



School of Social Work

Congratulations MSW Graduates Spring and Summer 2011

Springfield Campus:

Adkisson, Ashley
 Aita, Laura
 Bahra, Eric
 Baker, Stacey
 Barnes, Kim
 Boyte, Cynthia
 Brake, Stacy
 Bray, Jessica
 Byars, Desiree
 Chavez, Genevieve
 Day, Brittany
 Endicott, Danielle
 Freeman, Michelle
 Hesso, Chatuni
 Hovis, Dru-Anne
 Maldonado, Sera
 Mendenhall, Elizabeth
 Naberhuis, Valerie
 Schander, Gwynavere

Schokmiller, Molly
 Svoboda, Stephanie
 Weatherly, Sharon
 Whitney, Kate
 Woodson, Kimberly

Joplin Campus:

Beck, Peggy
 Bingham, Daniel
 Brower, Angela
 Corbin, Jennifer
 Edward-Gbeyetin, Angela
 Edwards, Anna
 Griffith, Lucynda
 Hayward, Candace
 Hughes, Amber
 Hughes, Brenda
 Jones, Crystal
 Ndukwu, Chidinma
 Percy, Sarah

Volunteer Awards: Special Thanks to these Graduating MSW Students

- Laura Aita (MSW interviews, Student Advisory Board)
- Genevieve Chavez (MSW interviews, MSWSA Officer)
- Danielle Endicott (MSWSA Officer)
- Michelle Freeman (MSW interviews)
- Dru-Anne Hovis (MSW interviews)
- Anna Edwards (MSWSA officer)
- Cyndi Griffith (MSWSA officer)
- If anyone was missed, please notify Dr. Haslam.

Announcements

Senior Health University is looking for volunteers on May 11th, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm for the Health Literacy for Older Adults workshop at the Branson Community & Senior Center. Volunteers will be asked to interact one-on-one with the seniors to assist them with filling out a research survey before and after the workshop. We can provide rides if needed. Please contact Carrie Lines at 836-6359 if you are interested. Thank You!

GET HELP WITH BLACKBOARD-Click on "Blackboard learn 9.1" at the webpage: <http://experts.missouristate.edu>:

Attention Students -Don't forget to complete your end-of-course Evaluations. It's your way of suggesting areas for course improvements as well as hearing about faculty strengths! Remember to be objective when identifying issues.

Director's Corner

I'd like to congratulate three new members of the Social Work Student Advisory Council:

Christian Shields, BSW
 Emily O'Laughlin, BSW
 Jessica Johnson, BSW

Their willingness to serve others will contribute to the betterment of the School and the University.

Here's more about the Council and what we do:

The Council meets in February and October each year with the Social Work director and Program Coordinators. The Council serves many functions, including information gathering regarding student issues, clarifying policies and procedures, and coordinating events, such as social events, recruitment fairs, and fundraising.

Current BSW students on the council:

Katelind Rohde
 Amber Cook
 Cindy Baker
 Current MSW students on the council:
 Dru-Anne Hovis, 2nd year, regular, full-time
 Drew Rogers, 2nd year, regular, part-time

Hope to see you all at the End-of-Semester Social sponsored by the Social Work Advisory Council. Thanks to Cindy Baker for coordinating the event.

Best regards,
 Dr. Susan Dollar

End of semester Social

On Thursday, May 5, from 4 pm to 6 pm, come join BSW, MSW students, faculty and staff at T.G.I.Friday's for the end of semester party and get 15% discount on all purchases. 3242 S. Stewart Ave, Springfield, Mo. It is located right off Glenstone by the Shopping Center with Marshalls/Best Buy. Cindy Baker, President of BSWSA has scheduled the event at T.G.I.Friday's. Thank you Cindy!

BSW student gets distinction Award



Student Amber Cook works with a child at Isabels House Crisis Nursery

Amber Cook, BSW student graduating in May 2011, was awarded the 2011 MSU Woman of Distinction Award (awarded by the Gender Studies Program each year) on March 16, 2011. She was chosen from among several outstanding young women nominated by MSU faculty. Amber was honored for her service in the community and on campus and for her mentoring activities with girls and young women.

MACRO SOCIAL WORK

This semester, BSW student Eric Hillgren is completing his practicum as a legislative intern with Senator Bob Dixon of the 30th district. Eric's daily responsibilities include communicating with constituents, researching legislation, and guiding tours of the Missouri State Capitol. He learned the legislative process by attending committee meetings and senate chamber, taking notes and writing briefs, reporting on activities and asking questions. Eric also participated in valuable networking opportunities during district meetings, receptions and other events, including visits with Governor Jay Nixon, Attorney General Chris Koster, and other statewide officials.



From left: MSU President Dr. James Cofer, BSW Student Eric Hillgren, and Senator Bob

Eric pursued a macro-based placement to actively participate and engage in the events that affect our communities on a daily basis. Eric says, "The macro experience in the legislative internship cannot be replicated. The opportunity to serve the State of Missouri as well as being an ambassador of Missouri State University is one I hold in high regard and one that I hope

will broaden the prospects of any future student willing to get involved. The responsibilities of being an intern undoubtedly add valuable skills in order to become a social worker that is effective at the macro level. I wanted to become a better citizen, social work practitioner, and develop qualities that would grant me success in all future endeavors. I was eager to learn how to effectively network with legislators and shape legislation, along with improving my overall communication skills. The macro placement provides the proper forum to use and advocate for open communication, respect and sensitivity to human diversity, and ability to apply critical thinking skills in various settings. I encourage any social work major that wants to truly make a difference in their communities to participate in a macro placement especially the Legislative Internship Program offered through the Career Center here at Missouri State University."

