On Tuesday, February 11th, all MSW and BSW students are invited to attend the Mississippi chapter of the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Legislative day! Here students will have the opportunity to meet members of Mississippi's Senate, observe the senate while in session, and attend a press conference held by the Mississippi NASW chapter. Legislative day is from 8:30a.m.-2:00p.m. in Jackson, at the Capitol. Click here for the agenda.
Engagement Zone

The Engagement Zone is an enrichment and academic extracurricular opportunity for students looking for more out of their education.

Opportunity Available:
Dr. Laura Richard is looking for student volunteers to spend 1-2 Saturdays (end of February/beginning of March) conducting surveys related to health access in Hattiesburg. A one hour training will be held prior to survey distribution. Please contact laura.richard@usm.edu if interested. To learn more about the project, please see the Faculty Spotlight section of the newsletter.

SASW Club

Next meeting Tuesday, February 18th

Diversity Dash
April 12, 2014 10am
Centennial Green
Click here for a registration form

What's going on this week?

In the school:
On Friday, January 31st, Dr. Susan Hrostowski gave a presentation on ethical dilemmas, the client's right to self-determination, and getting consent when a client is incapacitated, at the Gulf Coast
Next meeting is February 13th

On campus:

On Tuesday, February 4th, Sergio Gutierrez, a part-time therapist at Family Network Partnership (the School of Social Work's counseling center), presented to TEAAM USM on teaching verbal behaviors to individual with Autism. To read about the presentation, click [here](#). TEAAM will meet again this coming Tuesday at 7pm in Union Room C for anyone who is interested in attending.

Black History Month Events: February is Black History Month! See [flyer](#) for a calendar of events taking place on campus. Sponsored by the Southern Miss Black History Committee.

Sports: Southern Miss maintains 1st place in Conference USA with their win over Marshall Friday night with the score of 60-57. Marshall lead the score the entire game. They began to comeback in the last minutes. With 1.6 seconds left on the clock Neil Watson hit a three-pointer to make the score 58-57 and gave USM the lead for the first time in the game. After that, Aaron Brown put two more points on the board with a couple of free throws. The entire coliseum shook as Southern Miss fans roared with excitement when Watson hit the three point shot to take the lead.

SMAC: The 2nd Annual SMAC Fashion Show will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 6-8 p.m. in the TCC Ballrooms.

In the community:
The 29th annual Southern Miss Coca-Cola Classic Rodeo will be
located on 1500 Broad Ave. in Gulfport. Talk to someone who went a previous year and you will find out how much fun this event is!

Also, remember that we are collecting men’s jeans for the Back Bay Mission and women’s and children’s jeans for the Women’s Center for Nonviolence. You can bring these to class or Ms. Aderer’s office, or leave them with Kelly Weaver at the desk. I will be putting another t-shirt order in this week, so let me know if you would like one of the sizes that we ran out of (S, M, 2XL, 3XL). We have an incredibly busy and exciting semester planned!

held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14-15, 2014, at 7:30pm at the Forrest County Multi Purpose Center. Tickets will be on sale at TJ’s Western Ware. $12 in advance or $15 after Feb. 13th.

DREAM of Hattiesburg will be hosting its annual fundraiser, “A Night of Sweet Dreams” on Thursday, February 13th at 6pm at Southern Oaks House and Gardens. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to help pay for the new building. Tickets are $10 each. Please email Zach Magee at zachary.magee@eagles.usm.edu.

Faculty Spotlight
Laura Richard, Assistant Professor

What is one random thing about you?
"It seems to come as a surprise to a lot of people that I have 2 grown children—ages 20 and 25."

You are currently working on an exciting project with the city. We want to know about it!

The University Of Southern Mississippi School Of Social Work has partnered with the City of Hattiesburg to develop a business plan for a city-led outreach campaign to enroll children and families in Medicaid and the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Focus groups were held with community members and community providers this past week to gather information regarding expansion of access to
More in the school....

Phi Alpha Membership:
We would like to offer you the opportunity to apply to Phi Alpha Honor Society. If you meet these criteria, you will receive a special invitation to our Social Work Banquet and officially inducted in Phi Alpha Honor Society. Complete this application and bring to Sherry Gilkey with $35 (check/cash/money order) by April 1st.

The School of Social Work is proud to announce that we will be starting a new FULL TIME MSW program on the Gulf Park campus in the 2014 fall semester. Check out this flyer and contact jerome.kolbo@usm.edu with any questions!

Medicaid and the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for children and families in the City of Hattiesburg. The National League of Cities (NLC) selected Hattiesburg as one of 12 cities that will receive technical assistance and grant funding to conduct a six-month planning process to increase access to health insurance coverage for children and families. During the final phase of the initiative, NLC will select six out of the 12 planning grant cities to receive an additional grant of up to $260,000 in funding over two years and continued technical assistance for implementation of the health insurance outreach business plan developed during the planning phase.

According to the Center for Mississippi Health Policy (2008), approximately 124,000 children in Mississippi lack health insurance coverage; 3 in 4 uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage; and 1 in 3 eligible, but uninsured children had been covered by Medicaid or CHIP in the past year. These trends are occurring in low income families (Center for Mississippi Health Policy, 2008).

The target community areas for the initial phase of this project are the neighborhoods in the Rowan, Hawkins, and Lillie Burney school districts. Plans during implementation are to expand to include all of Forrest, Lamar, and Perry counties. MSW students, Alex Camp and Allan Rowe, are working closely with this project. Over the next few weeks a call may go out for other social work students to participate in the survey distribution portion of the research.

For Dr. Richard's bio, click here.
Trip occurs from May 10-24th. This four credit class is eligible for financial aid and/or student loans, and counts as one of your SWK electives. Contact Karen Aderer at Karen.aderer@usm.edu or 228-214-3225 for more information.

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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