In my first message in 2009, I want to begin by wishing you a happy new year and welcoming you back for a new semester. We have seen the election and inauguration of a new President, the first African American man elected to this office. Perhaps some of you have voted for the first time. We are all sharing this important time in our nation’s history and our fight for social and economic justice.

Even in this exciting and challenging time of social change, economic tenuousness, and potential for progress, we have to face our losses as well. On January 3rd, 2009, Ms. Jessie M. Branson, one of KU School of Social Welfare’s most consistent supporters and donors, died of natural causes. As detailed in the Lawrence Journal World (1/5/09), Ms. Branson “worked as a volunteer nurse with the Douglas County Red Cross for 25 years, founding the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra, organizing the Douglas County Association for Retarded Citizens, and co-founding Kansans for Improvement of Nursing Homes in the early 1970s. She served on numerous boards and was recognized in the community and the state.”

She served for 10 years in the Kansas House as a representative from the 44th District. “While in office, she continued her advocacy for the mentally disabled, expanding funding for preschool children and passing laws to assist in the transition from schooling to employment. She was also instrumental in passing seat belt laws. …Branson also opened the door for women to belong to service groups, such as the Rotary Club, which were previously exclusive to men.” (LJ World, 1/5/09) You can read more about Jessie Branson and her legacy, and see the picture sources, at http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2009/jan/05/former-lawmaker-leaves-legacy-service/.

Moved by the desire to help expand access to the KU BSW program to students of color and working adults who could not attend classes on the main campus, Ms. Branson and her late husband created a fund to support students attending the 2+2 BSW Completion Program on the Kansas City Kansas Community College campus. This fund has helped more than 40 students to take classes and work towards the BSW degree.

As a nurse and community activist, Ms. Branson knew that social workers make a difference in our communities. We provide support and encouragement for those in need: children, teenagers, and adults of all ages, capabilities, incomes, races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, genders, geographic locations, and resources. I hope that as you attend your classes, work in your field placement, complete your readings and assignments, work, volunteer, and interact with friends and family, you will try to live into the legacy of Ms. Branson and her spirit of service.
News and Information from Vicki

WELCOME BACK!!! I hope that you had a wonderful break.

Pre-Social Work students - The next review of BSW applications will be February 1, 2009. It will take approximately 4-6 weeks to review applications before decisions are mailed out. All applicants will receive a written notification of the admission decision. Applicants admitted at this review will begin the BSW curriculum in fall 2009.

All BSW students: As we begin the new semester, remember to review your degree requirements. 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. If you have questions about your credit hours or requirements, you should check with your advisor or me. Don’t forget to reference the SW General Education Course List located at this link (http://www.socwel.ku.edu/academics/BSW/bswgen.shtml) or in hardcopy outside of Room 107 Twente Hall.

BSW Seniors: If you will be graduating in May 2009, you must complete the Apply For Graduation on Enroll and Pay. The deadline is March 1st, so don’t procrastinate. Completion of this form alerts the Registrar’s Office that you will be graduating; without it, you will not be listed in the graduation program, and you will not receive your degree.

BSW Seniors - Licensure testing is just around the corner. It wouldn’t hurt to get a jump start on it. Visit the Kansas Behavioral Science Regulatory Board website at www.ksbsrb.org to get started today. I will be sending a list of names to them of all students expected to graduate in May 2009. Mark your calendars..there is a one time only opportunity coming up that you should plan to attend. On Friday, January 30th from 1:00 to 1:45pm, you can attend a Graduation and Licensing Information Meeting at one of two locations: 1) Alderson Auditorium at the Kansas Union, or 2) Regnier Hall Auditorium at the Edwards campus. There will be representatives there from the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board in Kansas and the Missouri Division of Professional Registration.

Enjoy your semester!

