Fall break. Mid-terms. Advising. October brings a lot of activities. Hopefully you can make the most of all of them, like the good social workers you are!

Even though Fall break is just a four day weekend, it offers several opportunities: to get caught up on work, to make plans to visit family and friends outside Lawrence, or to just enjoy a little rest and relaxation. Do whatever feeds you and meets your needs. Remember, good social workers invest in self-care!

Many students have mid-term exams, papers, and projects due in the next few weeks. Be sure to plan ahead, so you can use your time effectively. Remember, good social workers know how to leverage their resources to accomplish their goals!

And for you seniors: don’t forget that you will soon be switching from your first to your second mini-course. While these courses may be quick, we hope they provide you with an introduction and overview of important areas of practice knowledge. Remember, good social workers seize opportunities to learn wherever they present themselves!

In the regular semester-length courses, your instructors will be asking you for mid-semester feedback. Take your time and answer the questions as honestly and thoroughly as you can. We instructors need your feedback to make the courses as effective as possible. Remember, good social workers speak out, using the systems and processes in place to obtain what they need!

During the advising and enrollment period, students will be deciding which classes they will take next semester. Seniors will be thinking ahead about which graduate schools they want to apply to or whether they would rather gain some work experience instead. If you don’t want to get a long-term job after graduation, consider VISTA and AmeriCorps positions. You can learn while you earn a salary and money to either pay off loan debt or apply to graduate education. Talk about these opportunities with your advisor. Remember, good social workers evaluate all the options as they make plans!

If you are thinking about applying to KU’s MSW program, consider attending the MSW Program Information Sessions on the Lawrence or KCKCC campuses (see page 5). Becky Hofer will help you understand the application process and the requirements for admission to advanced standing. Remember, good social workers get all the facts!

I wish you all the best in this mid-term season.
News and Information from Vicki

Pre-Social Welfare students: The next review date for BSW applications is October 1, 2007. We expect to have all applications reviewed and notification letters sent out by the first or second week of November. 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.

Pre-Social Work Group Advising sessions have been set. The dates are Tuesday October 16th from noon-2pm, Wednesday October 24th from 9-11am, and Friday November 2nd from 1-3pm. All group advising sessions will take place in Room 208 of Twente Hall. There is a sign-up sheet on my office door (Room 107 Twente Hall). You can sign up for one of the above sessions or you are welcome to walk in on any of the sessions. The advantage to signing up ahead of time is that we can have individual academic evaluations done for you ahead of time. Come to group advising with a current ARTS Form, a tentative schedule for spring 2008, and a list of any questions that you have.

BSW Students: Advising is just around the corner--immediately after fall break to be exact. Advising will run from Monday, October 15th through Friday, November 2nd. Faculty advisors will soon have sign-up sheets available on their office doors. 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. Prior to your advising appointment, you should put together a tentative schedule for Spring 2008. The items that you should take to your advising appointment are your current ARTS Form, a tentative schedule, and a list of any questions that you have for your advisor. You will have a SW Advising Hold on your record, and you must meet with your advisor prior to that hold being removed.

BSW Juniors: This would be a good time to verify that all transfer work has been sent to KU. As you start preparing for your senior year in the BSW program, it is extremely important that all coursework taken outside of KU is transferred and shows on your ARTS Form. Additionally you will want to make sure that the academic plan in your student file is up to date. You are required to have all general education required and elective hours completed prior to entering your senior level social work courses and the field placement.

BSW Seniors: I have finally completed my first graduation check. Some of you have gotten emails regarding missing coursework/credit hours on your ARTS Form. I want to thank all of you for being so patient with all of my questions and also your prompt responses to those questions. Your advisors will be following up with my graduation checks during your advising session and I will be going through your ARTS Forms again in early January. When reviewing your own ARTS Form, keep these three requirements in mind:

1) 2.50 Overall and Social Work GPA,
2) course requirements, and
3) 124 minimum credit hours.

We all know that at times the ARTS Form can have a hiccup and so, if you have questions about your credit hours or your requirements or your GPA, you can check with your advisor or me. Further, if you have credit hours outside of KU, you need to have those transferred sooner 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 NOT to 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.

It is NEVER too early to sign up for advising!
Appointments begin right after Fall Break– check the advisor list and begin thinking about Spring 2008 courses!!
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.

If you are struggling with something, please talk to your Field Instructor and Field Liaison about it. Please remember to err on the side of communicating. Remember, nothing can be done about something unless folks know about it. Please feel free to contact the Field Office with any questions at practicum@ku.edu or 864-2268.

REMINDERS:
Oct 26, 2007  Student Progress Reports and writing samples sent to Liaisons for review and feedback.