After graduation in May 2011, Eric has wedding plans, then he and his fiancée will enroll in the Peace Corps hoping to serve in Morocco in the capacity of youth and community development volunteers.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

BSW student Amber Cook traveled to Sweden this spring to complete her practicum at Hudiksvall Kommun - Baroch Ungdomsenheten (Children and Youth Division). This agency works with all social problems of children and youth ages 0-20, including addictions, abuse, absence from school, parental support, problems with family relationships, social and emotional needs, and problems with crime.

The agency offers a range of services: Active Parenting courses, anger management classes, treatment teams for counseling, placement in family homes and institutions, contact persons, contact families, crime programs, support groups for kids whose parents are addicts, programs for children who have witnessed violence, and Västerbo (a home for refugee kids).

As a practicum student, Amber participated in staff meetings, Active Parenting courses, completed interviews with youth at Västerbo, visited other agencies such as the police department, a nursing home, and the adult's division, met with parents to discuss parental support, visited family homes to complete follow-up services, and translated letters from



BSW Student Amber Cook (far right) pictured with two teens from a Swedish church youth group

Swedish to English for English-speaking clients.

One of Amber's favorite cultural experiences was spending Easter in Sweden. In Sweden, children dress up like Easter witches on the Thursday before Easter and go from house to house asking for candy (like the American Halloween). The folk story is that all the witches gather together on the Thursday night and "dance with the Devil". Amber enjoyed discussing language with the Swedes, going cross country skiing, walking along the beach, touring a harbor, and most importantly, having "Fika," the Swedish coffee break. Swedes have "Fika" several times a day complete with cakes or cookies and coffee. Hudiksvall is filled with "coffee shops" and everyone enjoys frequent fikas.

Amber has long been interested in international social work. When Amber was in middle school, she heard a presentation on Romanian orphans. Amber says, "The speakers told me that children were dying because no one was interacting with them. I was heart broken. I remember thinking that surely I could hold a child. Since that day, I felt a passion for overseas work. With an uncle who lived in Russia, I was constantly aware that the world was bigger than what I might have thought. Therefore, when I heard that it was possible to do an international placement, I couldn't let it pass me by. I knew there were ideas and ways of being different from mine and I wanted to know more about them, to learn from them. The more I am around people who are different from me, the more I realize how similar we all are. While I am in college was a great opportunity to see more of this beautiful world, widening my worldview while learning social work!"

After graduation in May 2011, Amber will attend graduate school. She is currently planning to attend Boston College and pursue a dual master's degree in Pastoral Ministry and Social Work with an emphasis in International Social Work.

BSWSA News

I want to thank everyone that was involved with the BSWSA for 2010-2111. We had a great year and a lot of involvement with our community. As Social Workers, we are a helping profession at the micro, mezzo, and macro level. Community involvement through the BSWSA allows us to interact with a variety of organizations, programs, and community leaders. The interaction is a great way to find practicum site for your senior year.

I will miss the BSWSA, but will continue my volunteer services in the community. I would like to give a special “Thank You” to Professor Jennings. Professor Jennings put in countless hours to help get the BSWSA up and running. Professor Jennings has been an inspiration to the BSWSA students with her leadership. As the re-elected advisor for the BSWSA this only confirms her appreciation by the students.

The New Officers and Advisor for the 2011-2012 year are:

- Brooke Decker – President
- Kelly Ennis- Vice President
- Ashley Wilson – Secretary
- Sunitha Bosecker
- Julia Buccholz- Representative
- Krysta Baker- Representative
- Professor Jennings- Advisor

The Carol Jones Recovery Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. A special “thank you” to Julia Buccholz , for coordinating the event. Coordinating an event takes special skills, time and involves good communication. We had around 15 BSWSA students that showed up to participant. I do not have everyone’s name, but thank you for your help and support. There were about 40-50 children there living at the Carol Jones Recovery Center with their parents. We provided coloring eggs, making baskets, games, refreshments, and had the Easter Egg Hunt. The services we provided made a difference in the lives of these families and children during their recovery phase.

- **Cindy Baker**, President, BSWSA

Alpha Delta Mu Social Work Honor Society

The Alpha Delta Mu Social Work Honor Society conducted its spring initiation of new members in April. To be eligible for honor society membership, students must have a minimum 3.5 social work GPA, minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, be admitted to the social work program and in the top 20% of their class, and have completed at least 6 hours of social work courses.



Alpha Delta Mu Social Work Honor Society induction at the Springfield campus on April 14.

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| New members include: | · | Danielle Endicott |
| BSW students: | · | Tammy Gunter |
| · | · | Kelsey Hampton |
| · | · | Grace LeRoy |
| · | · | Danielle Patterson |
| · | · | Noah McCarty |
| · | · | Ana Salas |
| · | · | Rachel Merold |
| MSW students: | · | Tracy Nielson |
| · | · | Jennifer Barnes |
| · | · | Robert Rogers |
| · | · | Peggy Beck |
| · | · | Stephanie Skanes |
| · | · | Nicole Betts |
| · | · | Kristiann Summerhill |
| · | · | Michele Brown |
| · | · | Rachel McFadden Yount |
| · | · | Jennifer Corbin |

Also photographed are ADM president Laura Aita, vice president Katelind Rohde, member Stacy Brake, and faculty advisor Lisa Street.