News and Information from KCKCC

--Maxine Elmore

Welcome back to the new spring semester at KCKCC. We will start the semester with a visit from Lori Messinger, BSW Director, on Thursday, 1/19/09 from 5:30-6:30pm. We will meet in 3505 Science Bldg., and we will provide pizza and drinks. Bring your questions and concerns.

Have a great semester!
Greetings from the BSW Student Group!

The fall semester ended well with our fundraiser bringing in $1,642 for ECKAN. We would like to thank everyone who helped us make this event a success.

Please consider joining the BSW student group during the spring semester. This spring will include another benefit and a service project.

Our meeting schedule for the semester has not been determined yet, but it will be updated on our Facebook page as soon as it is decided.

Watch our facebook page for information on upcoming meetings.

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Welcome Back!!!!!!

Welcome back everyone! We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season and a relaxing break. We are looking forward to another great semester of community action and fun activities as we continue to learn together and help others in the community.

This semester, we plan to maintain our group volunteer projects and initiate a fundraiser for a local social service agency. There will also be some opportunities for us to go out and enjoy and some fun together!

We welcome any group project or volunteer ideas that you would like to see the student group get involved with this semester. Please email mscbettes@hotmail.com, andream@ku.edu, or katie_marie_pope@yahoo.com with your ideas or questions.

Be watching for an email soon announcing our next group meeting time and location!
Are you looking for a fun and rewarding part-time summer job?

Apply to be a UAC Peer Advisor!

Apply to be a 2009 Peer Advisor with the University Advising Center! You will gain leadership and teamwork skills while working with new KU students, faculty and staff. For additional details see [www.advising.ku.edu/peeradvisor](http://www.advising.ku.edu/peeradvisor). Applications are due February 6, 2009. Questions? Contact Kelli Nichols at kellin@ku.edu.

Upcoming Events

Social Work Day at the UN

Social Work Day at the UN for 2009 is scheduled for **Monday April 6, 2009 from 1 – 5 pm.**

A Student Conference will be held on Sunday, April 5th from 1:30 – 4:30 pm at Fordham University.

As a co-sponsor of this event, KU School of Social Welfare will provide support to a limited number of BSW, MSW, and PhD students to defray costs for attending. Be sure to read your email for details on applying for support to attend the conference.

We will be updating our website soon, so please keep watching it for additional information: [http://www.monmouth.edu/swerk/UN](http://www.monmouth.edu/swerk/UN)

Please save these dates. We look forward to seeing you in New York!
Consider attending the annual conference hosted by the BSW Program Directors. There will be researchers, educators, students, and field program staff members from BSW and MSW programs from across the country. Attend presentations on the latest social work research, learn about social work education, and hear from student leaders.

**ARIZONA....**
- The Grand Canyon State...
- A place of unsurpassed beauty, with its desert and mountain vistas...
- The fastest growing population in the US...
- Home to the third largest Indian population in America, projected to be non white majority population by 2035...
- Home to several of the first retirement communities in the country....
- The last state contiguous to the US border to be admitted to the union....
- Where old meets new, where the past is present, where the future is now...
- Come learn and grow from the past and plan for the future in a place where the sun and sky hold endless possibilities...

**Student Volunteers**
The Conference Planning Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with carrying out the 2009 Annual Meeting. Student volunteers can sign up by registering online for the conference. On the registration page, they will be able to indicate which day(s) they are interested in serving. Registration is $145 for the conference for BSW students. Payment is due by 1/31/09. Students will also have to pay for their hotel and meals.

Student volunteers will be assigned to 4-6 hour shifts during their selected day(s) of service.

Find out more about this conference at

[http://www.BPDonline.org and click on Events: BPD Conference.](http://www.BPDonline.org)
Events Calendar

January

19th No classes
29th BSW Director meeting at KCKCC
30th Graduation and Licensing Meeting
31st BPD Conference Registration due

February 2009

1st New BSW applications due for Fall 09
6th Applications for peer advising due

March 2009

1st Applications for graduating seniors are due

Welcome Back!