Your Field Liaison is required to make (2) agency visits during the academic year: one during the Fall semester, and one in the Spring. If you haven’t already, you will be hearing from your Liaison soon regarding an agency visit. Please be prepared to make the best of this agency visit! This is a great time to orient your Liaison to the agency, to show him/her what you are doing in practicum, and to discuss what is going really well and where you may want to see improvements.

If you are having any struggles with your practicum experience, we encourage you to begin dialogue now with both your Field Instructor and your Field Liaison. Remember, nothing can be done to improve your experience if people don’t know you are struggling with something.

Field Instruction should be occurring weekly for 1 - 1 ½ hours. If this is not happening, please discuss this with your Field Instructor and Liaison during the Fall agency visit. Below is a list of some of the questions that might be helpful to discuss during the agency visit.

ABOUT PRACTICUM
- Do you feel that you have been adequately oriented to the agency, its programs, and staff?
- Do you have a clear understanding of your role in the agency, and the tasks/activities assigned to you?
- Have you reviewed an agency safety plan? (cell phone access; reporting student whereabouts; entering/exiting the building at certain times; crisis response within the agency and exit strategies; expectations in home visits etc)
- Is the Learning Contract in a form that is useful to you and your field instructor? Do you have any questions about the Learning Contract?
- What are you finding most challenging in the practicum so far?
- What are you finding most helpful or enjoyable in the practicum so far?
- What would you like to see yourself do more of? Why?
- What would you like to see yourself do less of? Why?
- What can be done to improve your practicum experience?
- What methods will you use for reflecting on your practicum learning? (journal, process recording, video, tape etc) Will this be your reflective writing sample?
- What experiences do you believe will provide you with the greatest skill development?
- What do you need from the agency to help improve the practicum?
- What do you need to do to help improve the practicum?
- What do you need from KU/Field Liaison to help improve the practicum?

ABOUT FIELD INSTRUCTION
- What is your relationship with the Field Instructor? Areas of strength? Areas for improvement?
- When do you meet for Field Instruction?
- Are you receiving 1-1 ½ hours of face to face Field Instruction each week?
- What do you need from the Field Instructor or Agency to help improve Field Instruction?
- What do you need from KU/Field Liaison to help improve Field Instruction?
- Have you and your field instructor completed the learning styles inventory in the Field Education Handbook? (not required, but often very helpful)
- Have you shared your class syllabi with your field instructor?

KU POLICY ON AGENCIES HIRING PRACTICUM STUDENTS
No student will be allowed to take a job in the agency where they are doing their practicum until April. However, agencies CAN a) offer a student a stipend for their work as a student; b) hire them beginning in April; c) opt to hire the student prior to the beginning of practicum in which case we would work with the student on another placement. However, once practicum begins, hiring is not negotiable.
Come to the Lawrence Student Group meeting on October 8 at the Kansas Union, Alcove E at 7:30 pm.

Lawrence BSW Student Group
-Kate Jayne

At our last meeting for the BSW student Group, we discussed agencies that we would like to choose for this year’s fall benefit. As a group, we decided that Women’s Transitional Care Service (WTCS) would be an excellent candidate. WTCS provides a safe house for women and children who must leave their homes because they fear for their safety. They also provide a 24-hour crisis line and support groups for women. The date for the benefit is currently being decided, but it will be in the month of November.

We also are planning to volunteer at the Lawrence Community Shelter. We hope to donate and serve a meal at the center. In addition to volunteering in Lawrence, we are considering projects to volunteer on an international level.

If you would like to purchase a BSW t-shirt, we currently have Large, Extra Large, and Extra Extra Large sizes. If you would like to purchase one, please e-mail us at bsw@ku.edu.

Our next meeting will be on 10/8/07 at the Kansas Union at 7:30pm. We look forward to seeing all of you there!! For any further questions, please email Leaht Feldman at eaht@ku.edu.

KCKCC BSW Student Group
-Mike Fletcher

The BSW Student Group at KCKCC would like to thank the faculty and staff of the Social Welfare department for their ongoing support of our group. Thanks to Mary Ryan of the Edward’s Campus, we were able to have a meet and greet picnic outside with snacks and refreshments. Fun was had by all. Hopefully those who were not able to come will have an opportunity to attend future events. It was great to get to chat about practica and socialize with the administrators. Thanks to all.

Well, practica are in full swing! We hope that everyone is enjoying their placements and learning a lot. If anyone would like to utilize the student group in any way, please contact Mikey Fletcher at 913-963-3999. We have set our sights on some new programs and events; if anyone would like to participate, please contact us. Leadership opportunities are still available to Juniors as well as Seniors. If you are interested in flexing your leadership and advocacy muscles, contact Mikey Fletcher at mikey141414@gmail.com. Continue enjoying the semester and we will see you around campus!!

