

**21st**

Social Work Day, 8 am-4 pm

**24th**

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

**26th**

Practicums end

**27th**

Recognition/Donor Reception

**28th**

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

**29th**

Family Fun Fair and Rummage Sale
South Park, 1100 Massachusetts St.