

IN HIS SERVICE

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dean Wilder's Message

Greetings from the School of Social Work! As another semester begins, I am reminded of how committed our students and graduates are to this profession and how eager they are to improve the lives of those in need. There is no doubt that year after year, we attract some of the most passionate students who demonstrate a commitment to making a difference in the lives of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. I am confident that our school will continue to grow stronger because of our dedicated faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Daniells Hall may be home to the School of Social Work, but the impact of this program reaches far beyond these walls. Please stay in touch with us. Let us



Winter 2015

know how you are impacting your community as clinicians, administrators, advocates, promoters of justice, or field interns.

In His service, we all make a difference.

– Kristie Wilder, Dean

From Student to Teacher

I have been assisting with bachelor's classes in the School of Social Work since the fall of 2011. However, last semester I had the opportunity to teach a class by myself: Introduction to Social Work. This has been such a great experience, and I am grateful that I have been mentored by Annette Heck and Evie Baker! In preparing my class, I wanted the

students to hear from experts in different fields of social work. I immediately thought of my classmates in the MSW program and some students who graduated the year after me; several of them were able to come as guest speakers.

Dag Pontvik (MSW, '13) and Christina Cecotto (MSW, '14) shared about their experiences with international social work. Corinne Freeman (MSW, '14), from The Caring Place, stressed the importance of meeting each client with humility and not as the person who has all the answers. Anamaria Cordero, who graduated with her BSW from Southern ('09), gave a dynamic presentation about social work in groups and her experiences at Valley Mental Health Hospital. I wanted my class to hear from more males in this profession as well, so I invited Matthew Craig (MSW, '13) and Matthew McUmbler (MSW, '13) to be guest speakers. Angie Webb (MSW, '13) came to present about family and child welfare, and the students were very interested in the topics of adoption and foster care.

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Student Organizations

MSWSC

Southern's Master of Social Work Student Coalition (MSWSC) is a student-led organization dedicated to supporting the MSW student body. As such, the MSWSC is committed to facilitating personal and professional growth among students and strives to empower them to give to others through professional service. In working to achieve these goals, the MSWSC has organized multiple events and outreach opportunities for the MSW student body.

The MSWSC started the school year by initiating a "joint worship" time each Face-to-Face (F2F) Sunday at the beginning of the morning classes. This endeavor was designed to promote a greater bond between Advanced and Foundation cohorts. The organization also developed an optional program for student prayer partners in an attempt to support the spiritual needs of the student body and to facilitate greater connection within the program. On Oct. 12, 2014, the MSWSC officers hosted a prayer breakfast for their fellow students, which was very well-received. During the holidays, MSWSC "adopted" families by providing them with needed items as Christmas gifts. For second semester,

MSWSC is planning to organize a bonfire vespers, a bowling event, and the assembly of care packages for soldiers. Watch for announcements of other fun activities and learning opportunities for the MSW student body this semester.

Social Work Club

The mission of the Social Work Club for this year is to reveal Christ through our actions involving community service and to treat everyone with dignity and respect. We want to ignite a burning passion for social work and create more awareness about our profession. We will put Jesus' love into action and join together to advocate for those who go unheard. Simply put, we want to show the positive side of social work through on-campus and off-campus ministries.

This year, we are promoting some activities in collaboration with other clubs on campus, such as partnering up with the psychology club for one of our vespers programs. For our community service event during the fall semester, we chose to serve the Chattanooga Community Kitchen by arranging a Christmas party for children in

need. On Jan. 19, 2015, on MLK Jr. Day, we hosted "The Street Store" in partnership with The Salvation Army, which provided a new shopping experience to the homeless in our community. Donated clothing items were collected and then provided to the Street Store customers for free.

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Our Mu Chi chapter of the Phi Alpha social work honor society is eager to promote a closer bond among social work students by fostering high standards of education that go beyond academics. Mu Chi is different from other chapters, because a service requirement helps to single out students who are going above and beyond the social work profession's call to action. During the fall semester, our chapter volunteered for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Walk and participated in Southern's Fall Fest. We also brought Christmas cheer to Eagle Crest Assisted Living facility residents and staff in Chattanooga.

