Welcome to the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, or welcome back, as the case may be!

I am the new Director of the BSW Program, and am excited to see our returning students and to meet new ones.

I have been at the University of Kansas for 23 years. Sometimes people are curious about who faculty are, and where they have been. So here are a few miscellaneous facts: I got my Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983 (as a new Ph.D. student I was a GTA, where one of my grad students was Associate Dean Steve Kapp!). My first job was at the University of Southern Maine, in Portland (they fed us lobster on our job visit. That did it!). We were recruited by the University of Kansas, and were absolutely taken by the whole “midwest nice” ethos (by the way, the “we” also refers to my husband, Tom McDonald, who is the Associate Dean for Research in the School. You will probably never see him, but he does exist). Along the way, we had two boys, who now live in Los Angeles and Washington, DC. Their “replacements” at home are a wonderful dog and cat, named after Neil Young and Bruce Springsteen.

But what you all need are a few usable facts! So here are some: first, we have a great faculty and staff. People are very helpful! Some of those helpful people have pieces in this newsletter, so be sure to read them. In particular, Vicki Mignot and Maxine Elmore, on the Lawrence and KCK campuses respectively, can both answer questions about advising and enrollment, or direct you to the appropriate place. Second, many changes have taken place at the School of Social Welfare, and many new ones are in the offing. We have four new faculty, about whom we are very excited. Two of them, Professors Karen Lee and Joanna (Jody) Brook, will be teaching in the BSW program: Dr. Lee will teach a section of SW 610 and Dr. Brook will be teaching one of the mini-courses in Crisis Intervention. The others, Drs. Willie Elliott and Michelle Motoyama, will be teaching in the graduate program. All are very accomplished scholars and teachers, and we think that getting four such talented people bodes very well for our future.

There are also likely to be some program changes as we go forward, and we want student input as we consider these changes. So, third thing—we would like one representative from each campus to come to our BSW committee meetings. These reps are a conduit to their fellow students: they represent them at our meetings, and they communicate potential changes and relay student opinion to the committee. These reps should be chosen by participants in the BSW student group, through popular vote if more than one person from each campus comes forward.

Last, but not least, I would like to hear from you! I am in Twente Hall, third floor, and my email is alicel@ku.edu.

Welcome (back) to the School of Social Welfare!
News and Information from Vicki
—Vicki Mignot

Welcome back! For all the new students, I am Vicki Mignot and my office is located in Room 107 of Twente Hall. I work in Student Services for the School of Social Welfare and can help you with a variety of things from pre-social work advising to graduation from the BSW program. Feel free to stop by and say hi sometime.

**Pre-Social Welfare students:** The next review date for BSW applications is February 1, 2012. The BSW Application has been revised and you can pick it up from Room 107 Twente Hall or you can email me and I will mail one to you. Students admitted will begin the social work curriculum in the fall of 2012. If you have questions about the application process, feel free to email me or Dr. Alice Lieberman, BSW Program Director. My email address is vmignot@ku.edu and Dr. Lieberman’s email is alicel@ku.edu.

Pre-social work advising is just around the corner; beginning after fall break. We will be setting up the Pre-Social Work Group Advising dates soon. Keep your eye out for those dates. You can get your advising through us or with the University Advising Center.

**BSW Juniors:** Welcome to the School of Social Welfare. I enjoyed meeting you at the BSW Orientation and hope that you have a great first semester. I encourage you to get involved with the student group early and get to know your advisor, school faculty, and course instructors. If you have any questions do not hesitate to come see me.

**BSW Students:** Take a moment to check your enrollment for any errors. For BSW juniors you should be taking SW 530, SW 540, and SW 555 as well as SW 220 if you haven’t already taken it. Additionally, BSW juniors should be working on finishing up any outstanding general education and elective hours. For BSW seniors you should be taking SW 601, SW 610, SW 620, and two of the following (SW 630, SW 631, SW 632, SW 633). If you find errors in your enrollment or have questions you should contact your advisor or me **as soon as possible.** The curriculum is lock step so make sure that you are enrolled in your fall classes.

Advising is just around the corner. Faculty advisors will be taking appointments after fall break for a period lasting between two and three weeks. It’s not too early to begin thinking about your schedule for spring 2012. Be sure to **sign up early** for appointments and be in contact with your advisor by phone or email if advising issues arise. An advisor list is posted on the bulletin board outside of Room 107 Twente Hall if you need to check it. You **MUST** meet with your advisor before you will be allowed to enroll in spring 2012 courses.

