I have just returned from the national meeting of the Council on Social Work Education. Tired but glad to have been in the company of other social work educators, I came home thinking a lot about the role of social justice in our profession.

As some of you may know, George Will and the National Academy of Scholars have criticized social work as a field where students are indoctrinated in leftist political beliefs and values. (If you haven’t heard, feel free to check it out at http://www.nas.org/print/pressreleases/hqnas/releas_11sep07.htm.)

In large part, their criticism rests in social work education’s commitment to preparing students to advocate for social and economic justice. They think we social workers are just a bunch of do-gooders, and we should be satisfied in providing therapy, advice, and financial support to people in need.

What they fail to recognize, and what social workers understand, is that we can’t just work on an individual level. We can’t say that we respect human dignity and not work to create a society that also respects human dignity. We can’t say that we respect client self-determination and not fight to expand access to opportunities for people in need.

Now, social workers can and do disagree about what constitutes a social problem, which problems are most pressing, what solutions are best for each problem, and how to work to remediate or eliminate these identified problems. In our courses, we challenge you to consider different perspectives as you review and design interventions. We acknowledge that all interventions have different strengths, limitations, biases, and potentials for success—each of which must be considered. To aid with your ability to analyze these differences, we emphasize critical thinking in all of our classes.

George Will and the NAS also criticize the National Association of Social Workers’ Code of Ethics as being inappropriately weighted towards humanistic values. Yet, the Code is not a statement of articles of faith, such as one might have in a religion, nor is it a list of rules that are set out by members of a club. The Code of Ethics is a set of professional guidelines designed to help us make decisions in ethically and emotionally challenging situations. We agree to abide by the Code of Ethics because they help us live into our profession’s shared values.

That said, social work needs to be a discipline that welcomes everyone who wants to make a difference for people in need. We don’t all have to agree politically about contentious issues such as welfare, abortion, homosexuality, the distribution of public monies to private service organizations, and so on. What we do need to do is respect one another enough to have the challenging discussions we need to have, all while keeping the values of social work in the forefront. If you do not share social work values, you don’t have to be a social worker. There are plenty of other helping professions. Here in social work, we believe in the value of social and economic justice.
News and Information from Vicki

Pre-Social Welfare Students: The October review of applications is complete and decision letters have been mailed out. If you did not make this application review, the next deadline will be February 1, 2008. Students admitted during the February review can begin the social work curriculum in Fall 2008. If you have questions about the application process, please feel free to email me or Lori Messinger.

We have one remaining pre-social work group advising session. It is Friday, November 2nd from 1-3 pm in Room 208 of Twente Hall. There is a sign-up sheet on my office door (107 Twente Hall.) You can sign up or you are welcome to walk in to the session. The advantage to signing up early is that we can have individual academic evaluations done for you. Come to group advising with a current ARTS form, a tentative schedule for Spring 2008 and a list of any questions you have.

BSW Students: Advising is currently going on. If you have not yet met with your advisor, you need to be in contact with them ASAP. Faculty advisors should still have sign-up sheets on their office doors but since advising is winding down, you may need to be in contact with your advisor by phone or email to set up an appointment. An advisor list is posted on the bulletin board outside of 107 Twente Hall if you are unsure about who your advisor is. Prior to your advising appointment, you should put together a tentative schedule for Spring 2008. The items that you should take to your appointment include your tentative schedule, a current ARTS form, your student folder (you can get this from my office immediately before your appointment,) and a list of any questions you might have. You have an enrollment hold on your record; you must meet with your advisor in order to have you hold removed.

BSW Juniors: Now 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 required general education and elective hours completed prior to entering your senior-level social work courses and the field placement.

BSW Seniors: Now is a time that you should be thinking of applying for graduation. This can be done on Enroll & Pay. If you are going to be a May 2008 graduate, you will need to apply for graduation no later than March 1, 2008. Applying for a degree is a cue to the University that you will be graduating and they will put your name in the commencement materials, notify local media in your hometown, and print your diploma.

As this semester comes to a close, make sure that you are requesting transcripts for courses that you took outside of KU. Time is getting short on getting transfer credit in. I will begin the first of the new year with a final graduation check and you want to make sure that all transfer work is showing up on your ARTS form.

Have a fantastic holiday break!!
Notes from the Field Education Office

If you are struggling with something in field placement, please talk to your Field Instructor and Field Liaison about it. Please 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.

