Paid volunteers needed to conduct community surveys!!

The School of Social Work and the City of Hattiesburg are in need of volunteers to conduct surveys in the Hattiesburg community Saturday March 22nd and April 5th. Participation will take approximately 4-6 hours per day and individuals can sign up for one or both days. Volunteers have the opportunity to receive between $60-$80 as compensation. Individuals will be asked to attend a short, half hour training session one evening before March 22nd. Please consider taking part in this educational experience!

To sign up, email laura.richard@usm.edu, call Dr. Richard at 601-266-4171, or there is a sign-up form on her office door (Rm 103A in FG)
Engagement Zone

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

The engagement zone is currently creating an opportunity to have all social work students at every level work together and with the professors! This opportunity will unite the School of Social Work as a whole to give service to our community. We will soon be announcing the first community service day! If you are interested and would like to request more information, contact: allan.rowe@eagles.usm.edu.

The Child and Family Studies department is conducting a study to look at the benefits and opportunities our campus organizations can provide to our students. The survey can be found here and will only take about 15-20 minutes of their time and is completely anonymous. Please direct any questions to that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) had adopted new standards that would significantly change our School’s reaffirmation process. As a faculty we began working toward the goal of reaffirmation in the late fall of 2008. Systematically, the explicit and implicit curriculums for the BSW and MSW programs were reviewed, deconstructed, reconsidered, reconstructed, and re-evaluated. Mid-summer we submitted our self-study knowing that our site visit was scheduled for the last week of February 2014.

This has been a good week for a site visit! It has been an affirming and rewarding process for me to witness as I listened and watched each of you, from your perspective, describe and discuss different aspects of our Southern Miss School of Social Work. I was so impressed with faculty, students and field instructors. You were all very impressive! The site team had so many fantastic things to say about all of you when they met for their exit interview with the University President, Provost, Associate Provost and Dean of the College of Health! They were very positive about the School of Social Work.

We still have some work to do between now and the Commission’s June meeting but for now, I want all of you to know that I am so grateful that all of you are a part of our School of Social Work. Thanks for representing us so wonderfully this week.

Tim Rehner
Director
SASW Club

Our next meeting for SASW is March 18, 2014.

Group color-mixing
Wednesday, March 13th, time TBA.
Contact sherry.gilkey@usm.edu to sign up for March 13th or other days!

SCHOLARSHIPS:
For those who are interested, we have a few scholarships in the Department of Social Work that we will award to BSW and MSW students for the 2014-2015 academic year. The recipients will be notified and recognized at our annual Social Work Banquet on April 25, 2014 (more details to come). See application, which is due March 31, 2014. For more information contact Delories Williams @ 601 266 5915.

New Opportunity: BSW Program - Part-Time Option. Click here for more information.

‘Save the date’ for our annual Social Work Banquet to be held on April 25th, 2014 at the Thad Cochran Center @ 6:30 p.m.!

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

On campus:
Sports: The Southern Miss Lady Eagles basketball just recently set a record of 17 home wins. This has never been done by another Lady Eagles basketball team. Their record is currently 23-5. This puts the Lady Eagles in second place in the Conference USA. On Wednesday, February 26 they beat the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) Blazers with a score of 72-70. They followed this win with another win over Tulane Green Wave with a score of 79-67 on Saturday, March 1. The ladies are having an amazing season. They will be playing their last game of the regular season at North Texas on Wednesday, March 5 at 8:00 p.m.

The Southern Miss men’s team had a win over Florida International University (FIU) with a score of 78-66 on Thursday, February 27. They followed this win by going down to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) on Sunday, March 2 and bringing home the win with a score of 60-49. Southern Miss has a record of 25-5 and they are currently number one in Conference USA.

SMAC: The next SMAC event will be a talent show in the TCC Ballrooms. Southern Miss Got Talent will be held on Tuesday, March 25 from 7-10 p.m.

BSW Club

Everything is getting busy for the BSW club. This Friday, March 7th, we will be volunteering at the Read Across America Day at Hawkins Elementary. It starts...
at 12:30. There is also a
donation box still out for
Lifesupport. Please consider
donating any clothing or
nonperishable food items.
Also beside the donation box
for Lifesupport, one of our
members is working on the
Camellia Hospice donations.
The list of things to donate is
above the box by the mirror
in the Social Work
building. Some of our
members will be participating
in the campus wide "The Big
Event" on March 22nd.
Our next meeting will
be March 20th we have many
more events coming up after
that! Please make sure to join
us!

In the community:

Alternative spring break trip:
The Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE), with th
Aquatics and Outdoor Programs and Gulf Coast Research
Laboratory, are hosting an Alternative Spring Break to Deer Island
This trip will entail learning about coastal ecology, beach erosion
and environment stewardship.

There is a short online application you can complete which can be
found by clicking here. Applicants are asked to pay $50 to help
offset the cost of transportation during the week. If you have any
questions, contact Christopher Ferrell
at christopher.ferrell@usm.edu or Alex Sandoval
at alexandra.sandoval@usm.edu.

Faculty Spotlight
John Reynolds, MSSW

What is one random thing about you?
I’m not sure what you’d consider random. I love gardening,
first college major was horticulture, I also am a history
buff, and love historic architecture. Is that random
enough?

What do you like most about USM’s school of social
work?
I love the collegiality and the creativity of our team. We
have such a rich mix of faculty and staff, who are very
different, yet remarkably complimentary and supportive of

Southern Miss
Gulf Coast
Student
Social Work
Association

BSW Club Meeting will be
held Thursday, March 6th,
from 11:45–12:30 in
Holloway D. Pack a lunch and
come help us figure out what
we will be doing to celebrate
Social Work Month! The
drawing will be held for the
beautiful USM wreath created
by Samantha Cotton-Taylor, and this will be the last day to bring in jeans for our Jean Drive. Also...new order of t-shirts are in! I will have them this week.

Last year's tornado severely damaged your home; in what way (if any) do you feel that experience impacted your teaching style?
Recovery from the tornado combined with other events, such as my father's battle with and death from pancreatic cancer, has certainly been the most challenging time of my life. I know that it has at times been a real distraction from my teaching, but ultimately, I believe that it has and will continue to provide a rich experience that helps me to have a much deeper understanding of crisis recovery and the impact of serious life events on an individual’s cognitive, developmental, affective, social, spiritual, and behavioral functioning, as well as the ways that each of those realms of a person’s life interact and influence the others. I can say without a doubt, that my approach to lecture material is much different and much deeper than it was before. I am hopeful that this will lead to a richer knowledge-base and understanding for my students and that it will ultimately become a benefit to the many clients that they will serve.

What do you hope students gain under your instruction?
There is much that I would want my students to gain. But I guess if I had to pick just one thing, it would be the importance of having true empathy for their clients and others. Being able to empathize not just with the client in their situation, but having empathy for the totality of the client’s humanity and experience, will lead to stronger worker-client relationships, which have a greater likelihood of achieving positive results.
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!

Join us May 10-24th for a unique study abroad experience! This four credit class is eligible for financial aid and/or student loans, and counts as one of your SWK electives. Visit http://www.usm.edu/caribbean-studies or 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