**BSW Seniors:** Now is the time to start checking your ARTS Form to make sure that you are on track to graduate in May. A GPA of 2.50 in both overall and social work is required to graduate. If you find yourself on the borderline of this requirement talk to your faculty advisor immediately. As you know, 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. The General Education list can be found on the website www.socwel.ku.edu or in hardcopy outside of Room 107 Twente Hall. We all know that at times the ARTS Form can have a hiccup and so if you have questions about your credit hours or requirements you can check with your advisor or me. Further, if you have credit hours outside of KU you need to have those transferred sooner than later. A general rule to follow is that until a course is showing on your KU record you haven’t taken it. Stay on top of transfer credit until you see it on your ARTS Form. Lastly, speaking of transfer credit, I strongly encourage you to **NOT** take transfer credit that you need for graduation in your last semester. Because of the time it takes to get transcripts sent to KU and then loaded up it is possible that your graduation could be delayed by a semester.

I am currently working on graduation checks and will be following up with those of you that I have questions about regarding required hours, courses, and GPA. You should all be doing the same. If you have questions be sure to talk with your faculty advisor or me. We all work together to make sure you are going to graduate on time but ultimately the responsibility of graduating falls on your shoulders.

To all, have a great semester!
News From The 2+2 Program
—Maxine Elmore, Program Coordinator

Welcome to new 2+2 BSW students and welcome back returning students!!! We are looking forward to a very productive and prosperous school year.

Have questions about advising, accessing KU services, classes, or other information? Feel free to stop in and see me. I am located in room 3339 in the Jewell Center.

I work late on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and am always available to meet with students. My office number is (913) 288-7304.

Dates to Remember

October 20th, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm:
Prospective Student Information Session at KU Edwards Campus.

2+2 BSW STUDENT GROUP

Bridget Dietz is the President of the BSW Student Group at KCKCC. The student group meets throughout the school year. Community service projects are determined by the student group each semester. At the first meeting, one person will be elected to represent the program at BSW Committee meetings. Come and be a part of this awesome group.

STAY TUNED!!!!

BSW Policy Class Student Group Receives National Award

Four BSW policy students from Vicki Arnett's SW 620-621 class, Claudia Alterman, Ben Gerrard, Mona Kassim and Amanda Sprague-Brunk, are the 2011 winners of the national “Influencing State Policy” award. The award will be presented at the 2011 CSWE APM in Atlanta. The students titled their advocacy project, "The You Don't Speak for Me Campaign: A Human Rights Advocacy Campaign in opposition to Kansas House Bill 2006". HB 2006 proposed to overturn the undocumented immigrant student in state tuition law. The BSW students contacted a film student, organized a number of other college students including KU, ESU and Washburn and, with the assistance of the film student, made a video regarding the impact on students of HB 2006. The video was posted on Youtube. The BSW students also posted an on line petition to gather Kansas registered voter signatures in opposition to HB 2006. The petition internet site provided a hard copy of signatures, including comments, for the students to present the petition with their verbal testimony before the Senate Committee that heard the bill. HB 2006 passed the Kansas House but was defeated in the Senate committee. The students used their prior knowledge of online resources to track the legislation and quickly organize a coalition in opposition. Students were passionate about the legislation’s defeat because they all have had personal contact with university students impacted by the legislation. Their presentation to the Senate committee was well researched and professional in nature. The committee also had to make decisions about how to incorporate an on line petition into testimony so the BSW students did have an impact on the future of the legislative committee process. In the face of committee questions and legislator disagreement, students continued to advocate for social work values. The bill passed the House, but was defeated in the Senate.

Congratulations!!!!!!
BSW Group Officers—Lawrence

Vision for the year from Brian Sultana:

Our primary goal this year for the BSW Group is to create a rich, robust, and recognizable community in which students can connect with each other and pursue shared interests. In addition to regular meetings, we organize social events that are both tons of fun and fantastic bonding opportunities. We are planning lots of volunteer opportunities and service-related activities, fundraisers and benefits, forums, discussions and panels on topics covering a broad range of interests, and events specifically geared towards underclassmen in the BSW program to help them be successful in their coming year and prepare for the future. We want new members to feel great about being part of the group, and we want them to have the opportunity to become as active in it as possible. Therefore, we will have multiple leadership roles available for anyone that is interested, such as volunteer coordinators, activity organizers and social event chairs. Also, if you have an idea for something we're not already doing, talk to any of the officers about it, and you could help plan, create and lead this new venture! We are excited to get this year rolling and hope you'll join us!

Meetings this month include Monday, September 12th at 7pm in Room 305 Courtside in the Burge Union and Monday, September 26th at 7pm in the Alderson Room in the Kansas Union. Meetings will continue every other Monday at 7pm. We will also be planning a social event and volunteer opportunities. Stay posted!

Meet your new officers:

Lexie is a senior in the School of Social Welfare. She is currently serving as co-president for the Student Group. This past summer Lexie participated in the SSW Student Abroad Program in Costa Rica with the theme of International Social Work. She also worked as a staff member in a psychosocial rehabilitation program for children with severe emotion disorders. Lexie’s main interests in social work are children and adolescents and crisis intervention. She is excited to start her practicum this fall with SRS in Kansas City, KS.

