March 2009

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March 2009
Social Work Month

Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society: We will be sending out information soon via email about applying to be a member of the Phi Alpha. To qualify, BSW students must have completed 9 hours of social work courses, have an overall GPA of 3.0, and have a social work GPA of 3.25. We will be accepting applications in late March and early April.

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BSW Director’s Corner

As some of you know, we have just passed the spring application deadline for the BSW Program. In fact, we had the largest number of applicants since I started here 5 years ago. I would like to claim some credit for that rise in application numbers, but the credit really has to go to someone else...YOU, the BSW students!

Many of our new applicants told the same story when they discussed how they chose the major. “I have a friend who is a social work major.” “My roommate is getting a BSW.” “This girl in my class mentioned that she was studying social work.” “My co-worker just graduated from the KU School of Social Welfare.” They came to the major because someone they knew was studying social work.

Clearly, BSW students and recent graduates are our best marketing assets. You know the strengths of our program: the smaller class sizes, the strong and capable instructors, the investment of our faculty, the warmth and capability of our staff, the knowledge and skills taught in our courses, and the versatility and marketability of the BSW degree. When you talk about your major to your friends and family members, you help spread the word about social work and the BSW Program at KU. And your conversations are paying off in higher numbers of applicants and, hopefully, larger numbers of trained, qualified social workers across Kansas and the country.

And just so you know, our BSW graduates are especially capable. I know many of you seniors are anxiously waiting responses from graduate schools, and you are thinking about taking your exams for BSW licensure. I am here to tell you that our students are VERY likely to get into advanced standing BSW programs. Our recent graduates were accepted into graduate schools across the country to study social work, as well as into law schools, public health programs, and even medical school! Those who take the licensure exam in Kansas are passing at VERY high rates (over 95% for the past 5 years). We designed our coursework to help you succeed, and our graduates are very successful!

I encourage you to keep up the good work of telling others about the social work profession. The public still has little understanding of the full range of what social workers do. We need to let people know about the important roles that social workers play in making our society a better place. Take some time during March—Social Work Month—to talk to someone about your major. Tell them to check out the NASW website (see graphic at left). Remind them that they can take their interest in social justice and their compassion for people in need and use them as a social worker. We appreciate all you do to help improve our program and our profession.

--Lori Messinger

KU BSW Newsletter

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5
March 2009
News and Information from Vicki

Pre-Social Work Students: If you missed the February 1st application deadline, you will still have the chance in June to be admitted to begin your 500-level social work courses in the fall 2009 semester. This June 1st review date is normally reserved for only transfer students, but if you are a continuing KU student who can actually start their junior courses in the fall 2009 semester, then your application will be accepted for review.

Pre-social work advising is just around the corner, beginning immediately after spring break. Pre-Social Work group advising sessions will be:

- Thursday, March 26th in Room 206 Twente Hall from 12 – 2pm
- Friday, April 3rd in Room 206 Twente Hall from 10am – 12pm
- Wednesday, April 8th in Room 206 Twente Hall from 11am – 1pm

You can sign up for pre-social work advising by emailing me at vmignot@ku.edu or by coming by my office and putting your name on the sign-up sheet. My office is Room 107 Twente Hall. Drop-ins are welcome at pre-social work advising sessions, but if you let us know you are coming, we can make an academic plan for you!

All newly admitted students are being assigned Academic Advisors. Emails will be sent out in the next few weeks that will have the 2009-2010 Advisor list attached. In the event that you don’t get this email, an advisor list will be posted on the bulletin board outside of my office. Advising holds are put on every School of Social Welfare student. The hold is removed after your meet with your advisor, so that you are able to enroll. Immediately after returning from spring break, you will want to sign up for an advising appointment with your advisor.

Further, until you have completed and turned in the Change of School form that came with your acceptance letter, you will not be able to enroll in the social work 500-level courses. That form is required to change your university status to the School of Social Welfare.

BSW Students: Advising is fast approaching. You should start looking at your ARTS form now and plan for the summer and fall semesters. Faculty advisors will be taking appointments immediately after spring break for a period lasting approximately three weeks. Be sure to sign up early for an appointment, and be in contact with your advisor by phone or email if advising issues arise. Dr. Holly Nelson-Becker, one of our advisors, is on leave this semester, so her advisees should check the advisor list on the bulletin board outside of my office to find the name of their new advisor. You must meet with your advisor to have your advising hold removed.

BSW Seniors: Be sure to continue checking your ARTS Forms to make sure that all of your graduation requirements (courses and hours) have been met. If you are transferring in hours from another university/college, make sure that they show on your ARTS Form. Until they are on your KU record, they don’t count!

