October 2008

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KU BSW Newsletter

BSW Director's Corner

--Lori Messinger

As I am writing this, all I can think about is what is coming up next! October is a busy month. Fall break is just around the corner, followed by advising. And then, on November 4th, we will be electing all of our state representatives, along with candidates for races for county commission, state school board, and national offices. Many of our students (and some of the faculty and staff) are working for candidates in these elections: educating voters about the candidates, organizing to get out the vote, or just talking to friends about the issues that matter for you this election.

I hope all of you are registered to vote and plan to vote in the upcoming election. Voting is one of the rights and responsibilities that all citizens can exercise. As social workers, it is important to recognize that voting is a way of acting on our commitment to social and economic justice, however you would define those concepts. Our government is run by people who are elected to legislative and executive posts, and they make the policies that we implement in our agencies and confront in our lives. Voting is one way to shape the direction of our community, our state, and our nation.

The last day to register to vote in this election is October 20th. Advanced voting is available on October 21st, so if you just can't wait until November 4th, go to the county offices at 11th and Massachusetts and vote! If you want to vote but you are registered elsewhere in Kansas, you can register to get a ballot by mail! Otherwise, I will see you at the polls!

I know a lot of you are already looking ahead to next year. Juniors are thinking about field placements; you will be hearing soon from the field office about the practicum planning process and small group meetings. If you want to think ahead, go online and look at some of the agencies where seniors are currently placed. http://www.socwel.ku.edu/Academics/practicum/descriptions/bswlevel.asp

Seniors, you are probably thinking about graduate school or jobs. Becky Hofer, Director of MSW Admissions, will be holding information sessions about applying to the KU MSW Program (see page 9 for more information). Also, don’t forget about KU Career Services; their staff will help you craft a job search, prepare a resume, practice interviewing, and discuss how to negotiate for salary, benefits, and other perks. Want to daydream about jobs? Go look at KCPhilnet.org and look at their job listings. They have a great number of nonprofit social work positions in the Kansas City metro.

While you are looking ahead, don’t forget to enjoy right now! The weather has cooled off, the semester is in full swing, and there are so many wonderful opportunities to be active—on campus, in the community, and in your life. Check out all the opportunities listed in the newsletter and put some of them on your calendar… especially the Lawrence Student Group fundraiser at Abe and Jakes on November 20th! We always have a great time and raise a lot of money for a good cause. I’ll see you there!
News and Information from Vicki

Pre-Social Welfare students: The next review date for BSW applications is October 1, 2008. 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 2009. If you have questions about the application process, feel free to email me or Lori Messinger.

Pre-Social Work Group Advising session dates have been set:
- Thursday, October 23rd from 10am-noon
- Tuesday, October 28th from 12-2pm
- Friday November 7th 11am-1pm
All group advising sessions will take place in Room 206 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 2009, and a list of any questions that you have. Advising usually takes 15-20 minutes.

BSW Students: Advising is just around the corner-- immediately after fall break, to be exact. Advising will run from Monday, October 20th through Friday, November 7th. Faculty advisors will have sign-up sheets available on their office doors by 10/13/08. 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 2009. The items that you should take to your advising appointment are your tentative schedule, a current ARTS Form, your student folder (found in my office right before your appointment), and a list of any questions that you have for your advisor. You 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. Be sure to check the academic plan in your student file during your advising appointment to make sure it 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 will be getting emails from me 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 your 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 minimum Overall and Social Work GPA
2) course requirements
3) 124 minimum total credit hours required for graduation
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.
Social work elective available at the KCKCC campus. Interested in learning more about doing social work in urban settings? Need an elective? This course is for you!

**SW 420: Social Work in Urban Settings**: This innovative and timely class will be offered at Kansas City Kansas Community College this spring. If you are interested in learning more about working with clients in the urban core, consider joining the 2+2 students in taking this class. Check the Timetable/Open Sections for class time and date. This course is open to all students.
Lawrence BSW Student Group

-Debbie Greenfield

At our first few meetings of the BSW student Group, we discussed future projects for fundraising, community service projects, and chose an agency to benefit from our fall fundraiser. As a group, we decided that ECKAN inc. would receive any monetary donations we raise this fall. ECKAN provides food and assistance to low-income residents of Lawrence. The economic crisis the United States is facing means that even more Lawrence residents may need the services ECKAN provides this year.

At this time we are also announcing the date of the annual silent auction to benefit ECKAN at Abe and Jakes. The date for the benefit is November 20th from 6-10pm. If you would like to help collect items to be auctioned off or help in any other way with the benefit, let us know! The more people who come out to support the auction, the more money we can raise for those in need. And, as a bonus, you get to see our very own Steve Kapp and his band during the auction!

