Welcome to the 2007-2008 academic year in the KU School of Social Welfare. The BSW Program is very excited for the new students who have been admitted, those who are enrolled in junior-level courses, and those seniors on the Lawrence and KCKCC campuses who are starting their field practica! You are learning to be part of an exciting and vital profession—one where you can make a difference in someone’s life.

Last year, the KU School of Social Welfare had to get our mission down to one (short) sentence—one sentence that explained why it was important to have a social work program here at KU. After a lot of work, here is what it came down to: KU School of Social Welfare... because people deserve lives with dignity.

When people ask you why you decided to enroll in this major, you tell them:

- Because what we do makes a difference in people’s lives.
- Because we help everyone, no matter what their race, culture, national origin, level of mental or physical ability, sexual orientation, gender, financial status, citizen status, criminal history, health status… no matter who they are.
- Because we gain the skills that allow us to think critically, see and negotiate differences, work for social and economic justice, and help people to identify and use their strengths.
- Because I know I can work in many different institutional and community settings and help people find connections between them.
- Because life can be hard, and people—especially vulnerable people—deserve help negotiating hardships.
- Because we envision a more just future.

Of course, you can also mention that we have great teachers, wonderful students, helpful staff, active student organizations, and a curriculum that prepares you for a fantastic career!

Be sure to read through the newsletter and note the important dates coming up! There are many events happening in the next few months: Come to as many as you are able.
Welcome back! For all the new students, I am Vicki Mignot and my office is located in Room 107 of Twente Hall. I work in Student Services for the School of Social Welfare and can help you with a variety of things from pre-social work advising to graduation from the BSW program. Feel free to stop by and say hi sometime.

**Pre-Social Welfare students:** The next review date for BSW applications is October 1, 2007. You can find the application form on our website [http://www.socwel.ku.edu/Admissions/BSW/downloadapp.shtml](http://www.socwel.ku.edu/Admissions/BSW/downloadapp.shtml) or outside of Room 107 Twente Hall. Students admitted during the October review will begin the social work curriculum in the fall of 2008. If you have questions about the application process, feel free to email me or Lori Messinger.

Also, pre-social work advising is just around the corner, beginning after fall break. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for information regarding dates, times and locations.

**BSW Students:** Take a moment to check your enrollment for any errors. The following refers to classes you should be taking if you are beginning the social work degree courses in fall 2007. For BSW juniors you should be taking SW 530, SW 540, and SW 555 as well as SW 220 if you haven’t already taken it. For BSW seniors you should be taking SW 601, SW 610, SW 620, and two of the following (SW 630, SW 631, SW 632, SW 633). If you find errors in your enrollment or have questions you should contact your advisor or me as soon as possible.

Advising is just around the corner. Faculty advisors will be taking appointments after fall break for a period lasting between two and three weeks. It’s not too early to begin thinking about your schedule for spring 2008. 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 Room 107 Twente Hall if you need to check it. You MUST meet with your advisor before you will be allowed to enroll in spring 2008 courses.

**BSW Juniors:** Welcome to the School of Social Welfare. I hope that you have a great first semester. I encourage you to get involved with the student group early and get to know your advisor, school faculty, and course instructors. If you have any questions do not hesitate to come see me.

**BSW Seniors:** Now is the time to start checking your ARTS Form to make sure that you are on track to graduate in May. A GPA of 2.50 in both overall and social work is required to graduate. If you find your self on the borderline of this requirement talk to your faculty advisor immediately. As you know, 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. The General Education list can be found at [http://www.socwel.ku.edu/Academics/BSW/bswgen.shtml](http://www.socwel.ku.edu/Academics/BSW/bswgen.shtml) or in hardcopy outside of Room 107 Twente hall. We all know that at times the ARTS Form can have a hiccup and so if you have questions about your credit hours or requirements you can check with your advisor or me. Further, if you have credit hours outside of KU you need to have those transferred sooner rather than later. A general rule to follow is that until a course is showing on your KU record you haven’t taken it. Stay on top of transfer credit until you see it on your ARTS Form. Lastly, speaking of transfer credit, I strongly encourage you to **NOT** take transfer credit that you need for graduation in your last semester. Because of the time it takes to get transcripts sent to KU and then loaded up it is possible that your graduation could be delayed by a semester.

To all, have a great semester.
Lawrence BSW Student Group
-Kate Jayne

Hello! My name is Kate Jayne and I am one of the Co-Presidents of the Bachelor of Social Welfare Student group along with Leaht Rebecca Traube Feldman. Leaht and I are both seniors in the BSW program at the Lawrence campus.

We hope you attended our first meeting on Monday August 27 at 6 pm in the Student Union at Alcove G. If you were unable to make the first meeting, our next meeting will be September 4, at 6pm in Alcove C. Upcoming meetings, perhaps with a 7 or 8 o’clock time slot, will be posted on the our Facebook group site, as well as in class notices and e-mails to be sent out reminding you of these dates/times.