The Apply to Graduate deadline is March 1st. Make sure to complete this process in Enroll and Pay, or you may not be listed in the Commencement Program and you will not be identified as a May 2009 KU Graduate. Once the deadline has passed and you can no longer apply online, you need to see me ASAP. There is a paper process that we can use to apply for graduation, but it is subject to the Registrar’s approval on a case by case basis.

A list of May 2009 BSW Graduates has been forwarded to KSBSRB (http://www.ksbsrb.org). When completing the application process to sit for the licensing test, you do NOT need to have the Social Welfare Dean sign the form; just indicate on that page to “see KU graduate list for May 2009”.
Lawrence BSW Student Group

-Debbie Greenfield

Calling all Sophomores and Juniors!!

Believe it or not, it is not too early to start thinking about August. At the end of this semester, the BSW Student Group will be holding elections for next year’s officers. Now is the perfect time to start attending the meetings and get involved in preparation for next year. There are several officer positions available. Joining the group means you get to have direct input in supporting our community, you get to see Steve Kapp every other week, and don’t forget--it looks great on a resume!

But this year isn’t over yet. There is still good stuff going on during the spring semester. As a group, we decided that Ballard Center will be the beneficiary of group fundraising efforts. There are so many agencies in Lawrence that are in need during these economic times; we chose Ballard Center because they are a great central resource for individuals and agencies in need. We are still finalizing just how we will raise that money, so come to the next meeting and help us decide. As the weather starts to turn warmer, we are considering a walk or bike ride to raise money. Not only does this allow us to raise money for a good cause, but we can get together socially and burn some calories.

Our next meeting will be on 2/22/09 at the Kansas Union at 6:00pm. We would love to see you there and get your input!

KCKCC BSW Student Group

-Andrea Cox

Hello all! We would like to encourage everyone to participate in the FOOD DRIVE that the BSW at KCK Student Group is sponsoring. Please bring any canned goods and/or health and hygiene products to the collection box in Maxine Elmore’s office in Room 3339 at Kansas City Kansas Community College (7250 State Avenue).

We will be collecting items until March 16th. All items donated will be delivered to the Salvation Army in Kansas City to help the local community. Thank you for helping in any way you can. Don’t forget to tell your friends to donate as well!

We want to thank everyone who attended the student group meeting last week! We enjoyed the discussion and look forward to getting together again soon! Keep checking your emails for further updates concerning our bowling event!
News and Information from KC KCC

--Maxine Elmore

Need Electives? The 2+2 BSW Program will be offering two exciting electives in the summer. One class will be offered in June and another class will be offered in July. Check out the Schedule of Classes for dates and time.

BSW Students attend national Social Work conference

-Debbie Greenfield, Jennifer Thomas, Maggie Glenn, & Amy Lindgren (BSWs, May ’09)

When the spring semester began, the four of us were returning from five days in New Orleans, LA where the Society for Social Work and Research held its thirteenth annual national conference. Over a long weekend, the Society hosted numerous workshops and paper presentations led by PhD students and faculty from a wide array of social work schools across the country. We were able to attend presentations regarding the most current social work research in about any social work topic you can imagine. Barbara Major, co-Founder and Executive Vice-President for Citizens United for Economic Equality, provided a lecture for all attendees, and Dr. Jeffrey Jenson, faculty member at University of Denver, spoke on preventing childhood and adolescent problem behavior. We met representatives from various agencies like the National Institute of Mental Health, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Council on Social Work Education, the Association of Social Work Boards, and Sage Journals, to name a few.

Amy summed up the weekend when she said it was “an amazing opportunity.” Not only did we have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in information relevant to our specific social work interests, we were able to meet social workers from all over the world. Whether it was an international PhD student or the author of one of our textbooks, there was always an engaging conversation going on somewhere.

All of this academic activity kept us busy all day and into the evening, but another wonderful part of our experience was exploring the city of New Orleans. We were all able to take away a part of the city that we were interested in. Whether it was exploring the French Quarter on foot, eating at fabulous authentic restaurants, or touring the areas that are still devastated after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans taught us way more than we can summarize in a few paragraphs.

We encourage everyone to consider attending one of the national conferences. It is a great opportunity to learn and grow.
Scholarship Opportunity

Lynn Leban Memorial Scholarship

For academic year 2009 – 2010

Award in the range of $2000

We invite social work sophomores and juniors to apply for this scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to someone who demonstrates the following:

♦ Longstanding and consistent record of volunteer experience helping others.

♦ Outstanding personal honesty, truthfulness, independence of mind and selflessness.