Our next meeting will be on 10/5/08 at the Kansas Union at 7:00pm. We would love to see you there and get your ideas and comments!

KCKCC BSW Student Group

-Carolyn Bettes

The KCKCC BSW Student Group had its first get together on September 20th, 2008 at the Edwards Campus (pictures below). Everyone had fun, enjoyed getting to know one another, and had great food. With the year well underway, Andrea has set up a service project on October 11, 2008 from 9 am-noon at Crosslines, which is located at 628 Pyle Kansas City, Kansas 66105.

We still want to get to know the juniors, and we are looking for get together ideas and service project ideas for the coming months. We want to involve the juniors more this year than in the past.

Our next meeting on October 9th, 2008 at 5:40pm in Room 3622 in the Flint building at Kansas City, Kansas Community College. Bring your ideas and your interests; we will provide the pizza!
Volunteer Opportunities

The "Out of the Darkness Community Walk" will be held in Kansas City on October 25th at Berkley Riverfront Park and is sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

- Register at [www.outofthedarkness.org](http://www.outofthedarkness.org) (under either Kansas or Missouri). You can walk as an individual or create a team.
- Donations can easily be made online so if you'd rather support someone financially, you can do that at the same website (checks & cash are welcome too!)
- Individuals who raise $150 will receive a walk t-shirt (prizes are also available for larger amounts raised)
- Special activities are also being planned to honor & remember individuals who have died from suicide
- You can also get information by e-mailing outofdarknesskansascity@gmail.com
KU Volunteer Fair

Thursday, October 2, 2008 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Kansas Union 4th floor lobby

Representatives from local area organizations will be available to discuss volunteer opportunities with KU students. Some post-graduate volunteer organizations will be participating as well.

This event is free and open to all KU students. Come and explore how you can get involved and make a difference.

The fair is co-sponsored by the University Career Center and the Center for Community Outreach. For a complete list of the volunteer organizations who will be attending the Volunteer Fair, and more information about the event, please go to www.KUCareerHawk.com

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On March 26, 2008, 1 year old McKensie Gwilliam was diagnosed with Leukemia (AML). Since then, McKensie has been in Children’s Mercy Hospital, with the exception of 3 weeks when she was allowed to return home. Since March little McKensie has undergone numerous painful treatments that have made her very sick with other horrible illness to go along with her Leukemia. McKensie has gone into remission twice now, but each time the Leukemia has come back. The family just found out earlier this week that McKensie’s Leukemia is back and this will prevent her from receiving her life saving bone marrow transplant. This news is heartbreaking, especially since last week it looked as if McKensie was in remission. For more on McKensie’s battle with Leukemia please visit her website at www.caringbridge.org/visit/mckensie.

With the Leukemia coming back, the family needs our help now more than ever! Brandon is in graduate school full time to be a social worker, and his wife Tiffany stays at the hospital with her baby. They have two other small children at home. PLEASE HELP!

A fund for McKensie and her family has been set up at Sunflower Bank off of Wakarusa Street. Please make donations to McKensie Gwilliam.

Sunflower Bank

Office (785) 312-7274

Fax (785) 312-7213

4831 Quail Crest Place
The Benefit For

McKenisse Gwilliam

Monday, October 6th

AT

Old Chicago

2329 Iowa St. Lawrence, Ks

All Day Long!!!!

• 10% of your bill will go to the Gwilliam family if you present this flyer!!!!
Upcoming Events

ECM Alternative Weekends
Ecumenical Christian Ministries

Who: Students, Faculty, & Community Members. Everyone is Welcome.

What: ECM Alternative Weekends

When: October & November.


Why: Get out & experience the world. KU Service Learning credit available for undergrads.

How: See Alternative Weekends Application & Info Sheet pick-up @ the ECM 1204. Oread Ave.

Fall Weekend Opportunities:

- Small Town Life  **Oct. 24-26** (Application Due Thur. 10/02)
  Co-coordinators Hilah Vanderlippe: hvanderl@ku.edu
  England Porter: englandg@ku.edu
  For trip details please contact Hilah or England

- Living with Art  **Nov. 7 & 8** (Application Due Thur. 10/02)
  Art is decorative, sure... but is it also useful? You decide on a mini-getaway...Whether you are creating something from pure inspiration, collaborating on a project with other artists, or simply enjoying art from a spectator's viewpoint—art is a part of our human existence.
  Coordinator Rachel Pearson: rachpear@ku.edu
  Estimated Cost: $100-$125
  Payment: $25 deposit due 10/06, balance due 10/24

- Understanding the Lives of Immigrants in Kansas (Great Bend)  **Nov. 7-9** (Application Due Thu. 10/02)
  Volunteer at a high school where there is a large immigrant population, meet with speakers about how undocumented immigrants live, and reflect on how these immigrant issues relates to us & how we help. Leave on Friday afternoon and return on Sunday.
  Coordinator Harriet Browne: habrowne@ku.edu
  Estimated Cost: $100-$125
  Payment: $25 deposit due 10/06, balance due 10/24

We're on Facebook! Join: I Love ECM Alternative Weekends
Want to sponsor a student? Join the ECM Alternative Breaks Mentor Program.