—Brittney Bryan, MSW student; Brittany Owens, junior social work major; and Kha-neisha Harewood, social work major

Field Agency Spotlight: Hatch's House of Hope

Hatch's House of Hope, a branch of the Austin Hatcher Foundation for Pediatric Cancer, is a pediatric cancer care center for children and their families. Its goal is to provide patients and their families with the tools needed not just to cope, but to thrive at the onset of pediatric cancer, as well as the necessary skills to live a meaningful and productive life as cancer survivors. As a non-profit organization that runs on donations, Hatch's House of Hope provides its services at no cost to families in need.

Some services offered include: psychological counseling and support, cognitive testing, tutoring and academic support services, music and art therapy, diversionary therapy, and patient visits. They also conduct outreach events in order to let more people know about their organization and to spread awareness and prevention for pediatric cancer.

Our very own Kyley Barton (MSW, '15) is the field student working with Hatch's House of Hope. Barton recently assisted this nonprofit by running its booth at the Autumn Children's Festival at the Tennessee River Park in Chattanooga. An estimated 1,000 people came by the Hatch's House of Hope booth at the festival and were informed about services offered, told of the need for volunteers, and given brochures with more information regarding the organization.

Barton works on her field practicum at Hatch's under the supervision of social worker Bryan Humphreys, and although she is not an employee of Hatch's, she is treated as a clinical member of the team. Working with patients and observing testing and counseling sessions are only a couple of ways that Barton is getting hands-on professional and personal experience through her practicum. She also represents the organization at events and goes on hospital rounds with the clinical team.

For more information on Hatch's House of Hope, please visit their website at hatchshouse.org.



Kyley Barton with Bryan Humphreys of Hatch's House of Hope.

—Carina Allen, sophomore business administration & public relations major

December 2014 Graduates



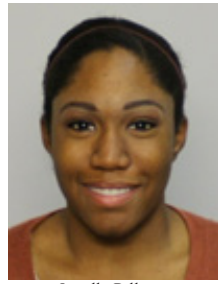
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BSW



Harold Avila
MSW-Trauma



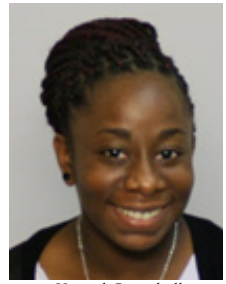
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MSW-International



Janelle Billingy
MSW-Trauma



Norma Brown
MSW-Trauma



Krystal Campbell
MSW-International



Brittany Cantrell
BSW



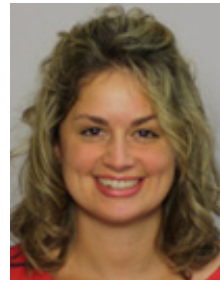
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MSW-Trauma



Christina Cecotto
MSW-International



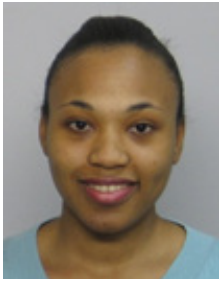
Danae Church
MSW-International



Stefanie Cucciarre
MSW-Trauma



Constance Dawes
BSW



Marlenny Franco-Johnson
MSW-International



Corinne Freeman
MSW-Child & Family



Amanda Hughs
MSW-International



Danette Hutton
MSW-Trauma



Jacqueline Jackson
MSW-Child & Family



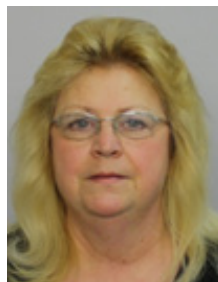
Mary Kyle
MSW-Child & Family



Juliet Mark
MSW-Trauma



Katie McKillop
MSW-Child & Family



Sheila Mikel
MSW-Trauma



Amber O'Gara
MSW-Child & Family



Kevin Poole
MSW-Child & Family



Brooke Ray
MSW-Child & Family



Wayne Allen Smith
BSW-International



Katie Vawter
MSW-International



Alyssa Velbis
MSW-Child & Family

2014 Social Justice Retreat

This school year, Southern Adventist University had the privilege of hosting the ninth annual Social Justice Retreat. The retreat took place on Oct. 3, 2014, and featured Dr. Edith Fraser, recently retired chair of the Social Work, Psychology, and Counseling Department at Alabama A&M University. Distinguished professionals from the community led a



Students attending the Social Justice Retreat

panel discussion on leadership, the main topic of this year's retreat.

Those attending from Southern included 19 junior and senior BSW students, seven MSW students, two faculty, and two community residents. Southern also had the pleasure of welcoming students and faculty from Chattanooga State, Cleveland State, Oakwood University, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and other professionals from the area.

