Community Service Day

The first community service day is April 26th from 9:30-11am at the Windham House. Pre-social work, bachelor, and masters level students, and faculty and staff of the School of Social Work are invited to play board games, card games, and socialize with the residents of the nursing home. We will meet at the Payne Center parking lot at 9am on the 26th and carpool over, bring your favorite board game!

If you would like to participate or for more information contact Allan Rowe at allan.rowe@eagles.usm.edu

Field Spotlight
Westway Behavioral Healthcare
Reflection by Jeanie Valentine, MSW student

Westway Behavioral Healthcare is a Pinebelt Mental Healthcare residential facility which serves clients with a variety of diagnoses who find themselves in need of crisis intervention. As a MSW intern, it has offered me a wonderful opportunity to expand my social work skills through first-hand experiences in working with clients who suffer from major depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, suicidal ideation, PTSD and alcohol/drug
issues as well as gaining knowledge about the related pharmaceuticals that are prescribed for these illnesses. Each client is unique, and each one admitted to Westway must first be stabilized before any other need can be addressed with them. A majority are non-compliant with their medications which causes a tangential disruption in their usual functioning. Some have abused drugs to the point that it is difficult to differentiate their symptoms.

To continue reading Jeanie's reflection, please click here.

School of Social Work (Fritzsche-Gibbs Hall):
(601) 266-4163

What's going on this week?

In the school:

Congratulations to Dr. Tamara Hurst for being selected as the Junior faculty member to represent the College of Health by Dean Forster at Dr. Bennett's inauguration ceremony on May 2nd!

Please congratulate Cynthia Reeves, a current BSW student, who has passed the LSW exam.

Student Awards: Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline honor society. The Society's mission is to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others. Social work students Sue Bell and Tambria Davis received awards at the Phi Kappa Phi initiation on April 13, 2014 during a ceremony led by Dr. David Davies. Congratulations Sue and Tambria!
SASW Club

Our final meeting is April 22nd. This meeting will be a potluck so bring your favorite dish!

We're also selling coffee for $10 a bag! Contact a SASW member to purchase a bag!

Field Education Research: Dr. Lynda Sowbel and Debra Ford are conducting research on students’ experiences in field placements regarding supervision and fulfillment of required hours. They are interested in hearing how students are managing to meet field education demands in the face of their own busy lives and the increasing pressures on social service organizations and field instructors. They are offering students a chance to win $25 gift cards if they participate.

If you are currently in a field placement, click this link to take the survey. Students’ responses will be collected anonymously, and will not be linked to you or your university in any way.

This is your special invitation to our 10th Annual Social Work Banquet that will be held April 25th at 6 pm in the Thad Cochran Center, Ballrooms 1 and II on the Hattiesburg campus. The theme is ‘All People Matter’.

The last day of the writing lab will be Friday, May 2nd. Please plan your paper writing accordingly.

BSW Club

Thank you so much to everyone who came out to the profit share night at Qdoba! It was a great success! We will have a total amount of the money raised for Lifesupport Cares in next week’s newsletter. Congratulations to all of the new officers for the 2014-2015 school year! We are looking forward to the great year ahead with you all. The BSW Club is so excited for the Banquet this Friday at 6:00 p.m. Our next officers meeting will be April 29th and our next club meeting will be May 1st. Both are at 12:15;

On campus:

Sports: It has been a busy week for the Golden Eagles men’s baseball team. The guys started out this week with a loss against LSU on Tuesday, April 15 with a final score of 13-5. They won the next three games against LA Tech on April 18th, 19th and the 20th. The final score on the Friday game was 2-0, the final score on the Saturday game was 1-0, and on Sunday they won with a final score of 8-3.

The Lady Eagles women’s softball team also faced LA Tech this week. They played a double header on Friday, April 18 and won both of those games. The final on the first game was 2-0 and the final on the second game was 4-3. LA Tech came back on Saturday, April 19 and won the third game with a final of 7-0.

SMAC: On Friday, April 25 from 4-7 p.m. the SMAC will be hosting the Annual Crawfish Fest on Centennial Lawn.
we look forward to seeing you!

Facebook

Southern Miss
Gulf Coast
Student
Social Work
Association

Thank you to all who came out to support the Jazz and Blues Festival this weekend. Please continue to bring in duffel bags and backpacks (gently used is ok) to be donated to Hope Haven. Don’t forget that a student meeting is scheduled with Dr. Bennett this Tuesday the 22nd, from 10:30–11:30, in the Hardy Hall Ballroom. If you would like to try to meet individually with him, he will be in the University Club for the hour before.

Facebook

Don’t forget to register for The Family Feud. It will be held in Seymours from 7-10 on Tuesday, April 29. The last day you will be able to register will be Monday, April 21. If you don’t want to participate in The Feud, then come out and support The Social Twerkers.

In the community:

Movie Night in the park!
Frozen will be shown starting at 8pm on Saturday, May 3rd in Town Square Park, Hattiesburg

For more information call 601-545-4667

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Laura Richard, Assistant Professor

More in the school
New Licensure Prep FB
A Facebook group has been created to promote an ongoing online community of learning while supporting the students as they organize study groups, exchange ideas, and discuss test related topics, related to the licensure exam. The Facebook group is called Mississippi SW Licensure Prep and can be found at this link.

Scholarships:

MSW Scholarship:
The American Clinical Social Work Association (ACSWA) is offering a student scholarship. The Judith Holm Memorial Student Awards go to final-year master's students based on a paper competition "which recounts the process of one of their field-placement interventions and demonstrates readiness to enter professional practice". The award amount is $2,000 and applications are due April 30, 2014. Details are on the ACSWA website (http://acswa.org/content/2014-judith-holm-memorial-student-awards).

Due to Dr. Richard’s first spotlight being solely about the E3 Initiative Project, we decided to spotlight her again in order to display her qualities as a professor!

Social work is viewed in many different ways, as the field is so broad. What does social work mean to you?
Social work means supporting social work values while not compromising your own values. Sometimes social work is seen as a profession of helping those who are "not worthy". I see it as a profession that attempts to lift others up through the most appropriate means possible. Social work is and should be politically neutral. No matter what someone believes or what their personal values are, the social work values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of a person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence are universal.

What do you hope for students to gain under your instruction?
I want students to learn how to think for themselves and learn more about themselves in the process. I only facilitate the learning. I want students to listen to what is presented and then discover their own truths through reading, researching, and reflecting. Learning happens within each student. It is my goal every semester to have students discover more about who they are, what they believe, and how to incorporate into their role as a social worker.
Need help with APA style? Want someone to edit your paper? Need assistance navigating the research databases?

Open to Pre-Social Work and BSW students!

**Hours**
- Sunday 2-7pm
- Monday 5-9pm
- Tuesday 8-9am & 6-9pm
- Wednesday 5-9:30pm
- Thursday 12:15-1pm & 4-9pm
- Friday 8am-12pm

If you have any information that you'd like included in the newsletter, please send an email to alexandria.camp@eagles.usm.edu

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