May 2010

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BSW Director’s Corner

--Lori Messinger

As this is my last newsletter, I would like to thank all of the faculty, students, and staff who have made my experience as BSW Director so enjoyable and successful.

The following faculty members have taught courses in the program, served as BSW advisors, and/or served on the BSW Program Committee: Julie Archer, Mahasweta Banerjee, Marianne Berry, Ed Canda, Mark Ezell, Leslie Hasche, Toni Johnson, Steve Kapp, Johnny Kim, Terry Koenig, Alice Lieberman, Amy Mendenhall, Holly Nelson-Becker, Chris Petr, Ariana Postlethwait, Anne Powell, Ed Scanlon, and Rick Spano. Freda Herrington, Julie Solomon, and Alberta Wright have supported students in their field placements. All of these faculty members worked hard to help students and contributed to the success of the program. Drs. Archer, Berry, and Ezell are leaving KU at the end of the year, and I thank them all for their contributions and wish them all the best in the future.

BSW students Matthew Blankers, Kris Creten, Angela Viles-Shop, and Ashley Barnes volunteered their time and talents on the BSW Program Committee. Student Services staff members Vicki Mignot and Maxine Elmore have improved each BSW student’s experience, whether they know it or not. Student worker Barbara Brennan has been responsible for processing BSW applications, reviewing students' readiness for field and graduation, and formatting and coordinating this very newsletter for the past two years, and she has done a fantastic job! I am excited for Barbara as she graduates from KU.

Although I will miss all of you while I am on my sabbatical this fall, I am happy to be leaving the BSW Director position in Mahasweta Banerjee’s capable hands. I will be traveling a lot during my sabbatical. First, I will be spending a few weeks this summer in Boston at a leadership training institute on higher education administration at Harvard University, and then I will be working with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in Alexandria, Virginia as a Senior Scholar in the fall. Partnering with social work scholars around the country, I will focus on defining culturally competent practice with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations and developing tools to measure BSW and MSW students’ competency in working with LGBT individuals, couples, families, and communities. I am excited to bring back what I learn to KU.

So, in closing, a final word to you students. Seniors, I am looking forward to celebrating your graduation in a few weeks! We are very proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Be sure to check out the updates to the graduation info page. Juniors and pre-social work students, I will see you when I return as a BSW advisor and instructor in Spring 2011. Here’s hoping that everyone has 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: Congratulations and 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, and if questions and/or concerns come up, please 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 2010 semester need to be made prior to May 31st or after August 1st.

Pre-Social Work Students: Our last application review date for Fall 2010 admission is June 1, 2010. If you are planning to apply to start junior-level courses in fall, 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, will be able to adjust their fall 2010 schedule in early August.
ATTENTION ALL Social Work and Pre-Social Work Students!!

Do you need electives?? Interested in summer classes??

**SW 455 Poverty and Globalization** is a 3 credit course offered in **June**.

**SW 455 Social Work with Latinos** is a 3 credit course offered in **July**.

The classes are held at the Kansas City Kansas Community College Campus. Check the KU Schedule of Classes for class time and dates. If you have any questions about the courses, contact Maxine Elmore at (913) 288-7304 or by email at melmore1@ku.edu.

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**KCKCC BSW Student Group**

The end of the year is fast approaching, and many of us are busy wrapping up final projects and assignments. As the seniors prepare for graduation, we would like to thank Maxine Elmore for all she has done for the BSW Student Group. We would not have made it without her support and words of encouragement.

The KCKCC BSW Student Group met one last time on April 13th to wrap up our final volunteer opportunity for the semester and elect new officers for next year. We were able to provide The Salvation Army with several food items that would assist in stocking their local food pantry. We appreciate everyone who was able to make a donation.

Also, we had a few students who participated in The Run for Mercy that was held on April 17th in Shawnee, KS. Many people came from surrounding areas to participate in this benefit in order to raise money for children affected by AIDS in South Africa.

We would like to welcome the new BSW student officers at KCKCC: Heather Pilkinton, Stephanie Henry, Sabrina Darley, and Diana Munoz-Galvan.

Congratulations to everyone’s accomplishments and good luck on your future endeavors.
Lawrence BSW Student Group

The BSW Group had a successful turnout for the first Social Welfare Research Panel. Over 25 students showed up to hear Mary Berry, Julie Sergeant, and Margaret Severson speak about international child welfare, hoarding, and corrections respectively. The group also collected four carloads of baby products (diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo etc.) at the second annual Diaper Drive. The donations were given to Tiny K Intervention, Early Head Start, DCCCA, and Ballard Center.

The last meeting of the year was held on the 27th of April at 7 pm in the Regionalist room of the Kansas Union.

Finally, the group is also hosting a final social event for anyone interested in attending. The event is on May 5 at 6:30 pm at the Salty Iguana!

Notes from the Field Office

Attention BSW Juniors:

By now, most students should have completed their practicum interviews. If you haven’t done so already, please contact Alberta Wright in the field education office to confirm your match (anwright@ku.edu). If you have not yet interviewed with your agency, please contact Julie Solomon @ jamsoho@ku.edu

Please note, the BSW Field Orientation is August 20th (time TBA) at the KU Union. Practicum begins August 30th.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Have a safe and fun summer!
The BSW Recognition Ceremony will be on Friday, May 14th 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 12:15 noon on May 14th 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 as the traditional “Walk May 16th at 2:30 pm.

commencement, also known Down the Hill,” is on Sunday, needed for either

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 ’10 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.

You may want to view this video to prepare for the recessional up the aisle after the ceremony is over: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-94JhLEiN0. Sunglasses are optional. Just sayin’.
May

7th
Stop Day

10th-14th
Finals Week

14th
BSW Recognition Ceremony, Lied Auditorium

16th
Commencement Ceremony

June

8th
First day of Summer classes

Congratulations Seniors!!