

Monthly Memo

The College of Health & Human Services invites you to join our Living Learning Community!

This LLC is an ideal living community for students interested in a health and human service professions. Students will have the opportunity to live with and learn from other students with shared interests and goals. Students will have interactions with faculty from the College of Health and Human Services outside the classroom through programming, informal advising, and mentoring, and have networking opportunities with alumni and potential future employers.

For more information, please visit the Residence Life website: <http://reslife.missouri-state.edu/LLCmain.htm>.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Please join the AIDS Project of the Ozarks as we observe National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on March 10, 2009. A special event marking the awareness day will be held in the evening. For more information on the NWGHAAD event, the impact of HIV/AIDS on the female population or availability of HIV testing, please contact Danica at (417) 881-1900 or (800) 743-5767.

Recent Accomplishments

Congratulations to Dr. Carmen Perez and MSW student Adam Lynch for having their poster accepted for presentation at the Fourth International Spirituality and Social Work Conference, "*Diverse Faces of Spirituality: Oasis of Empowerment and Tranquility, Crucible of Discrimination and Conflict*," which will meet June 18-20 at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.

A Message from the MSWSA

Dear MSW Students,

This semester will be fast paced and chaotic, but we will all make it through with flying colors. The MSWSA has already had their first COMPS prep meeting and it was amazing. On behalf of the MSWSA and its membership, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thanks to Professor White for doing such a great job helping us understand what to expect on the COMPS, which greatly reduces our anxiety. The next two COMPS training meetings will be at Panera Bread on South National and East Elm on **February 12th and March 12th at 4:30 PM**. The MSWSA meetings will be held in the SWK Student Lounge on **February 18th at 5 PM and April 7th at 5:30 PM**. The MSWSA will also be holding elections for the Vice President, Treasure, and a Liaison this spring after COMPS. So, keep an eye out for flyers and emails.

I hope everyone is having a great time with school!

From the MSW Program Coordinator

Hello MSW students: I hope the semester is going well for all of you. There are a few items of interest that I will discuss in this month's letter related to MSW Comprehensive Exams (aka "Comps"):

- Comps will be given **Apr. 2** and **Apr 24**. Please block these dates off on your calendars. The first date is the primary administration of the exam and is mandatory unless you get special permission to be exempt from taking it that day by me, as program coordinator. The second date is designed as a re-take for those who do not successfully pass the first one (a minority of cases).

- Those with exceptional reasons may be granted an exemption from the first exam cycle and be allowed to take it on the second date (Apr. 24.) for the first time. However, those who do so will not be given a second testing before graduation in May. So, those who take the exam for the first time on the second date and do not pass it cannot graduate in May. Likely, the next re-take would not be offered until October. However, please notify me quickly if you are considering this option.

- Special Accommodations: Those who are eligible for special testing accommodations via the university policy must request a special accommodation from Dr. Capps at the Learning Diagnostic Center to be able to access any of these accommodations for the Comps exam (it is not automatic). Since these requests may take some time to process, make sure you do this soon so that you can have your accommodations approved before the comps date.

If you have any questions or issues about comps, please contact me email at DHaslam@missouristate.edu or phone at 836-4259. Thanks.

Darryl Haslam, MSW Program Coordinator

From the Director

In an effort to improve student involvement in School planning activities and to provide an ongoing forum for student concerns, the School will establish a Student Advisory Council comprised of BSW and MSW students from the Springfield and Joplin campuses. We'll meet three times a year, chiefly to discuss program improvement ideas, community service plans, and possible research collaboratives between faculty and students. This is an excellent mechanism for expressing your ideas in a structured setting with the program coordinators and director.

We are now soliciting nominees and/or volunteers for the Advisory Council. When you write, please include the day of the week and time you'd prefer to meet. I'd like to receive your nominee names and contact information by the end of February and we'll go from there. Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Dr. Susan Dollar, Director
susandollar@missouristate.edu



Please submit School-related announcements by mid-month for inclusion in the Monthly Memo:

MeganClemensen @MissouriState.edu

