BSW Director’s Corner

--Lori Messinger

This is one of our shorter newsletters, which makes sense because everyone has just returned to campus and is busy with the start of another semester. The Field Education Office is busy finding placements for all of our juniors for next academic year, and Vicki has been poring over everyone’s files to make sure you are on track in your studies.

I have been working with Dean Kondrat and the BSW Program Committee members (Drs. Toni Johnson, Chris Petr, Terry Koenig, Alice Lieberman, Mahasweta Banerjee, Freda Herrington, and Marianne Berry and students Matthew Blankers, Julie Hope, Kris Creten, Angela Viles-Shop, and Ashley Barnes) to prepare for our reaccreditation site visit later this month with two esteemed faculty site visitors representing the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The site visitors have read a self-study we wrote outlining our curriculum, our policies and procedures, and the findings of our surveys with students, alumni, and field instructors about student learning and accomplishment. They will come to campus and meet with the BSW Program Committee, field instructors, faculty, and students to get a better sense of the BSW and MSW Programs and the ways we work to help students gain the required knowledge, skills, and values to become successful social workers.

As I was re-reading our self-study documents, I thought that those of you affiliated with the BSW Program might be interested in what we found in our review of the data.

Students generally report their satisfaction with their professional and academic advising, their preparation for practice and graduate study, and the courses they are taking as part of the program. You will be pleased to know that alumni report being very successful in finding social work jobs and/or getting into graduate programs in social work, law, and other related fields. Our BSW graduates also are passing the licensure exams in Kansas at rates consistently above the national average. We have received some critiques of specific curricular and field processes and suggestions for improving these, and we have made some changes in these areas.

It is exciting and tiring to go through the reaccreditation process, which happens every 8 years. But every time we engage in this self-study, we learn a little more about the BSW program—areas where it is strong and places where we can improve the program.

Our review showed how strong our program is and how impressive our faculty, staff, and students are! I am looking forward to being able to show off all of the wonderful things happening here at the KU School of Social Welfare and the BSW Program when we meet the site visitors later this month. ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK, GO KU(SSW)!
News and Information from Vicki

WELCOME BACK!!! I hope that you had a wonderful break.

Pre-Social Work students - The next review of BSW applications will be February 1, 2010. It will take approximately 4-6 weeks to review applications before decisions are mailed out. All applicants will receive a written notification of the admission decision. Applicants admitted at this review will begin the BSW curriculum in fall 2010.

For JUNIORS – Practicum readiness checks are being done this month. Please be sure that you have ALL transfer work in to KU so that there won’t be any questions about being ready to enter your senior year and start practicum. If you have question you can talk with your advisor or me.

For SENIORS – If you will be graduating in May 2010 you must complete the Apply for Graduation on Enroll and Pay. The deadline is March 1st so don’t procrastinate. Completion of this alerts the Registrar’s Office that you will be graduating and without it you will not be listed in the graduation program and you will not receive your degree.

For SENIORS - As we begin the new semester remember to review your degree requirements. 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. If you have questions about your credit hours or requirements you should check with your advisor or me. Don’t forget to reference the SW General Education Course List located at this link (http://www.socwel.ku.edu/academics/BSW/bswgen.shtml) or in hardcopy outside of Room 107 Twente Hall.

Enjoy your semester!
KCKCC BSW Student Group

The KCKCC BSW Student Group hasn’t set meeting times for this semester, and plans for projects and activities are still being organized.

We know we are going to do a semester long food drive for the Salvation Army. Specifics for other activities are still being organized.

We will notify everyone when we set the date for the next meeting.

Hope the beginning of your semester is progressing smoothly!

Lawrence BSW Student Group

The BSW group met for the first time this semester on the 19th. During that meeting, the group brainstormed ideas and discussed what they want to accomplish this semester. There are several great ideas for service projects and benefits on the table that will be further discussed at the next meeting on 2/2/10 held in the Governor’s room at 7 pm. Everyone’s input is valued in this discussion. We hope to see some new faces!

The group also reviewed their idea of hosting Social Welfare research lectures and initiated the beginning phases of planning the event.

Group members are hoping to host a social event in the first week of February. Check email and facebook for more information about the social event soon!
Reminders from Field Education

Please mark your calendars!