♦ Commitment to the use of one’s education towards helping others.

♦ Record of academic achievement

For students accepted into the major only

Academic standing during 2008-2009: Sophomore or Junior

For application, see contact:

Vicki Mignot, 107 Twente Hall

Application deadline:

Friday, March 13th, 2009
Upcoming Events

BSW PRACTICUM PLACEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ORIENTATION FOR CURRENT BSW JUNIORS!

This is a required meeting for all BSW students entering practicum this fall

KCKCC Students
March 26
5:40 - 6:10pm
Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union

Lawrence Students
March 27
3:00-4:00 pm
Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union

You will meet the field education staff again, hear more about what to expect for practicum planning, as well as find out where you have been matched for practicum!

We look forward to seeing you there!
Contact Julie Solomon with questions: 785/864-2663 or jamsoho@ku.edu

Summer Research Opportunity

2009 Summer Research Internship on Poverty and Adolescent Risk

The College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Alabama is offering a summer research internship for students interested in studying neighborhood poverty and its impact on adolescent behavior. Students who participate in the internship, which is in its 12th year, will conduct field research as part of a longitudinal study of poverty and adolescent risk, which we have been conducting since 1998.

The study has been funded by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and it addresses challenges that young people face as they grow up in impoverished neighborhoods, including violence, alcohol and drug use, sexual behavior, the development of self-esteem and a sense of the future, and family dynamics. We are soliciting applications from students who would like to participate in this unique learning experience. Interns, who may be either undergraduate or graduate students, will be required to live in Mobile, Alabama between May 18, 2009 and July 31, 2009 (although we have some flexibility in these dates). For more information and to find application instructions, please go to our website:


If you are unable to access the website, contact John Bolland by e-mail (jbolland@ches.ua.edu) or phone (205.348.9953). We will begin making decisions on March 16, 2008, although we will continue accepting applications until all positions are filled (typically at least the middle of April).
Greetings!

Nonprofit agencies face an on-going challenge as they compete with the private sector to attract and hire qualified employees. In recognition of this fact, Cornerstones of Care and NonProfit Connect (formerly Kansas City Council on Philanthropy) are co-presenting the 4th Annual NonProfit Job Fair.

Registration: Announcements and registration forms will be emailed and registration forms will be available on the NonProfit Connect website in mid-February.

http://www.npconnect.org/

Location: Following last year’s success, the 2009 Job Fair will remain at the Kauffman Conference Center, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City MO. Driving directions to the Kauffman can be found at their website - www.kauffman.org/about-foundation/directions-to-foundation.aspx
Living on the Edge
Every day 32.9 million Americans live in poverty.

What would you do if you lost your income? How would you survive?

We invite you to walk a mile in the shoes of those facing poverty by participating in "Living on the Edge," a community action poverty simulation, presented by the Missouri Association for Community Action. This experience will provide you with the opportunity to assume the role of a low income family member in a family of four, living on a limited budget for a month. The simulation will be followed by a discussion focused on what communities can do to fight poverty and help those in need.

* **Thursday March 5th, 9-11:30 am**
  Village Presbyterian- Friendship Hall
  6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS

* **Thursday April 2nd, 9-11:30 am**
  Rockhurst University- Community Center
  1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO

***To Register for Living on the Edge or for more information go to: [www.healthcareforkc.org](http://www.healthcareforkc.org)***

"Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn’t commit.”
Eli Khamarov

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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/swork/UN](http://www.monmouth.edu/swork/UN)

Please save these dates. We look forward to seeing you in New York!
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Rick Gaskill
Dr. Gaskill will present the morning keynote address titled *A Neurodevelopmental Perspective for the Treatment of Psycho-Social Trauma*. Recent advancements in the understanding of neurological development have produced new insight and understanding to the treatment of survivors of abuse, violence, neglect and other types of trauma. During the address, participants will discuss the basic principles of neurodevelopment and develop interventions strategies that are neurologically informed and developmentally sensitive. Dr. Rick Gaskill has worked in community mental health for more than 30 years. He currently serves as the Clinical Director and Deputy Director of Sumner Mental Health in Wellington, KS. He is also an adjunct faculty at Wichita State University. In his work with children, Dr. Gaskill has developed numerous programs including child development classes, parenting classes, attachment enhancement treatment groups, therapeutic alternative schools, therapeutic preschools, after school programs, and juvenile offender programs. At WSU, he teaches play therapy classes, child psychopathology and supervises play therapy practicums.

