BSW Director’s Corner

--Lori Messinger

Well, I have gotten to know some of you a whole lot better in the past month or so. I have a good number of pre-social work majors in the 128 students enrolled in the SW 220 course I am teaching this semester. More than 70 students applied to the major in February, and I read each of your application essays.

I have gotten to know a number of newly admitted students, and renewed acquaintances with continuing students, when we met for advising. And late this week, Julie Solomon, Assistant Director of Field Education, and I met with all of the BSW Juniors on the KCKCC and Lawrence campuses as we handed out field placement assignments and talked about the challenges and opportunities of field placement interviews.

I have come away from all of these encounters with very positive impressions of our students. Your passion to make a difference in the world, your dedication to people’s well-being, and the excitement you show for the profession came out in all of my interactions with you. I am very proud of all of you, and I hope that you are equally proud to be associated with the KU BSW Program.

As you may know, the BSW Program has a committee to oversee program review and improvements. There are four student representatives on the committee: Matthew Blankers (junior) and Maggie Glenn (senior) from the Lawrence campus, and Kris Creten (junior) and Stephanie Elliott (senior) from the KCKCC campus. We meet once a month. The student representatives are there to represent your interests, so be sure to let them know if you have any questions or concerns about the program.

You also have other representatives—or you are supposed to have representatives—on the KU Student Senate. Our School has 2 slots for student representatives, but they are currently vacant. I have been told that a couple social work students, Matthew Blankers and Mandi Chervitz, are planning to run for the KUSSW seats. Perhaps there are other students considering running as well. BSW students can also run in other categories as well (e.g., living in student housing, living off campus, nontraditional students). The last day for filing is April 1st.

The Student Senate is an important component of shared governance, working with the Faculty Senate, the Unclassified Staff Senate, the Support Staff Senate, and the University Senate to shape policies and programs across the campus. The Kansan recently reported that the Student Senate has a budget of more than $20 million, funded by your student fees, which it uses to fund campus programs. Recent policy changes overseen by the University Senate have influenced the treatment of continuing education courses and the add/drop process. The interests and concerns of BSW students must be represented in the larger university!

Elections will be held April 15th (6am-10pm) and April 16th (6am-4pm). All BSW students taking at least 1 credit hour of courses on the Lawrence campus are eligible to vote. You voice must be heard, so be sure to vote!
Welcome back from Spring Break!

**Pre-Social Work Students:** Group Advising sessions are available. The remaining dates, times, and locations are:

- Friday, April 3rd in Room 206 from 10am until noon.
- Wednesday, April 8th in Room 206 from 11am until 1pm.

You do not have to plan to be there for the full two hours. You should bring with you a copy of your ARTS Form, a tentative schedule, and a list of any questions that you have. I look forward to seeing you Friday. If you email me (vmignot@ku.edu) and sign up ahead of time, I will put together some individualized course planning materials for you.

**Don’t forget:** June 1, 2009 is our last review of BSW applications for a fall 2009 start in the program. The admission date is reserved for transfer students and current KU students who are ready to begin the junior social work courses in the fall 2009 semester.

**ALL CONTINUING SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS:** Advising is under way. If you haven’t already, you need to make an appointment with your advisor as soon as possible. All social work students have a SW Advising Hold that cannot be removed until you meet with your advisor. If you have problems when enrolling, you can contact the Enrollment Center at 785-864-4422 or me.

**BSW (Lawrence) Juniors:** Please be attentive when you register for the mini-courses that you are taking classes at the right time and on the correct campus. The four mini-courses (SW 630, 631, 632, 633) are half-semester long courses, and you may only choose two of the four. Register as soon as you can because courses fill up quickly! You may choose courses on different days. For example, you might choose to take SW 630 on Mondays during the first half of the semester and then SW 633 on Wednesdays during the second half of the semester. When you go to register, notice that the first line number is for the first half of the semester, and the second line number is for the second half of the semester. Therefore, be sure to use the first line number for your first mini-course selection, and the second line number for your second mini-course selection.

**BSW Seniors:** Hopefully, by this time, you have done the following things; if you haven’t, you need to start on this list:

- You have visited the Kansas Union Bookstore to get your cap and gown.
- You have gotten your tassel (Citron color) from the Bookstore.
- You have checked, rechecked, and checked again your degree requirements and hours to make sure that you are set to graduate in May.
- You have had transcripts sent to KU for any transfer work.
- You have applied to graduate on Enroll and Pay.

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, “See KU graduate list for May 2009.”
Lawrence BSW Student Group

-Debbie Greenfield

We hope that everyone had a great Spring break! We would also like to thank everyone who joined us at Johnny’s Tavern for the Social Work Mixer. This is the last semester for the seniors, and we would really like to see more juniors at the last three meetings, so they can fill the officer positions that seniors currently hold. If interested, now is the time to take an active role!