The event's main focus on leadership touched on how social workers can be innovative in leadership roles. Attendees learned about social justice at the macro level, as well as how to be effective agents of change. Great leaders, such as Caesar Chavez, were used as examples to highlight the importance and potency of excellent leadership.

One of the activities included scenarios that were acted out and presented to the attendees. A particular scenario dealt with the issues in Ferguson, Missouri, and gave examples of positive and negative broad-

casting. Everyone was then challenged to think critically about how each of the different situations should be handled. The retreat also allowed time for networking, giving attendees the opportunity to meet other passionate current and future leaders in attendance.

The 2014 Social Justice Retreat was an important time to revisit essential, time-tested concepts and to learn new, exciting ways of becoming effective social workers. Brittany Owens, junior social work major at Southern, enjoyed the time she spent at the retreat, saying she "learned ways to be a more effective leader and how to implement change on a large scale." It is an honor to be part of such a great movement!

– Mariana Kaplan, junior social work major

Social Work Happenings



Social Work Club and Psychology Club Vespers



MSW students (from left) Brittini Bryan, Kylee Barton, Samantha Graham, and Marvelle Davis spread awareness about domestic violence.



Alumni luncheon on Oct. 29, 2014, at Sitar Indian Cuisine



Professor Baker (left), Dr. Philossaint (middle), and Dr. Wilder (right) pass out "midterm muffins" made by our office manager, Cheryl Craven.



From left: Samantha Mascary, Natalie Herrera, and Cassie Van Barriger run the social work booth at Fall Fest.

From Student to Teacher

Continued from page 1

When the class studied the chapter about rural social work, it seemed like the perfect time for LeAnn Smith (MSW '13) and Angela Mainord (MSW, '13) to come and share about the challenges and rewards of working in a rural setting. The last guest speakers we had in the course were Tekoa Penrose (MSW, '14) and Pamela Pope (MSW, '13), who made presentations about case management. Tekoa informed students of job opportunities with Omnivision, and Pam shared with the class the various functions of the Department of Human Services (DHS) that go beyond food stamps.

Our class also heard from professionals who have been adjunct teachers, guest speakers, or field instructors for the department: John Lee, Perrin Lance, and Stephanie Guster. These passionate social workers told the students about what they

get to do every day to make a difference in mental health, community organization, and school social work, respectively.

Having the opportunity to teach at the undergraduate level has been a great experience. When I received my bachelor's degree in elementary education, I never envisioned that within 10 years I'd be working with university students. I am glad I was able to teach this class and to involve so many outstanding social workers that I met during my own MSW experience. I hope that other social work alumni contact our department about being a guest speaker and sharing their inspiring experiences in the field. The students love to hear what it is really like working as a professional social worker, and alumni success stories and challenges encountered add so much to the learning experience!

— Amanda Tortal, adjunct professor



Amanda Tortal speaks with a student.

New York City Study Tour



Students walk the Brooklyn Bridge during the New York City study tour.

Once a year, a small group of about 10 students participates in one of Southern's annual highlights, the New York City study tour. Over Thanksgiving break, students spend the week exploring the sights, sounds, and smells of New York City, as well as observing how this particular world epicenter has changed over the years and how it affects those who live there.

This year the group traveled to several different ethnic neighborhoods of New York and observed how people in their respective regions live and have adapted to change in New York over the years. Some areas the class visited include: Little Italy, Harlem, China Town, and the Jewish community in the Lower East Side. Students were encouraged to immerse themselves into the culture of each of these ethnic neighborhoods.

Students also had the opportunity to experience the more "touristy" parts of New York City, such as the Statue of Liberty. As for entertainment, the class attended the Broadway production of *Les Misérables*

and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. Students were also able to witness the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

During their free time, students were encouraged to explore other areas of the city that were not part of the tour. They chose to visit Staten Island, The West Village, and various other locations that piqued their interest.

"It is one thing to hear about the various cultures that live so close to each other amidst the hustle of New York," said April Riseley, a junior social work major, "but it is another to physically see, smell, and taste the different cultures within the Manhattan area alone."

Many students agree that the New York study tour is an important experience and an excellent way to learn firsthand about how other cultures live and work in one of the largest cities in the country, all while broadening their worldviews.

— Chris Janetzko, senior mass communications major



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