Judy L. Young
Judy Young will present the afternoon keynote address titled, *The Magic of Laughter*. The benefits of laughter have been shown in measured benefits for the workplace. In this address, Judy will teach you the essence of yoga breathing and will help you practice sounds that simulate your own deep robust bell laughter. Judy Young is rapidly becoming known as the expert on laughter research. She offers a vast array of experiences in training, public speaking, business management, sales and marketing. Young has helped many achieve their goals of increased productivity through her training programs. She has developed and implemented several training programs in communication skills, conducted classroom training and workshops for skills enhancement. Young is a member of the National Speaker’s Association and a Certified CAP Consultant for Prairie View.

REGISTRATION FEE:
$75.00 (includes meals and materials). Student rate available. Please contact Sherry Chapman at 316-978-7213 or sheryl.chapman@wichita.edu.

REGISTER ON-LINE AT:
www.wichita.edu/conferences

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
See POWER Conference brochure or contact Jana Woods at 316-978-69493 or jana.woods@wichita.edu.

Why should you attend?
The annual POWER Conference of the WSU School of Social Work is open to social workers and others in related fields. Students enjoy the opportunity to meet professionals in the community and to learn about new ideas that related to their other learning experiences. All participants have the chance to network with one another. The POWER Conference honors and celebrates both social workers and their contributions to the community. It’s time to feel good about who we are!
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.

"The First Welfare Case: Money, Sex, Marriage, and White Supremacy in Selma, 1966 -- A Reproductive Justice Analysis"

March 26, 4:00-5:30, Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union

Dr. Solinger is an independent historian of reproductive politics and welfare policy. She is also a curator, organizing exhibitions about motherhood, race, class, and incarceration; these installation-based, photography shows have traveled to over one hundred and forty college and university galleries and community venues since 1992. Solinger’s latest book is Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America (2005); she is co-editor of Telling Stories to Change the World (2008) and Interrupted Life: Experiences of Incarcerated Women in America (2009).
The University of Kansas
28th Annual
EDUCATION INTERVIEW DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 10th
8:30am-4:00pm
Kansas Union Ballroom

*Walk-up interviews may be scheduled with school districts at their tables between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on the day of the event*

Sign up NOW for interviews!
Deadline to pre-register for interviews: February 25, 2009

For more information or to sign up for interviews, go to:
www.kucareerhawk.com/edinterview

Sponsored by University Career Center
110 Burge Union / (785) 864-3624 / kucareerhawk.com / ucc@ku.edu
Contributing to Student Success
Please read this page in its entirety!!

The BSW Recognition Ceremony will be on Friday, May 15th at 1:00 pm at the Lied Center.

The Lied Center is a beautiful, handicap-accessible venue that holds 1,500 people and has plenty of parking available. For directions and a campus map, see www.ku.edu/visit. BSW graduates will need to be there by 12:00 noon on May 16th for a class photo and to get lined up. The last student to arrive will be the one to lead the class in the singing of the alma mater at the conclusion of the ceremony. All friends, family members, guests, and graduates are invited to attend.

The University Commencement, also known as the traditional “Walk Down the Hill,” is on Sunday, May 18th at 2:30 pm. Participants are asked to assemble on Memorial Drive at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are NOT needed for either ceremony.

You will need a cap, gown and tassel for graduation. All can be purchased at the KU Bookstore in the Kansas Union, and the total cost is around $40.00. KCKCC students should plan on purchasing their regalia at the Edwards campus bookstore. The cap and gown must be black, and the tassel will be citron with a ‘09 charm attached. Citron is the color representing the academic discipline of social work.

This is also a good time to order graduation announcements. Personalized announcements may be purchased by calling CB Graduation Announcements at (800) 433-0296, or visiting cbgrad.com, or by contacting Jostens at jostens.com. You can also get more information at the KU bookstores.

For general graduation information, please see www.commencement.ku.edu/.

Questions? Contact Assistant Dean Melanie Hepburn at melanieh@ku.edu.
Events Calendar

March

1st  Applications due for graduating seniors
6th  Power conference
10th  Education Interview Day
13th  Lynn Leban Memorial Scholarship application deadline
16-20th  No classes-Spring Break
24th  Prospective Student Information Session
        Kansas City Kansas Community College
        6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

26th  KCKCC BSW practicum placement and Orientation meeting—Required for all students
        Starting practicum in the fall

27th  Lawrence BSW practicum placement and Orientation meeting—Required for all students
        Starting practicum in the fall

April

4th  Nonprofit Job Fair
6th  Social Work Day at the UN

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Don’t forget June 1st is the next BSW application deadline!

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 lorm@ku.edu before the 10th of the month. Let your peers hear from you.