ATTN ALL BSW/JUNIORS:
You should have received an email from the Field Education office with instructions to register to attend a small group meeting to discuss practicum planning. Small groups are happening right now. If you have not registered, please do so immediately at http://www.socwel.ku.edu/academics/practicum/PracticumPlanningGroups2007.asp

Small group meetings are scheduled throughout the month of November. Completed practicum planning materials are due no later than December 7.

Join Connie Burke in Discussing Her New Book

When? November 19th at 7 p.m.
Where? Plymouth Congregational Church, 925 Vermont
(enter through the south door of the new building)

Connie Burke will be discussing her new book entitled "Trauma Stewardship: an everyday guide to caring for self while caring for others." Connie is the Executive Director of The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse and will be sharing her wisdom, practical ideas and sense of humor to help all of those working with individuals exposed to trauma to feel better and work smarter. There will be snacks, as well!

See the book’s website at http://www.traumastewardship.com

Loan Forgiveness Program Available to Social Workers

Perkins Loan Forgiveness Program

This program is for social workers working in public or private nonprofit child or family service agencies providing services to high-risk children and families from low-income communities or social workers providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities in public or private nonprofit agencies under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). This program is also available for teachers, nurses, law enforcement professionals.

Recipients of Federal Perkins Loan funds received after July 22, 1992 can qualify for postponement/cancellation of up to 100% of the loan. The cancellation takes place over 5 years. For each year of service completed, the student is entitled to cancellation of the loan at the following rates:

- First and second years of employment: 15% each year
- Third and fourth years of employment: 20% each year
- Fifth year of employment: 30%

For additional information: Check with your college or university financial aid office.
BSW Student Group News

Lawrence BSW Student Group
-Leah Feldman

This month, the Bachelor of Social Welfare Student group has been planning many new and exciting philanthropy events for November!

The silent auction and dance will be held November 29th at Abe & Jake’s. The cost to get in will be $5, but it will be well worth it for all of the food, goodies, drink specials, and music we will have available! Funds raised at our main benefit of the semester will go to the Women’s Transitional Care Service’s Organization (WTCS), benefiting women and children who are getting out of a domestic violence situation. We hope you will come. ALL proceeds go to WTCS, so you will be helping a tremendous cause!

On Saturday, November 10th, the Lawrence BSW student group will be working with the KCK BSW Student group in helping an individual family winterize their house. We will be working with the Rosedale Community Center in Kansas City. The time will be from 9 am until noon that Saturday, and we will have breakfast available. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to join!

Aside from everything mentioned, we are working on more service projects for the upcoming semester. We would LOVE any additional ideas! We will continue holding meetings every other Monday at 7:30 PM in Alcove E of the Student Union, and our next one will be Monday, November 5th.

If making it to the meetings itself is a challenge, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Jayne or Leaht Feldman (Leaht86@ku.edu) with any suggestions or questions you may have. Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

KCKCC BSW Student Group

-Mike Fletcher

The BSW Student Group at KCKCC would like to thank senior Wanda Bross for arranging the towel drive for Restart, an overnight emergency shelter for people who are homeless. Over 70 towels were donated along with flip-flops and other needs for the residents at the shelter. Thanks a lot, Wanda!!

Also, Wanda has organized another event in the KCK area to benefit the Rosedale neighborhood. On November 10th at 9:00 at the Rosedale Development Association office at 1403 Southwest Blvd. Kansas City, KS 66103, we will be working with an elderly family to winterize their home and change the light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescents. No experience necessary.

We hope that everyone will have an opportunity to work with us to improve the communities we serve. If anyone has volunteer opportunities they would like to have the BSW group to help out with, or if you would like any more information about this or other upcoming events, please contact Mikey at 913-963-3999. Thanks, everyone.

We hope everyone is having a good semester!!
PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER FAIR

Thursday, November 1
4:30-7:30 pm
Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics

Several local, state, and federal agencies will be in attendance to share information about their part-time, full-time, internship, and fellowship opportunities, including Larned State Hospital. Larned State Hospital is seeking interns in the fields of the social and medical sciences. The organization offers internships in the following fields:

- Social Work
- Nursing
- Activity Therapy
- Horticulture Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Psychology
- Psychiatry
- Pharmacy

For more information about this exciting event and to view other participating employers, please visit the Public Service Career Fair website at:

http://www2.ku.edu/~ucc/cgi-bin/publicservice.php

SOCIAL WELFARE CAREER CARNIVAL!

Friday, November 16
10 am - 2 pm
Kansas Union Ballroom

Current Students: meet with practicum agencies and potential employers. Resume workshops also available, as well as staff members from the BSW, MSW and PhD programs to answer any questions.