The KCKCC BSW Student Group holds meetings on an as-needed basis. Meetings are announced on the list-serve. To join the list-serve, email Mikey at mikey141414@gmail.com

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 208 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 or add your name to the sign-up sheets outside of 107 Twente. Finally, you do not need to attend for the full two hours; advising usually takes 15-25 minutes.
BSW STUDENTS

Are you planning to apply to the MSW program?

Would you like insight into the application process?

If so, attend a wonderful workshop featuring our own

Becky Hofer, Director of MSW Admissions

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Get answers to all your questions (and then some)

about applying to KU’s fabulous MSW program.
Undergraduate Research Experience Program

Pre-social work and social work majors: Are you considering pursuing an undergraduate research experience? Want to know how participating in the program might benefit you?

Check out one student’s view of the Research Experience Program below. Ariel Ludwig is a 2007 BSW Graduate who did an independent research project last year and presented his findings to social work faculty, students, and staff. For his effort, Ariel received the REP certification on his KU transcript.

If you are interested in pursuing the program, contact Ariana Wall at arianaw@ku.edu.

ONE STUDENT’S VIEW OF THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

--Ariel Ludwig

The research I conducted for the Research Experiences Program gave me the insight and competence to confidently provide direct services in the field of social work. Ultimately, I strongly believe that research reduces the uncertainty between micro and macro perception as well as the divide between direct and administrative practice.

It was an experience that benefited not only myself but my résumé, as well. I received interest from several job interviewers who saw that there was a research honor on my résumé. Altogether, it opened up employment opportunities.

This experience enhanced my skills in statistics, presentation design and presenting, developing spreadsheets, scrutinizing research, and creating graphs and tables in a mixture of software programs. The program was best for me when I put all of my efforts forward. This program is a great foundation for students with a high interest in research studies, or for any student interested in expanding their knowledge in a particular field or population.

BSW Alumni Book Reading & Reception

On October 17, BSW graduate and noted author Laura Moriarty 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!
We Need Your Old Shoes!

Cleaning out your closets?
The KCKPD Victim Services Unit is looking for used shoes!
We are creating a display for Domestic Violence Month called

“Every Sole Has a Story”

We need men’s, women’s or children’s shoes (new or used!)! Our goal is to display 1,500 pairs of shoes to reflect the 1,500 victims served by our unit in 2006.

Deadline is October 5th

The display will be set up October 12th from 10a-2p
City Hall Lobby Level Plaza
701 N. 7th Street
(hotdog lunch will be available for a $3 donation with all proceeds going to local Domestic Violence agencies)

Donations can be dropped off at:
Victim Services Unit, City Hall, 5th floor, room 510
Police Headquarters –ask for Rebecca Rodriguez-Pena
Community Policing, Lower Level of Indian Springs

For questions call
Victim Services Unit
573-5616
(all shoes will be donated to local homeless shelters afterward)
25th Annual Conference of the
Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Inc.
(BPD)
March 5-9, 2008

Students may apply to do a poster session* or may simply attend.
Registration rates: $75/without meals, $175/with meals

For more information, see www.bpdonline.org

Twenty-Five Years of BPD:
Honoring our Past, Celebrating our Present, Affirming our Future

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.
Multicultural Scholars attend 2007 Margaret Schutz Gordon lecture

Multicultural Scholars in Social Work (MSP-SW) pose for the camera as faculty members and the Dean speak with presenter Dr. Tom Gregoire at the 2007 Margaret Schutz Gordon lecture. (From left: Stephanie Bray, Yeon Kim, Amy Lindgren, Jennifer Berends, Antwan Winkfield, Katie Self, Alecia Williams, and Brittany Ersery.)

MSP-SW Scholar Stephanie Tracy speaks with instructor Vicki Amett, while MSP-SW Scholar Abbey Estes smiles for the camera with her coffee.

The mission of the Multicultural Scholars Program in Social Work is to increase retention and academic performance of social work students of color, students with severe financial need, and first generation college students, with a special interest in transfer students from Haskell Indian Nations University and community colleges throughout Kansas. The MSP-SW student scholars are provided with scholarships, skills development opportunities, leadership training, mentoring by Social Work faculty, field trip opportunities, shadowing experiences with social work professionals, and related professional and social activities. Student Scholars also meet as a group and provide peer support for one another as they progress in their academic studies. Find out more online at http://www.socwel.ku.edu/Academics/BSW/finmsp.shtml.
Events Calendar

**October**
8th     Lawrence BSW Student Group meeting  
        Kansas Union Alcove E, 7:30 pm  
4th     Deadline for Shoe Donations  
8th and 11th  MSW Program Info Session  
11:00 - 11:30 am, Fraser 117  
11-14th  Lawrence campus Fall Break  
15th    Deadline for BPD Poster Contest Submission  
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

**December**
7th     Stop Day, no classes  
10-14th  Finals Week  
Holiday Break until January 17th

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**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.