

Monthly Memo

April 2009



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

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Upcoming Events

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Events:

April 15—*Gran Torino*, 9pm PSU Theater • April 17—Learn Cultures: Chinese/Hmong/Korean, 1pm PSU • April 20—Henna Tattoos, 3pm PSU West Lounge • April 22—*Slumdog Millionaire*, 9pm PSU Theater • April 24—Learn Cultures: Filipino/Vietnamese/Thai, 1pm PSU • April 27—Asian Game Night!, 7pm PSU West Lounge • May 1—Asian Pacific American Heritage Closing Potluck 7pm PSU 313

Want more info?

Contact Multicultural Student Services at 836-6618.

Hunger Advocacy Day

9am, Thursday, April 16
Capitol Building, Jefferson City
Contact Christine Wood with questions at 573-690-7662.

From the MSW Coordinator: Scholarships

Hello all:

Now that we're getting comps behind us, we can focus on some news for those continuing next year. Two MSW scholarships are being offered through the department this year: the Columbia Hospital Scholarship and the Liliana Sanchez Memorial Minority Social Work Scholarship. Both involve a one-time award offered in the Fall term. The Columbia is worth \$600 and the Sanchez is worth \$750 – both an increase from last year (which is good news given the economic downturn).

Criteria and application information on both scholarships is on the MSW Program website. Please note the deadline for submissions to these scholarships are Friday, **May 29** at **noon** to the Social Work office. Please ensure all of your materials are in before this date and time to be considered. Decisions for the scholarship will be determined in July.

Good luck with the rest of the term!

Darryl Haslam
MSW Program Coordinator

Hybrid Courses

The School of Social Work is beginning to offer classes that are a combination of in classroom and online. These are called by several different names such as hybrid, blended, web-enhanced, and reduced seat time. We tend to call them hybrid since they incorporate the best of classroom and online instruction.

The courses that are being taught as hybrid in Fall 09 are master level courses and will be taught with alternating weeks in the classroom and weeks online. When I teach this type of course, I have students do the reading and a written assignment during the online week and then, during the classroom week, we discuss the material, do some small group work, and then prepare for the next set of assignments.

The students I have taught over the years using this method have nearly all preferred this format over just being in class or just being online. As a professor, I like the format as it gives you as the student a chance to do the reading and to work with the material before coming to class to discuss it. I believe students learn more using this method than either of the others and it allows me the opportunity to incorporate a broader variety of material into the course.

Jane Allgood
BSW Program Coordinator

Field Award Nominations

Nominations for Field Awards are due by **April 17th**. If you do not have the paperwork and wish to nominate someone for Field Instructor of the Year, Field Agency of the Year, or Field Student of the Year, please contact Lisa Street at LisaStreet@missouri.state.edu or Renee White at ReneeWhite@missouristate.edu.

Traveling with a Mission: Haiti 2009

Glenna Shafer, Jessi Frain, and Wendy Spangler joined a mission trip to Port de Paix, Haiti from March 20—March 27, 2009. The trip's main sponsor was Christian Community Church in Springfield, MO. The students taught at Sonlight Academy, a children's educational program of Sonlight Ministries and an English-immersion school. English is the business language of Haiti, and fluency guarantees students a wider choice of careers. Sonlight Academy is the sole English-immersion school in Haiti. French is also taught as a separate subject, and by graduation, students are Tri-lingual in English, French, and Creole.

MSU students also participated in visits to orphanages, hospitals, and the House of Hope. Lora Hobbs, a Religion professor at MSU, coordinates these trips every year. For more information on Sonlight Ministries, please visit <http://www.sonlightministries.org>.

Hunger in America 2009 Study

During the first week of March 2009, the School of Social Work received an urgent plea from the Ozarks Food Harvest requesting volunteers to participate in the Hunger in America 2009 Study. This was a nationwide effort to profile agencies, determine the state of hunger relief agencies, and survey those seeking assistance.

In response to the emergency volunteer opportunity, Ms. Kelli Farmer offered students in her Social Justice class the opportunity to volunteer and earn points in lieu of taking the course mid-term exam. Nearly half the class of 26 students volunteered to participate and was allowed to use one class period to take the required training. Ozarks Food Harvest was grateful for the small army of our students that participated and students learned a great deal in the process. It was a great opportunity. One student, Terra Lamb, was even offered a job at the food harvest due to the exposure from participating in the volunteer work.

End-of-Course Evaluations

Students will soon be receiving e-mail announcements about end-of-course evaluations. We ask that students take advantage of this opportunity to provide constructive feedback about their classes. Faculty use this information, so share your input!

From the Director

April brings "showers" of activity on campus ~

BSW and MSW students will display their research findings in poster format at the CHHS Student Research Symposium on Thursday, April 16, 3:30-5:30 in the PSU Grand Ballroom. Graduate students across campus share their research and creative work on Saturday, April 18, 8:30-11:30 in the PSU Theater and Ballroom. Please support your fellow social work students by attending one or both events.

This year's Public Affairs Conference theme is "Sustainable Actions for a Sustainable Future." That's right, spring green. There will be some excellent speakers addressing such issues as: energy conservation, rethinking consumerism, local community sustainability, and climate change. Check out the link to the full schedule at: <http://publicaffairs.missouri.state.edu/conference/schedule.aspx>.

Finally, speaking of climate, we appreciate your responses to the 2009 BSW Student Climate Survey developed and distributed by students in Dr. Day's SWK322 class. An electronic version of a MSW Student Climate Survey will be sent to Joplin and Springfield students in the next several weeks. Please take time to complete both surveys so that we can ascertain climate and scheduling needs.

Have a great spring!

Susan C. Dollar, Ph.D., LCSW
Director, School of Social Work

