May 2009

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BSW Director’s Corner
--Lori Messinger

Well, May is here! The last week of classes is coming up, finals are looming, and graduation is right around the corner. Looking back over the academic year, it is difficult to believe that the semester has passed so quickly!

I wanted to take the last column of the semester and thank you students for all of the ways that you help make the program better. First, I want to let you know how much we appreciate you all filling out course evaluations in your social work classes. As you probably know by now, there are two parts to the course evaluations. We have adopted the university’s course evaluation form, but we also wanted to maintain specific questions that are important to assessing the School’s specific goals.

I know it sometimes feels like course evaluations go into the “great beyond” once you turn them in, but that really isn’t true. Once all the grades are turned in, course evaluations go to all of the instructors; evaluations for adjunct faculty members also are sent to their faculty mentors, the Associate Dean, and me. Instructors review these evaluations closely to improve our courses, and the School administration reviews your comments and ratings in deciding who should teach which courses.

Seniors, we also appreciate your completing the surveys for graduating students. We use your feedback to think through the strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum, the program structure, and our overall supports. The results of your surveys will be compared with surveys from last year and used by the BSW Program Committee in the fall to plan curriculum changes for 2010-2011. We will also include these data in the KUSSW Self-Study document required for our reaccreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), which will be submitted this summer.

Students also influence the direction of the BSW Program and the School of Social Welfare through their service as representatives on the BSW Program Committee and the Dean’s Advisory Committee. Thanks to all of the students who have served in those roles. Juniors and sophomores, consider applying to be a BSW student representative next year. Your input will be especially important during our reaccreditation review process in 2009-2010. We will put out a call for representatives in the fall.

Another way you help make the program better is through your community service. All of the students who serve as leaders in the BSW Student Groups on both campuses helped plan numerous community service activities, and many other students volunteered their time and talent to make a difference in Lawrence and Kansas City. With each activity you undertake, you learn about the community and people in need, while educating the community about social workers and the BSW program at KU.

While I have not had much fun writing my sections of our School’s Self-Study Document--I believe one section is more than 160 pages--I have been very proud as I described our program and the many accomplishments of our students. Thanks again for all you do!

Seniors, I look forward to seeing you at our BSW Recognition Ceremony. Everyone, have a wonderful summer!
News and Information from Vicki

Hi all.

The end of the semester is fast approaching and a number of you will be graduating next month and moving on to bigger and better things.

For those of you moving on: Good Luck! Don’t forget to drop us a note from time to time to let us know how and what you’re doing. We will miss you!

Many of you will be coming back to KU after a summer break. Enjoy the down time! I will be in my office throughout the summer, so if questions and/or concerns come up, don’t hesitate to contact me (vmignot@ku.edu). Enrollment through Enroll and Pay closes down for undergraduate students for the months of June and July, so any changes to your fall 2009 semester need to be made prior to May 31st or after August 1st.

Our last application review date for Fall 2009 admission is June 1, 2009. If you are planning to apply, make sure your application is turned in on or before this date. Decisions will be made and mailed out in early July; make sure that your summer address is listed on your application. Applicants who are admitted during the June review, and will be starting the BSW curriculum (500-level courses), will be able to adjust their fall 2009 schedule on or after August 1st.

Field Education Office News

Attention BSW Juniors

All BSW juniors planning to enter field practicum this fall should have already interviewed by now. Please don’t forget to confirm your practicum placement match following your interview with Alberta Wright @ practicum@ku.edu

If you have questions about practicum planning, please contact Julie Solomon @ jamsoho@ku.edu
Lawrence BSW Student Group

--Nicole Green

The BSW student Group would like to congratulate the seniors and wish them well on their next endeavors! We would also like to wish next year’s officers well; so far they seem to have a lot of great ideas!

The next meeting will be on May 3rd at 6 pm in the Kansas Union. Next year’s officers will be meeting to work on a constitution for the group and more discussion of their hopes for next year’s group.