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 25th
5:40 - 6:25pm
Room: TBA

Lawrence Students
March 26th
3:00 - 4:00 pm
Kansas Room, Kansas Union

Students will find out where you have been matched for practicum, and hear more about the interviewing process!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please contact Julie Solomon or Vicki Arnett with questions: 785/864-2663 or jamsoho@ku.edu or varnett@ku.edu

Please Note: Julie Solomon will be out of the country during the month of February. Vicki Arnett will be assisting with BSW placements during this time. If you have questions about your practicum planning process during the month of February, please contact Vicki at the email address above.
Upcoming Events

Come to the 2010 Education Interview Day on Tuesday, March 2 from 8:30am-4:00pm in the Kansas Union Ballroom. This event is a great opportunity for students who will be graduating this spring or summer to interview with local and national school district administrators for openings in the 2010-11 academic year in all teaching fields, as well as, school social work, special education school psychology, counseling, speech-language pathology, administration, occupational and physical therapy, among other areas.

Students may pre-register online for interviews until Wednesday, February 17. Students will also have an opportunity to sign up for interviews on the day of the event between 8:30-9:00am. However, many of the larger, more popular districts' interview schedules are beginning to fill up, so I would encourage them to sign up as soon as they can to ensure an interview with their favorite districts.

We currently have over 60 school districts from Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas, and Kansas registered to attend. To view a comprehensive listing, go to: www.kucareerhawk.com/edinterview.

We also offered a "Get Ready for the Education Interview Day" preparation workshop on Wednesday, January 27 from 3:00-4:00pm in 247 JRP. If you missed it, you can download a copy of this presentation at http://www.kucareerhawk.com/edinterview.

If you have questions regarding the interview day event, please contact me at mejohn@ku.edu or (785) 864-7677. For more information about the Education Interview Day, please visit our website: http://www.kucareerhawk.com/edinterview.
Apply to be a UAC Peer Advisor!

Are you looking for a fun and rewarding part-time summer job?

Apply to be a 2010 Peer Advisor with the University Advising Center! You will gain leadership and teamwork skills while working with new KU students, faculty and staff. For additional details see www.advising.ku.edu/peeradvisor.

Applications are due February 5, 2010.

Questions? Contact Kelli Nichols at kellin@ku.edu.

Does the cost of Textbooks have you worried??

SAVE YOUR COURSE MATERIAL RECEIPTS – YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A TAX CREDIT UP TO $2,500!!

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s (ARRA) newly created American Opportunity Tax Credit, textbook and other course material expenses – along with tuition and fees incurred in 2009 and 2010 not covered by scholarships or grants – may be claimed as a tax credit on that year’s tax return!

You must keep a record of your expenses to be eligible!!

http://www.textbookaid.org/
March 2nd & 9th 2010
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Strengthening Lives through Solutions

Tuesday, March 2nd at CMH Community Room:
Social Determinants of Maternal Health
Speaker: Marjorie Sible, Dr.PH, MSW

Marjorie Sible, Dr.PH, MSW is the director and a professor of the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri, Columbia. She attended Washington University where she received a Masters in Social Work and Public Health. She received her DrPH at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Marjorie specializes in Maternal and Child Health, Perinatal Social Barriers to Maternal Care and Family Planning, Domestic Violence and Perinatal substance abuse.

Tuesday, March 9th at CMH Community Room:
Returning from the War Zone: Understanding PTSD in Veterans and the impact on families.
Speaker: Jeremiah T. Blasing, LCSW, CASAC

Jeremiah T. Blasing, LCSW, CASAC is a therapist at the Kansas City Veterans Administration Medical Center focusing on returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who have been diagnosed with PTSD. He is a liaison between the VA and military and works with Family Readiness Groups in the military. He graduated with his MSW from the University of Kansas School of Social Work.

Social Work Lecture Series Sponsored by:
CMH Social Work & Community Services Department & Social Work P.R.N.

Note that the lecture series begins at 12:00 p.m. 1.0 CEU Available.

For driving directions to Children’s Mercy Hospital, please visit www.childrensmercy.org
Events Calendar

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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.