The BSW Student Group provides opportunities for support, collaboration, leadership, and service. The BSW Group is also a way to enhance communications between students and faculty. It’s a great way to make new friends while working towards a common goal - helping others. Getting involved will be worth your time!

Here is a list of the remaining semester’s meeting dates:
Sunday 4/05 @ 6:00
Sunday 4/19 @ 6:00
Sunday 5/03 @ 6:00

All meetings will be in Alcove G in the Kansas Union. We hope you see you there!

KC KCC  BSW Student Group

-Andrea Cox

Hello, everyone!

We hope everyone had a restful Spring Break, and you are geared up to move forward with the last leg of the semester! The end is in sight!

First of all, we would like to thank everyone who donated items to the food drives we sponsored at KCKCC and at the Edwards campus. The Salvation Army is extremely appreciative of our efforts to help them provide for local KCK families! Thanks for helping us help others!

Please watch for an email soon that will provide the date and time of our next meeting in April. In this meeting, the seniors will pass the leadership torch to the juniors, who will decide who next year’s officers will be for the group!

We are so glad that so many from the group enjoyed an evening of bowling together earlier this month at College Lanes in Overland Park (photos above). It was wonderful to enjoy each other's company and meet our classmates' families! Thanks for coming out!
**News and Information from KC KCC**

--Maxine Elmore

Exciting **social work elective courses** this summer are being offered on the Kansas City Kansas Community College Campus, only 40 minutes and free parking away from Lawrence! **These courses will also fulfill Intercultural Studies general education requirements.**

**SW 455 Topics: Globalization of Poverty**
(meets the Comparative Studies requirement)

June 9-July 2, 2009 3:10 pm – 7:50 pm

**SW 455 Topics: Social Work with Latinos**
(meets the Studies in Civilization requirement)

July 7-July 30, 2009 5:10 pm – 9:50 pm

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**Research Opportunities**

**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 (jbonland@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).
Upcoming Events

The 4th Annual NonProfit Job Fair has been cancelled

Kauffman Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO

Jana Mackay
Distinguished Lecture Series

Kim Gandy
President, National Organization of Women
Thursday, April 15, 2009, 7:30 pm
Dole Institute
Social Work Day 2009
April 10, 2009

Action
Diversity
Values
Optimism
Change
Attitude
Client-Driven
You

In Changing Times

“Fitting Advocacy into Busy (Social Work) Lives"
Nancy Amidei

Until 2008, Nancy Amidei was on the faculty of the University of Washington School of Social Work. Today she continues to direct the Civic Engagement Project, which works with non-profit organizations throughout the country. CEP offers advocacy training, speeches, workshops, and resource materials, for work at federal, state, or local levels.

A writer, teacher, and advocate, Ms. Amidei has been involved in social policy from both inside and outside government. She is a former Director of the Food Research and Action Center (a national anti-hunger group). She also served in the Carter Administration as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the federal department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

“Linking Lives Through Shared Purposes: Narrative Approaches to Community Problems”
Jill Freedman, MSW & Gene Combs, MD

Jill Freedman, M.S.W., is director of Evanston Family Therapy Center. She has a private practice in the Chicago area and consults at schools and agencies.

Gene Combs, M.D., is associate professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at NorthShore University HealthSystem, where he is director of behavioral sciences in the University of Chicago-affiliated residency program in Family Medicine.

Registration is available for all BSW students: $20 for students without lunch, $25 for students WITH lunch included, and $20 for graduating BSW seniors WITH lunch included. Information about registration can be found online at https://www.socwel.ku.edu/swday/register.pdf. The deadline is April 1st, 2009.
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 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

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

Student Union Activities at the University of Kansas will present this year’s edition of the Student Lecture Series at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at the Kansas Union ballroom. The speaker is George Stephanopoulos.

Stephanopoulos, who hosts ABC’s Sunday news show “This Week with George Stephanopoulos,” will take part in a town hall format conversation moderated by Jonathan Earle, associate director of KU’s Dole Institute of Politics.

Questions for Stephanopoulos will be accepted before the event. E-mail questions to suasocialissues@gmail.com.

Stephanopoulos appears regularly on ABC’s “Good Morning America” and “World News.” He launched an ABCNews.com blog called “George’s Bottom Line.” Previously, Stephanopoulos was a senior political adviser to the Bill Clinton’s 1992 presidential campaign.

The event is free and open to students and the public. Tickets for seats in the Kansas Ballroom are no longer available; however, there are still tickets available for the overflow room in Woodruff Auditorium, 5th floor of the Kansas Union. Participants in Woodruff Auditorium will view the event via live telecast. There is a limit of two tickets per person. More information is available at the SUA website: www.suaevents.com, or call the box office at (785) 864-SHOW.
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 17th 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

#### April 2009

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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Presocial work group advising</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Lawrence BSW Student Group Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Social Work Day at the UN</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Presocial work group advising</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>KUSSW Social Work Day</td>
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**Don't forget June 1st is the next BSW application deadline!**

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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.