Welcome back to the Fall term. I hope you had a restful summer that prepared you to tackle the hard work of the term.

I did a lot of pre-major advising this summer. The first question and comment made by a potential student or parent was, “oh, social workers don’t make very much – what’s the starting salary?” I’d quote the most recent data from the Labor Department: “The median income is $44K.” But this week, I came across the following that was part of a 2005 commencement speech by Regina Brett for social work students at Case Western Reserve University.

What do social workers make?

They make an infertile couple celebrate a lifetime of Mother’s Days and Father’s Days by helping them adopt a crack baby no one else wanted.

They make a child fall asleep every night without fear of his father’s fists.

They make a homeless veteran feel at home in the world.

They make a teenager decide to stop cutting herself.

They make a beaten woman find the courage to leave her abuser for good.

They make a boy with Down syndrome feel like the smartest kid on the bus.

What do they make?

They make a 10-year-old believe that he is loved and wanted, regardless of how long he lasts in the next foster home.

They make a dying cancer patient make peace with her past, with her brief future, with her God.

They make the old man whose wife has Alzheimer’s cherish the good times, when she still remembered him.

They make forgotten people feel cherished, ugly people feel beautiful, confused people feel understood, broken people feel whole.

What do they make?

They make more than most people will ever make.

They make a difference.

I like this answer better. Have a great term.

-Sarah
We are in the fourth year of the Greater Miami Valley Joint MASW program between Miami University & Wright State University, and are fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since June 2014. We have a record high enrollment in our program this year with 45 students on Wright State’s end, bringing our enrollment to about 70. Wow, we are growing and expanding!!! We have also hired new faculty members and a part time administrative specialist to work with us.

We are an Advanced Generalist program with concentration focus areas in older adults and children and families.

Thinking about applying? Here are 3 tips on getting ready to apply to graduate school:

1. Work on getting your reference letters - One from a social work professor, one from your field supervisor, and one from another professor or employer in a human service organization.

2. Start working on your personal statement

3. Work hard this semester to get your GPA above 3.0

The application deadline for the Advanced Standing program is January 15 and the 2 year program is February 15. So apply early at the graduate school website www.wright.edu/gradschool.

All the questions about the MASW program can be directed to the our new part time Administrative Specialist - Mary Clem at 937-775-4548 or 2751 or at mary.clem@wright.edu. I can be reached at shreya.bhandari@wright.edu or 937-775-2751. We look forward to hearing from you.

Shreya Bhandari, PhD, MSW
Co-director of the MASW program at Wright State University
This summer I interned at a small advocacy office located in Washington DC. I worked on migration issues with most of the summer focused on family detention. The other interns and I experienced many opportunities to engage closely with the political process including meeting with Congressional staff members and developing educational materials such as action alerts, infographics, report summaries, and blog posts for the constituents we represented. I also visited El Paso during my internship and later attended a rally outside the family detention center in Pennsylvania. Living in DC for two months was a great experience and I highly recommend seeking internships during summer breaks if possible.

- Melanie West, BSW student

This summer I went to Tanzania, Africa, with the WSU Study Abroad program. We completed a community assessment for several villages and taught orphans English, as well as addressing several global health issues that negatively impact the citizens of Tanzania. These include HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, water accessibility, and poverty. During this global health mission I was able to experience and learn first hand about African tribes and their culture. During weekend excursions I visited the world’s second highest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro, and went on an overnight safari. We also visited “Spice Island”, Zanzibar, where we toured a former slave market and Prison Island. As a result of these experiences, my study abroad cohort has developed a donation fund for the Kurasini Day National Children’s Home Fund. For more information visit our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/KurasiniDayNationalChildrensHomeFund.

- Nytasia Hicks, MSW student
Dear Jane-
Due to personal issues, I will not have my field experience hours completed by the end of the semester. What do I do now?
Signed, Overwhelmed

Dear Overwhelmed,
Make sure you are keeping your seminar instructor informed of your situation so they can help.

Each semester, you need to complete 180 hours by the field contract evaluation due date. If you are not able to complete 180 hours for fall semester, you will get an "I" as your grade and you can make up the hours over your winter break. When you complete the hours, your grade will be adjusted. For spring semester, as long as you are within 30 hours of completion, you will receive an "I" and will have up to a month to finish your hours. Then your grade will be adjusted upon completion of the hours within the timeframe. If you are falling significantly behind, you need to immediately contact your field seminar instructor.

