BSW Director’s Corner

--Lori Messinger

SPRING IS HERE! I cannot think of anything more exciting to write as I look out my window and see the trees sprouting new buds, flowers opening, and grass turning green again. Spring break is behind us, and the end of the semester is in sight!

I would like to congratulate all of the Juniors on your recent field placements. Don’t forget to get your interviews scheduled quickly! As the seniors can tell you, the field experiences can be some of the most instructive and rewarding of your career.

I know from reading Facebook updates that our Seniors are pretty excited about graduating and nervous about what lies ahead, be it AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Graduate School, or real, honest-to-goodness employment! No matter what you plan to do after graduating, you are entering a new phase in your life. We are proud of your achievements so far, and we have great hopes for your future. But don’t forget that you still have several weeks of field placement and courses left to finish! Stay focused and stay on course, and I will see you at the Lied Center for graduation.

Seniors, you have another duty remaining. Each year, the BSW seniors on each campus select a graduation speaker. I am writing to ask that you nominate someone from your cohort to represent the group at graduation. This person should be a good public speaker, a strong representative of your class and the profession, and someone you actually want to hear from on your graduation day!

Please email your graduation speaker nomination to me at lorim@ku.edu by 5 pm on Friday, April 9th. (Feel free to nominate yourself!) I will then collate the nominations and create ballots for voting in your classes. Your votes will elect a speaker.

Not to add to your spring fever, but I will just confess my own and say there are only…

FIVE WEEKS OF CLASSES LEFT!
News and Information from Vicki

Welcome back from Spring Break!

**Pre-Social Work Students:** Group Advising sessions are available. The dates, times, and locations are:
- Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> in Room 206 from 1-2:30pm.
- Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in Room 206 from 11am until 12:30pm.
- Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> in Room 206 from 10:30am until 12pm.

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. By emailing me (vmignot@ku.edu) ahead of time I will put together some individualized materials for you.

June 1, 2010 is our last review of BSW applications for a fall 2010 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 2010 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 will have a SW Advising Hold that can not 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 Seniors:** Hopefully by this time you have done the following things and 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 2010 BSW Graduates has been forwarded to KSBSRB ([http://www.ksbsrb.org](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 to “see KU graduate list for May 2010”.
NEWS FROM THE 2+2 PROGRAM

Advising ends April 9th. Don’t forget to sign up!!! The sign-up sheets are located on the office door in Jewell Center room 3339.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 13th 5:30 pm- 6:20 pm KCKCC BSW Student Group Meeting Room TBA

April 27th 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception for the new BSW Director Room TBA

Come enjoy some snacks, say goodbye to our outgoing BSW Director, and welcome the new Director, Dr. Mahasweta Banerjee (left). All full-time and part-time faculty, students, and staff from the KCKCC 2+2 Program are invited! Dr. Banerjee leads a study abroad trip to India and uses mixed methods research to (a) examine which capabilities allow economically disadvantaged people in India to work and earn an income, and (b) understand social work students’ beliefs and attitudes towards social justice. You can learn more about Dr. Banerjee on the School of Social Welfare website: http://www.socwel.ku.edu/FacStaff/facultymember.asp?id=2.

KCKCC BSW Student Group

The KCKCC BSW Student Group is currently participating in a food drive competition between the junior and senior class. The food drive donations will support the local Salvation Army. The deadline to donate non-perishable food items will be April 13th. Items can be placed in appropriate boxes in Maxine Elmore’s office.

Please remember that the BSW Student Group will be participating in The Run for Mercy scheduled on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 8:00 am at Monticello Trails Middle School, 6100 Monticello Road, about 1 mile north of Shawnee Mission Parkway. The Run for Mercy is one of the most highly attended races in Kansas City, and you can be one of more than 1,500 people who will help improve the lives of South African children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Anyone interested is welcome to participate. To register online go to http://www.active.com/running/shawnee-ks/run-for-mercy-5k-10k-walk-or-run-2010-oa684 or you can register the day of the race.

Mark your calendars, our next meeting is scheduled for April 13,, 2010. Time and room location will be announced at a later time. Please plan on coming as we will be voting for next year’s BSW Student Officers. Pizza and Drinks will be provided.
Lawrence BSW Student Group

The BSW Group is continuing to prepare for the 2nd annual Diaper Drive on April 3rd. Any students interested in helping on that day can contact the Group at bsw@ku.edu or via facebook “BSW Group.”