The BSW Student group generally works on two larger benefits throughout the school year, as well as various service projects helping groups such as the homeless population of Lawrence, children in need, and the Douglas County AIDS project. We love to hear new philanthropic ideas from all members of the BSW Student group and encourage active participation from all who wish to become involved and help others! We also hope to work with students from the Kansas City campus in order to combine ideas for the greater benefit of all students and populations being helped.

Beyond helping others, the BSW Student group is an excellent way to meet new people and have a great time! Hope to see you all there and have a fabulous year!

KCKCC BSW Student Group
-Mike Fletcher

The KU BSW @ KCKCC Student Group would like to wish all of the seniors good luck in starting their practica. We hope all goes well for you and if you need any assistance from us, please contact us. Also, while at your practicum sites, keep in mind volunteer opportunities with which the Student Group can get involved.

The Student Group is very excited to have a Meet & Greet Picnic at the Edwards Campus on September 9th. All BSW juniors and seniors are invited to come. Please bring a snack, your family, and some games. The picnic will begin at 3:00 and end around 5:00. Come early and stay late!! Look for the flyer coming to your KCKCC classes soon.

The Student Group had a great meeting with Lori Messinger and Mary Ryan regarding Edwards Campus Fees and Tuition concerns that were brought up last semester. The Student Group is a great way to communicate to the staff and faculty as a group. Please contact Mikey at mikey141414@gmail.com with any concerns or comments you may have.

Pre-Social Work Group Advising

ATTENTION PRE-SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS!!! Pre-Social Work advising on the Lawrence campus is just around the corner, beginning right after Fall Break. Group advising dates are as follows:

Tuesday, October 16, 12:00-2:00 pm
Wednesday, October 24, 9:00-11:00 am
Friday, November 2, 1:00-3:00 pm

All sessions will be held in room 208 of Twente. While drop-ins are always welcome, it is helpful if you notify us ahead of time to let us know that you’re coming – this allows us more time to prepare. To sign up, simply send an email to vmignot@ku.edu several days prior to the advising session. Finally, you do not need to attend for the full two hours; whatever time you have available will work for us!
Notes from the Field Education Office

Fall greetings from the Field Education Office! Many of you have now entered practicum, and we hope that you are adjusting well! It’s normal to feel nervous! Please remember to err on the side of communicating! If you are struggling with something, please talk to your Field Instructor and Field Liaison about it. Remember, nothing can be done about something unless folks know about it.

Please take note of the following dates:
Sept 28, 2007 Initial Learning Contracts sent to Liaisons for review and feedback.
Oct 26, 2007 Student Progress Reports and writing samples sent to Liaisons for review and feedback.

Please feel free to contact the Field Office with any questions at practicum@ku.edu or 864-2268.

STUDY ABROAD IN SOCIAL WELFARE

India

Students who went on this first-time study abroad experience in India learned first-hand the social, economic, and political currents that impact the welfare system in India. Four undergraduate and four graduate students from different disciplines participated in the trip.

Led by Social Work Professor Mahasweta Banerjee, the one-month program was based in Kolkata (Calcutta), India with excursions to Darjeeling, Puri, and Bolpur. Students visited the Botanical Gardens, Tibetan Handicraft Village, a tribal village, a beach resort, and more.

Costa Rica Memoir

- Maggie Kelly

Translation: Pure Life. This is Costa Rica’s tagline, which we lived by daily. Every day was jammed pack with education, excitement, and beauty. We had the opportunity to visit over ten different agencies. Some of the agencies included the San Jose public hospital, the psychiatric hospital, three different foster care agencies, and four different schools. At each agency we would listen to a lecture, and then take a tour. The program is extremely flexible; different agencies can be visited, depending on what the groups interests are. The University of Kansas has built such a strong relationship with the social workers at the University of Costa Rica.

Not only were we able to see some poverty stricken areas, but we also made time for some touristy stuff. We took a cruise ship to Tortuga Island, where we spent a day on the beach. Some of the highlights included white water rafting, zip lining through the rainforest, hiking to La Paz Waterfall and Poas Volcano, an afternoon at the hot springs, and snorkeling. This experience not only opened my eyes to social welfare on an international level, but also inspired me to continue my career path as a social worker.

Left: Students and faculty at the departure dinner at Jalisco’s Mexican Restaurant in Costa Rica.
HEAR JUDY SHEPARD SPEAK

Join Judy Shepard and others as they raise funds for the Kansas City Anti-Violence Project and the Matthew Shepard Foundation

Judy joins Kansas City Star columnist Bill Tammeus and local civil rights advocates to discuss hate crimes in America and the importance of the Matthew Shepard Act, which would provide protection from discriminatory crimes.