Michelle is a junior in the Social Welfare program and co-president for the Student Group. Her passions include international work, community work, and child welfare. This summer Michelle worked with Miriam’s Circle NGO in Maai-Mahiu Kenya promoting women’s empowerment. She has also been working within positive behavior support with children and families at Hilltop Developmental Center. As a junior, Michelle is excited to start classes and she is ready to become even more involved with the Social Welfare Program.

Brian is a senior and co-vice president for the BSW Student Group. He is also one of two Senators on KU Student Senate representing the School of Social Welfare. His interests in social work include governmental policy, advocacy, social activism, and community building. Last summer, he was busy finishing a bunch of General Education requirements, so he greatly looks forward to devoting more time again to social work. He loves working with students new to the program and helping them take active roles in the community.

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Taylor is a senior and co-vice president for the BSW Student Group. Her interests in social work include geriatric mental health, spirituality in social work, strengths-based social policy and case management, social activism, and research. She is currently working on an Undergraduate Research Award grant that she received last spring. The project is titled: Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Rates of Depression Among the Elderly: A Critical Approach. Taylor has experience volunteering for various agencies and organizations including Johnson County Meals-on-Wheels and the Make-a-Wish Foundation. She loves working with any and all people, welcomes new juniors to the School of Social Welfare, and encourages them to attend BSW Student Group meetings and activities.

Jesse is a senior and secretary for the BSW Student Group. Jesse has a passion for research and working with the homeless population. Jesse has volunteered at the Lawrence Community Shelter (LCS) since August of 2009, and gained employment at the shelter in December of 2009. Jesse will be a case management intern at LCS this year as part of his BSW degree completion. Over the summer Jesse got to work with a sociology professor from Baker University, Dr. Jacob Bucher, on exposing a group of “at-risk” students to the challenges that a homeless individual may face. Jesse also coordinated with a disability consultant, Tiffany Huggard-Lee, to put on staff training for LCS this summer.

Bridget is a senior in the Social Welfare Program. She is this year’s BSW Student Group Treasurer. Bridget has been involved with the Office of Multicultural Affairs this past summer for New Student Orientation. She volunteers at Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence and Eastlake Community church. Her interests in social welfare are wide but include helping the homeless, adoption and child welfare, and disaster relief.

NEW ADVISOR

Amy is a new student group advisor this year and we are very excited to welcome her onto our team! She is starting her third year as an assistant professor in the School of Social Welfare. Amy’s scholarship and research focus on children’s mental health. She teaches SW 863 Mental Health and Psychopathology in the NSW program. Amy reports to have had a wonderful summer with her new son Evan who was born in March. She is excited to start working with the BSW Student Group this year!
Notes From the Field Education Office
—Freda Herrington, Director

The staff in the Field Education Office welcomes our BSW students back to school with best wishes for a year filled with rewarding learning experiences and remarkable professional growth.

**Juniors** – Planning for your Field Practicum will begin after mid-term this fall. Small group meetings will be scheduled on the Lawrence and the Kansas City Kansas Community College campuses for students to meet Heather Jones, Assistant Director of Field Education and Freda Herrington, Director of Field Education. These meetings will be opportunities for you to learn about the Field Practicum requirement for BSW students and to begin the placement planning process. Your practicum planning documents will be due at the end of the fall semester.

**Seniors** – By now, students enrolled in SW 601 Field Practicum have started their field experiences at their agencies. Be sure that you and your field instructor have agreed to your regular schedule of 16 hours per week in the agency. As you are becoming familiar with social work in your practicum agency, jot down notes of the activities and experiences that are especially interesting to you. These will be important to discuss with your field instructor so they can be added to your Practicum Learning Contract. Most of you attended the Practicum Orientation on Friday, August 26th. During the Orientation you met with your Field Liaison. Your Field Liaison represents the School of Social Welfare’s learning objectives for Field Practicum. This person is a resource to you and your Field Instructor in the agency to ensure that you have access to learning assignments that will make it possible for you to practice and develop your professional skills. Your Field Liaison will plan to meet with you and your field instructor at least once each semester. You should anticipate monthly e-mail or phone calls from your Field Liaison to check-in with you about how you are doing in your practicum.

Use the following link to the School’s website to access the Field Education Handbook and to explore the other materials that will support your work in Field Practicum.

[http://www.socwel.ku.edu/academics/practicum/bsw/](http://www.socwel.ku.edu/academics/practicum/bsw/)

The staff in the Field Education Office would welcome hearing from you if you have questions or concerns about Field Practicum.

practicum@ku.edu
Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER
12  BSW Group, 7 pm, Room 305 Courtside, Burge Union
26  BSW Group, 7 pm, Alderson Room, Kansas Union

OCTOBER
20  Prospective Student Information Session, KU Edwards Campus