Contact Alternative Weekends Coordinator Jenn Gapetz (jenn777@ku.edu),
ECM Intern Shannon Gorres (ecmku@ku.edu), or call the ECM (785-843-4933) for details.

If you are looking for an opportunity to earn Service Learning Credits, look into participating in an alternative break.
Fall 2008 University Forums
Sponsored by Ecumenical Christian Ministries at KU
Wednesdays with “optional” lunch from 11:30am-12noon
Presentation from 12-1pm

Oct 1
**Art and Artifact** Saralyn Reece Hardy, Director of Spencer Museum of Art, KU

Oct 8
**The ECM: Architectural Icon+ its Historical Significance for our Community.** Tom Harper, Lawrence Modem and Leslie Tuttle, Assistant Professor of History, KU

Oct 15
**The Mental Lexicon as a Network of Words**, Michael S. Vitevitch, Assistant Professor of Psychology, KU

Oct 22
**Presidential and Congressional Election 2008** Allan Cigler, Professor of Political Science, KU

Oct 29
**Challenging Stereotypes of Africa**, Dr. Jane Irunu, Kansas African Studies Center

Nov. 5
**Under the Rainbow: Oral Histories of GLBTIQ People in Kansas**, Tammy Albin, undergraduate Instruction and Outreach, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Subject Specialist

Nov. 12
**90 Years Later: What’s New at the National World War I Museum**, Eli Paul, Museum Director, National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, MO.

Nov. 19
**Gathering in Guatemala: America’s Social Forum for Alternative Ways of Life**, Shannon Gorres, graduate student in Latin American Studies, KU

Dec. 3
**Poison Beetles: Interactions Between Host Plants, Beetle Herbivores, and Beetle Parasitoids**, Caroline S. Chaboo, Assistant Professor of Entomology, KU

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**Attention Lawrence Seniors!!**

Planning on applying to an MSW Program?
Have questions about the application process for KU’s Advanced Standing MSW program?

**Come to the information sessions:**

**Date:** Monday, October 20 or Wednesday, October 22
**Time:** 11:00 am-12:00 pm
**Room:** English Room, Kansas Union

Becky Hofer, MSW, Director of Admissions, will provide information and answer your questions.
The KU School of Law presents:

2008 Symposium
Law, Reparations, and Racial Disparities

Friday October 31, 2008
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Green Hall, 1535 W. 15th Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66045

The Symposium will gather a distinguished group of scholars in law, philosophy, economics, sociology, and political science to explore what law can learn from empirical research on racial disparities in wealth, health, education, and the criminal justice system, and to assess whether legal reparations for slavery can be a viable means of dealing with these persistent disparities. Please plan to attend what promises to be an engaging discussion of this important and timely issue.

Attendance is free and no reservations are required. Please contact Symposium Editor Kelly Foos for more information: 785/766-2946; kfoos@ku.edu

Public Lecture Series on Rights, Freedom and Equality

WHAT DOES A LIBERAL SOCIETY OWE THE DISADVANTAGED?

Gerald Gaus
Department of Philosophy
University of Arizona
“Is Public Policy Possible?”
4:00 p.m., Friday, October 3, 2008
Hall Center for the Humanities

Loren Lomasky
Corcoran Department of Philosophy,
University of Virginia
“What Do We Owe the World’s Poor?”
4:00 p.m., Friday, October 24, 2008
Hall Center for the Humanities

Richard Ameson
Department of Philosophy
University of California, San Diego
“Varieties of Cosmopolitanism and the Ideal of Global Justice”
4:00 p.m., Friday, December 5, 2008
Alderson Room, Kansas Union
Events Calendar

October

1st        BSW Application Deadline
3rd        The 2008 Margaret Schutz Gordon Lecture
            9:00-11:30
16th-17th  KU Fall Break
20th-Nov. 7th  BSW advising
20 and 22  MSW application meeting for BSW seniors
            KS Union, English Theater 11 am -12 pm
23rd       Presocial work group advising
            Prospective Student Information Session
            6:00 pm-8:30 pm
            Edwards Campus
28th       Presocial work group advising
TBA        Mentor Welcome Session
            5:45 pm- 6: 10 pm
            Kansas City Kansas Community College

November

7th        Presocial work group advising
20th       Silent Auction for ECKAN at Abe and Jake’s
            6:00-10:00 pm
27-28th    KU Thanksgiving Break

Have a great semester!!