Prospective Students: meet with admissions staff for the BSW, MSW and PhD programs. Network with agency personnel and learn why KU School of Social Welfare is rated as one of the top 10 programs at public universities.

More info at http://www.socwel.ku.edu/careercarnival/
**2007 Internship Fair**

**Tuesday, November 13, 2007**

**Burge Union: Courtside, McCook, Relays Rooms**

**Intern Panel: 3:30 – 4:00 pm, McCook Room**

**Internship Fair: 4:00 – 6:30 pm, Courtside and Relays Rooms**

The University Career Center (UCC) is pleased to present the 2007 Internship Fair. This event provides an excellent opportunity for employers to meet and visit with students about their experiential learning opportunities and their organizations. Students enjoy learning more about a variety of internship opportunities, while employers meet potential candidates for their internship positions.

Students, employers, faculty, staff and administrators are encouraged to attend the Internship Panel as well, being held from 3:30pm until 4:00pm. University of Kansas students who have participated in past internships will share information about their internship experiences, offer advice to future interns, and answer questions related to their experiences.

**Employers of interest for social workers include:**

- Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
- City of Kansas City, MO
- Congressman’s Office: Dennis Moore
- Governor’s Office: Kathleen Sebelius
- KVC Behavioral Healthcare
- Mid-America Chapter, MS Society

**Dress in business attire and bring copies of your resume!**

For more information and to view attending organizations, please visit the following link:

[http://www2.ku.edu/~ucc/cgi-bin/internfair.php](http://www2.ku.edu/~ucc/cgi-bin/internfair.php)

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**LOOKING FOR AN INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY?**

**Employer:** The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

**Title:** Light the Night Walk Intern

**Description:** The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Mid-America Chapter is in search of the best and brightest candidates to complete an exciting, fast-paced special event/fundraising internship with our organization. The intern will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with the Light the Night Walk Campaign Managers. More information at www.lightthenight.org/mid.

To apply, you must register with KU Career Connections. Applications accepted until December 31, 2007. [http://www.ucc.ku.edu/webpage_forms/careerconnectionreg.pdf](http://www.ucc.ku.edu/webpage_forms/careerconnectionreg.pdf)
Improve Your Research and Analytical Skills with LA&S 292, a NEW 1-Credit Course Offering!!!

Beginning January 22, KU Libraries will offer an eight-week course aimed at helping students improve their research and information management skills.

Taught by Librarian Erin Ellis, LA&S 292: Research Methods and Information Literacy, will help students build a foundation in understanding information concepts that affect their ability to communicate as scholars. It will also encourage students to use critical thinking skills to identify, locate, analyze and use information effectively.

During the one credit hour course, students will be engaged in a variety of tasks such as compiling a research journal, participating in in-class activities and creating annotated bibliographies to demonstrate their ability to properly utilize information.

The first course runs from January 22-March 14. The second offering is scheduled from March 24-May 16. Space is limited, so please encourage students to sign up early.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin at eellis@ku.edu or (785) 864-5589.
WORKING WITH NATIVE AMERICANS WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Brian Jones (Prairie Band Potawatomi)  
University of Kansas BSW Student

Elaine Mzhickteno, LMSW (Prairie Band Potawatomi)  
Alcohol and Drug Counselor,  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Iris Wilkinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor,  
Human Services, Washburn University

Monday, November 5  
6 - 8 pm  
Lower Nursing Building, Room 2705  
Kansas City Kansas Community College  
7250 State Avenue

Faculty, staff, and students welcome

Sponsored by: KU School of Social Welfare, Native American Scholars Program
Events Calendar

November

2nd  Pre-SW Group Advising
    1:00-3:00 p.m., 207 Twente Hall
5th  Lawrence BSW Student Group Meeting
    7:30 pm, Alcove E of Kansas Union
    and Native Americans w. Substance Abuse
    6:00-8:00 p.m., KC KCC
13th  Internship Fair, Burge Union
    Intern panel 3:00-4:00, Internship Fair 4:00-6:30
16th  Social Welfare Career Carnival
    10 am - 2 pm, Kansas Union Ballroom
19th  Discussion of Connie Burke’s book
    7:00 p.m., Plymouth Congregational Church
21-25th  Thanksgiving Break, no classes

December

7th  Stop Day, no classes
    Deadline, practicum planning materials
10-14th  Finals Week
21st  Last day of Field Practicum
    Holiday Break
31st  Deadline for “Light the Night” application

January

1st  Deadline to apply to DART Program
7th  Field Practicums resume
17th  First day of Spring classes
21st  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no classes

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.