



# Monthly Memo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MSW Scholarships: 2011

▶ Applications for SSW-funded MSW Scholarships must be submitted to the SSW office by Fri., Apr. 1 at 5 PM, Attn: Dr. Haslam. The School offers two one-time awards:

▶ **Liliana Sanchez Memorial Minority Social Work Scholarship:** \$750 one-time award funded in the Fall 2011 term. Scholarship for all existing or incoming MSW students who will be attending in the Fall.

Preference is given to MSW students who fit any of the following conditions:

- a) ethnic/racial minority;
- b) 1st time college student in their family
- c) Joplin campus student (funds are raised in the Joplin community).

▶ **Columbia Hospital Scholarship:** \$600 one-time award funded in the Fall 2011 term

▶ General scholarship for all existing or incoming MSW students who will be attending in the Fall. No specific preferences or conditions.

▶ For details on application materials and procedures, please visit the MSW scholarship website:

<http://www.missouristate.edu/swk/54274.htm>

### Request for MSW Volunteers:

▶ MSW student volunteers are needed for the 2011 MSW Applicant Interviews on Fri., Mar. 25 and Fri., Apr. 29.

▶ Having MSW students present during the interviews serves several important functions:

1. Gives applicants a student's perspective of the MSW program;
2. Assists the faculty in identifying well qualified or less qualified applicants;
3. Displays a friendly and engaged student body in the MSW program

▶ Both interview days will be held from 9 AM to 12 PM. Students who participate are also invited to lunch (optional) with the candidates and faculty at 12 PM.

▶ MSW student volunteers do not need to be available the whole three hours and can volunteer for hour-long segments during the times listed.

▶ It is best to have both foundation and concentration students present during the interview days. Many practicum instructors will allow students to participate as part of their field hours.

▶ Please email Dr. Haslam ([dhaslam@missouristate.edu](mailto:dhaslam@missouristate.edu)) if you are interested.

## Director's Corner

Greetings!

I'm happy to report that the reaffirmation of accreditation site visit is over, and despite blizzard conditions, the site team members were able to accomplish their evaluative work. The exit interview was very positive and we'll all have the official decision regarding continued accreditation in June, 2011.

On another note, many of our BSW and MSW leaders on the Student Advisory Council will soon graduate. While I'll hate to see them go, I am happy for their success and appreciate their efforts and feedback while serving on the Council. That being said, we need four or five new students to step-up and serve on the Council.

If you want to nominate yourself or someone else, please send me BSW and MSW names so that there can be an election sometime in March. You can email me at [susandollar@missouristate.edu](mailto:susandollar@missouristate.edu)

Best regards,  
Dr. Susan Dollar

### Key dates for 2011 MSW Graduating Students

▶ **Mar. 16 (Wed.): MSW Comprehensive Exams** (times to be announced). This represents a change of one week sooner from the previously circulated date.

- Exams in Joplin for all students will be 8AM to 12:30 PM.
- Exams in Springfield will be in two groups: 1) 8 AM to 12:30 PM; 2) 1 PM to 5:30 PM.
- Springfield students will be assigned to one of the two groups.
- Testing times will be emailed to students by Fri., Mar. 4.
- Retakes (if needed) will be conducted on Wed., Apr. 20.

▶ **Mar. 31 (Thu.): CHHS Student Research Symposium.** Abstract proposal due date has not been released yet but will likely be early to mid March.

• **Important Note:** This event represents one of two options Fall 2010 - SWK 797 students have to fulfill the MSW program requirement to present a piece of research at a research forum.

▶ **Apr. 2 (Sat.): Grad College Interdisciplinary Student Research Forum.** Abstract proposals due by **Mar.22** at noon.

• **Important Note:** This event represents one of two options Fall 2010 - SWK 797 students have to fulfill the MSW program requirement to present a piece of research at a research forum.

## Continuing Education News:

The School of Social Work's Continuing Education Offering for March 25th in Springfield has been cancelled.

The Joplin Professional Social Work Group in conjunction with School of Social Work are hosting a daylong seminar in Joplin on March 25th, which will include 3 hours of ethics training. There will be 6 total hours of continuing education for \$35.00 at the 8th Annual Seminar for Professional Social Workers. Proceeds of the seminar fund the Liliani Sanchez Memorial Scholarship Fund at MSU. For more information: [www.jpsw.org](http://www.jpsw.org) or contact Renee White at (417)-629-3942. Register by emailing your name and credentials to [jpsw10@gmail.com](mailto:jpsw10@gmail.com)

## BSW Admissions

The letters regarding the applications for admission to the BSW program will be mailed by March 22<sup>nd</sup>. For those students who are accepted into the program, two mandatory meetings are scheduled. Students must attend these meetings to be fully accepted into the program. The Orientation will be on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The full Admissions Seminar will be on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Mark your

## FOCUS OF FIELD EDUCATION: INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

One of the dynamic parts of social work education is students having the opportunity to practice their skills in the field. Two BSW students have recently had experiences in international social work. Meryah Haddock (BSW '10) traveled to Guatemala in fall 2010 while doing her practicum at All Blessings International, an international adoption agency. Christine Cross (current BSW senior) traveled to Egypt over the 2010-2011 holiday break, before that country's protests and civil unrest began.

### MERYAH HADDOCK

At her BSW practicum, Meryah participated in a missions program called "His Hands, His Feet" which provides humanitarian aid to several countries, including Guatemala. The missions involve a variety of projects and tasks, such as providing lice treatments and dental exams for children living in impoverished villages. Meryah also helped build beds and spent a few days at an orphanage, caring for infants and toddlers and interacting with older children. In the photo, Meryah is with a girl being treated at the village clinic.

Meryah notes that her favorite experience was providing treatments for the children. "It was so gratifying to see how happy and thankful they were. It also amazed me to see them all



running around laughing and playing when they were living in such unfavorable conditions. I very much enjoyed spending time with those children. It was a very humbling experience."

While in Guatemala, Meryah traveled to the cities of Guatemala City, Antigua, San Lucas, and a rural village near Sumpango and Chimaltango. Meryah says, "I feel that this mission trip to Guatemala really gave me the chance to meet the core social work values while helping people there." Since graduation, Meryah has accepted a social work position with ABI and continues her work in the field of adoption.

### CHRISTINE CROSS

Christine Cross traveled to Cairo, Luxor, and Aswan in an 11-day tour of social services in Egypt. She visited multiple orphanages where she talked with social workers about foster care and the adoption process. She also visited an elementary school, where she spoke with teachers and social workers about the Egyptian education system. Christine also visited two universities with social work programs, and then participated in a conference with other Egyptian college students and professors. Christine's trip provided her the opportunity to meet highly respected social work professionals in Egypt, while also visiting Egyptian historical monuments and museums.

Christine describes her favorite experience as visiting the elementary school in Cairo and an orphanage in Aswan. Christine says, "I was very impressed with both institutions and saw the difference they were making working



in such poverty-stricken areas. I learned that there is no legal adoption in Egypt. They do have some form of a foster care system, but typically only children two months or younger are ever picked by parents to live with the family." Christine also learned that there is a social worker placed at every school and that parents are allowed to freely enter and exit classrooms at any time to check on their child's progress.

In the photo, Christine is with girls from the Fadl Modern School, an elementary school where the students performed for Christine's group.