Have a great summer and try to spend some time with family and friends before starting grad school, a job, summer classes, etc.

KCKCC BSW Student Group

--Andrea Cox

The end of the year has come and the seniors are moving on! We welcome Mark Wagoner, Claire Marr, Leanne Martin, and Cheryl Miller as the new officers of the BSW Student Group at KCKCC. See their pictures below!

There were many different volunteer opportunities this year: Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Crosslines, Kansas City Veterans Hospital, Heart of America Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, and a food drive for the Salvation Army Emergency Assistance Program (pictures below). There was also the opportunity to have fun with a pizza party, bowling, a picnic, and a snack buffet.

The seniors have been very busy this semester with group projects serving the Kansas City community. For the policy class, three groups created a resource list of health care places, an advocacy project for mental illness: the NAMI Walk, and a project for homeless youth. For practice class, two groups worked on the research for the development of a parenting program for mothers with teens in the Kansas Department of Correction and a project on mental illness for NAMI.

All the seniors would like to wish the juniors the best luck in the world next year.
News and Information from KCKCC
--Maxine Elmore

Need and elective or university credit ??? Come to KCKCC this summer or fall for social work electives!

**Summer:**
- SW455: Globalization and Poverty Line# 93965 JUN-09/JUL-02 TR 03:10 -07:50 PM
- SW455: Social Work with Latinos Line# 93967 JUL-07/JUL-30 TR 05:10 -09:50 PM

**Fall:**
- SW410: Professional Writing for Social Workers Line #34455 T 06:10-8:50 PM

These courses are open to all pre-social welfare and social work students.

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**The BSW Program Committee**

Above are the members of the BSW Program Committee: (L-R) Chris Petr, Matthew Blankers, Maggie Glenn, Toni Johnson, Alice Lieberman, Stephanie Elliott, Kris Creten, and Lori Messinger. Not pictured are Terry Koenig and Mary Berry.

The BSW Program Committee meets 3-4 times each semester to evaluate the BSW curriculum and the overall program and address any concerns or issues identified. This group:
- provided feedback to improve BSW recruitment and MSW information sessions,
- suggested supports for doctoral student instructors,
- identified areas for curriculum improvement,
- identified new material on minimal disclosure to be integrated into SW510 and worked with instructors on this inclusion, and
- discussed new ways to integrate the portfolio assignment into the curriculum and program evaluation process (a discussion that is ongoing).

The committee also worked together to prepare for reaffirmation of our accreditation by CSWE in 2009-2010.

We will be looking for 4 new BSW representatives (1 junior and 1 senior from each campus) in the fall. Consider applying to be a representative when the call goes out next year! We can use your input!
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.
Honors and Awards

Matthew Blankers (BSW ’10) (pictured left) and Mandi Chervitz (BSW, ’10) (not pictured) won election to the KU Student Senate representing the School of Social Welfare! We are so pleased to have representation again on the Student Senate. Congratulations, Matt and Mandi!

Stephanie Elliott (BSW ’09) (above left) was awarded the very competitive Margo Gordon Award for Excellence in Outstanding Achievement in field placement. Stephanie is a student on the KCKCC campus.

Molly S. Sailors, junior in social work, was chosen as the 2009 KU Outstanding Woman Student in Community Service. She received this award from the Emily Taylor Women’s Resource Center as part of their Women’s Recognition Awards. Molly was also a graduate of the 2008 KU LeaderShape Institute.

Congratulations also go to Dr. Toni Johnson (at right), recipient of the prestigious 2009 Hobart Jackson Service Award from the KU Black Faculty and Staff Council. Dr. Johnson teaches SW510 in the BSW Program and is a highly respected BSW advisor, as well. We are so glad that her excellence has been recognized by others!
Events Calendar

May
15th  BSW Recognition Ceremony
17th  Walk Down the Hill

June
1st   BSW application deadline for Fall 2009