September 6, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Pierson Auditorium at UMKC
University of Missouri-Kansas City
50th & Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110
Free and open to the public

MARGARET SCHUTZ GORDON LECTURE & WORKSHOP

“Ambivalence Begins at Home: Social Work’s Reluctant Relationship with Addiction”
Tom Gregoire, Ph.D. Associate Dean

Friday, September 21, 2007
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

Tom Gregoire graduated from KU SSW with both his MSW and Ph.D. degrees. His area of interest has consistently been in substance abuse, first as a practitioner and then as a social work scholar. Tom joined the faculty of The Ohio State University upon his graduation from KU, and he is currently the Associate Dean in the School of Social Work.

BSW ALUMNI BOOK READING & RECEPTION

On October 17, BSW graduate and noted author Laura Moriaty will be reading from her new book, “The Rest of Her Life” (Hyperion 2007.) The reading will take place at 7:00 pm at Oread Bookstore.

It will be followed by a dessert reception in the room of the reading area. As with Laura’s other book, “The Center of Everything,” this book also takes place in small, university town in Kansas. Laura has always been grateful for the support she has received from the school, and has been a great ambassador for the School and KU in her nationwide tours promoting the books.

We hope to see you there!
Please consider presenting a poster at the 25th Annual BPD Conference. The topic should be about the history of baccalaureate social work education, the history of his/her individual BSW program, or a biography of a local, national, and/or international leader and humanitarian in social work.

Proposals will only be accepted from students who are in a BSW program at the time of the conference.

**Submission process:**

Please submit 2 separate attachments in Word format to bpdconference@cswe.org no later than October 15, 2007.

- Attachment #1: Please submit the cover page (provided on the next page of this newsletter.)
- Attachment #2: Proposal (no identifying information)
  - Title of the Presentation (Limit to 12 words)
  - Keywords (limit to 3 words)
  - Abstract (Limit to 50 words)
  - Proposal/Essay (Limit to 500 words, excluding references)

**What is a poster session?**

The student poster session will be approximately 90 minutes in length. There will be no audio/visual equipment available for these sessions. Poster boards will be provided to display your work and are 4 feet tall by 8 feet wide. Poster presentations (whether laminated or printed) must be no more than 3.5’ x 7.5’ in order to fit on the poster boards. Only push pins or thumb tacks may be used to affix poster presentations to the boards which we will provide. We ask that you not use tape or Velcro as it may damage the boards.
In May 2007, BSW Co-Presidents Nina Mosallaei (far left) and Alana Kramer present a check for almost $500 to Loring Henderson, Director of the Lawrence Community Shelter as a board member looks on. The BSW Student Group raised the funds at an event last spring.

In June, four students from the KCKCC 2+2 Program—Saundra Brewer, Angelic Vasquez, Angela Walsh, and Kim Keith—attended a Kansas City rally in support of low-income workers. The rally was called “Janitors for Justice.”

BSW students raise money

In May 2007, BSW Co-Presidents Nina Mosallaei (far left) and Alana Kramer present a check for almost $500 to Loring Henderson, Director of the Lawrence Community Shelter as a board member looks on. The BSW Student Group raised the funds at an event last spring.

BSW students raise their voices

In June, four students from the KCKCC 2+2 Program—Saundra Brewer, Angelic Vasquez, Angela Walsh, and Kim Keith—attended a Kansas City rally in support of low-income workers. The rally was called “Janitors for Justice.”

VOLUNTEER FOR BEST BUDDIES

Best Buddies is an international program where students are matched up one-on-one with individuals with developmental disabilities. The buddies range in age from 14 to 40, although most buddies are at the high school level. The great thing about this program is the flexibility. We encourage you to meet with your buddy for one hour every two weeks. This is on your own time, between you and your buddy. We also have group events once a month. Some of the events include, KU Basketball games, World’s of Fun, Plaza Lights, Karaoke, Royal’s games, bowling, and many more.

An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 5th at 8pm in the Kansas Union, Big 12 Room.
Events Calendar

September
3rd
Labor Day, no classes

4th
Lawrence BSW Student Group Meeting
6:00 p.m., Alcove C of the KS Union

6th
Kansas City Anti-Violence Project Fundraiser
7:30 p.m., Grant Hall – UMKC

9th
KCKCC Student Group Meet & Greet
3:00 p.m., Edwards Campus

12th
Study Abroad Fair
9:30 am – 3:30 pm, 4th Floor of Kansas Union

21st
Margaret Schutz Gordon Lecture & Workshop
9 a.m., Woodruff Auditorium (KS Union)

October
11-14th
Lawrence campus Fall Break

16th
Pre-SW Group Advising

17th
Laura Moriaty book reading
7:00 p.m., Oread Bookstore

24th
Pre-SW Group Advising

27-30th
Council on Social Work Education Conference
San Francisco, CA

November
2nd
Pre-SW Group Advising

16th
Social Welfare Career Fair

21-25th
Thanksgiving Break, no classes

30th
“Connecting Class & Field”
Edwards Campus

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.