The Group is also organizing a panel discussion of KU School of Social Welfare researchers that will be held on April 8th at 6:15. This is a great opportunity to learn about some of the groundbreaking research done at our school. It is also a chance to connect with professors. Julie Sergeant, Mary Berry, and Margaret Severson will be speaking. More details to come! The group will also be announcing another social event soon!

The next meetings will be:

March 30, at 7 pm in Alcove D of the Kansas Union

April 13, at 7 pm in Alcove D of the Kansas Union

April 27, at 7 pm in the Regionalist Room of the Kansas Union

Summer Research Opportunity

2010 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 13th 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 24, 2010 and July 30, 2010. For more information and to find application instructions, please go to our website:

http://www.ches.ua.edu/mys

If you are unable to access the website, contact John Bolland by e-mail (jbolland@ches.ua.edu) or phone (205.348.9953). We will begin making decisions on March 16, 2010, although we will continue accepting applications until all positions are filled (typically at least the middle of April).
Several graduating BSW Seniors worked with the Lawrence Office of Social and Rehabilitative Services (SRS) in spring 2009. This collaboration was a service learning project that students completed as part of Ariana Postlethwait’s Social Work Research seminar class. Students developed an informational brochure on Asperger’s Syndrome for staff to distribute to parents. Students presented on their project to SRS staff at the end of the spring 2009 semester.

SRS staff members were quite impressed with the students’ efforts and have been distributing the developed pamphlet to families. Thanks to you seniors and happy graduation!

From left to right: Christy Janouschek, Erika Ost-Kokoruda, Meny Chacon, Jackie Zensen (SRS Staff & KU BSW graduate), Will Fernholz, and Emily Simpson.

**KU elective social work courses available at KCKCC this summer!!**

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<td>SW455 Social Work with Latinos**</td>
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**These 3 credit courses are open to all BSW Students!**

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**Safe Space Ally Training**

Friday, April 2nd, 2010
1:00pm
Regionalist Room in the Kansas Union

The Safe Space Ally Program is a peer educational program geared toward teaching students at the University of Kansas issues regarding the LGBTQ community, like terminology, anti-oppression resources, and current events, in the hopes that more students will identify and act as allies to the LGBTQ community.

This session will train interested participants to assist in facilitation of the Safe Space Ally Program. This three-hour long workshop will take an in-depth look at the currently existing programs and provide participants with the resources to facilitate the workshops themselves. Graduates will receive certification and become part of the LGBT Peer Educator Committee which reports to the LGBT Resource Coordinator and Queers & Allies’ Educational Outreach Coordinator.
Upcoming Events

KU Social Work Day 2010

Building Connections in a Diverse World

When: April 16th, 2010, 8 am – 4 pm
Where: Kansas Union Woodruff Auditorium (level 5)

Keynotes:
Dr. Michael Fowlin - “You Don’t Know Me Until You Know Me”

Therapeutic Metaphors, Jim Kreider
To Be or Not to Be: Discovering Similarities and Celebrating Differences, Gary Bailey
Best Practices With LGBT Youth and Their Families: Recent Research, Lori Messinger
Sí se Puede: Effective Advocacy with Latino Immigrant Populations, Melinda Lewis

Afternoon Workshops
Therapeutic Metaphors, Jim Kreider
Sexuality and Relationships in Aging, Dennis Dailey
Bullying and Peer Victimization among Children and Adolescents: Definitions, Characteristics, and Intervention Approaches, Anne Powell
Addressing Spirituality within Culturally Competent Practice, Edward R. Canda, Sachiko Gomi, Vincent Starnino

More information can be found at: http://www.socwel.ku.edu/swday/index.shtml
GRADUATING SENIORS!!!
Please read this page in its entirety!!

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 Commencement, also known as the traditional “Walk Down the Hill,” is on Sunday, May 16th at 2:30 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 ’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.
April
3rd  Diaper Drive
9th  Graduation Speaker Nominations due
13th KCKCC Student Group Meeting
16th Social Work Day in the Kansas Union 5th floor, Woodruff Auditorium
17th Run for Mercy

May
7th  Stop Day
10th-14th Finals Week
14th BSW Recognition Ceremony, Lied Auditorium
16th Commencement Ceremony

June
8th  First day of Summer classes

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.