~ Jane

Dear Jane-
I have zero volunteer hours. How can I get involved in Social Work activities?
Signed, Eager to get Involved

Dear Eager Beaver,
The two organizations that are affiliated with the Wright State Social Work Department are very active. Phi Alpha Social Work Honors Society and the Social Work Club. The department recommends that students get involved in order to improve networking skills, discover volunteer opportunities and have access to mentors and mentoring, while gaining personal and developmental growth. Both organizations hold monthly meetings and membership applications can be found in the social work department office located in 270 Millett Hall. Also, like us on Facebook at wright.state.socialwork for all the news including meeting dates and many volunteer opportunities.

~ Jane

Dear Jane-
What should I do if I am not placed in my preferred field experience?
Signed, But I Want to Work Only With Kids

Dear Only with Kids,
Field Experience provides students with hands on field experience. Although the agency you are placed in may not have been your first choice, you will be provided with valuable work experience, networking opportunities, and a chance to apply classroom knowledge. A major part of the field experience is learning what you like or dislike in an employment setting and discovering where your strengths lie. “Bloom where you are planted” as they say. The rewards will be great.

~ Jane

Jane Addams, (1860-1935), was a pioneer American settlement social worker, public philosopher, sociologist, author, and leader in women’s suffrage and world peace. In 1931 she became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and is recognized as the founder of the social work profession in the United States.
NEW FACES
IN THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Social Work has four new faculty and a new administrative specialist this year! We are very pleased to introduce them.

Dr. Hyejin Kim, Assistant Professor ~
Dr. Kim comes to us from Florida State University, where she received her PhD in May 2015. Her research interest is Gerontology; specifically, successful aging, perception of aging, ageism, education for older adults, mental health in later life, health disparity among older adults, religion in later life, and quality of life. She will be teaching Social Gerontology to BSW students and Research II to MSW students Fall semester.

Dr. James R. Carter, Assistant Professor ~
Dr. Carter comes to us from The Ohio State University, where he received his PhD in May 2015. His research interest is where social work meets public health. He is particularly interested in the experience of aging in settings like assisted living, and the interaction of personal interests with public health concerns. Building on his dissertation research, he hopes to further explore the intimate and sexual lives of people aging in assisted living settings. Dispelling ageist, ableist, and other negative views of aging will be a theme in his classes and research. He will be teaching primarily in the MSW, and Gerontology Certificate programs.

Paula Long, MSW, Instructor ~
Paula Long comes to us from a supervisory position in child welfare. She is also a part-time Forensics Therapist at Samaritan Behavioral Healthcare. Paula has taught as an adjunct instructor in the social work department. She will be the field placement coordinator for the 2015-2016 academic year, as well as teaching some seminar and practice classes.

Doug Keown, MSW, Instructor ~
Doug Keown comes to us with a background in the field of mental health. His MSW is from the University of Central Florida, and he has 3 years done towards his PhD in Social Work at the University of South Florida. He will be working primarily with the BSW and MASW students in Field Education and Field Seminar classes. Doug has also taught as an adjunct instructor in the social work department.

Mary Clem, Administrative Specialist ~
Mary Clem is a graduate of Wright State with a B.S. in Management Information Systems and has worked at Wright State in CaTS for 25 years, most recently as Director of Client Services (Help Desk, Desktop and Classroom Support). Her primary responsibility will be helping coordinate, organize, and do whatever is needed for the MASW joint program with Miami University.
Social Work students “Get the Love” from the WSU Social Work Alumni Society for Social Work Month with snacks and goodies. Students then “Give the Love” by writing a thank you to someone who has been an encouragement and positive influence to them.

Congratulations Kelly Altic, BSW student and winner of the Match the Pet to the Person contest in the January Social Work newsletter!

Support our Efforts
Please consider the many opportunities to give to the WSU Social Work Department through the SW Program Fund, SW Student Scholarships, and SW Alumni Society Scholarships. Check these out and give at http://www.wright.edu/giving-alumni/your-gifts-at-work

Thank you!!! 🍁

BSW UPP students wear blue for Child Abuse Awareness

Dr. Twill (in costume) for her famous Practice I interviews with BSW students in SW 3800

Congratulations to the BSW Alumna of the Year and BSW Field Supervisor of the Year 2015 Lana (Malana) Penney 1997 B.A. Social Work Magna Cum Laude (picture not available)

Laura Tran BSW Student of the Year 2015

Ginger Goubeaux MASH Student of the Year 2015

BSW Students at Commencement 2015 with Dr. Twill and Dr. Bhandari. Congratulations and keep in touch with us!
Upcoming Calendar Events

Join us for
RAIDER HOMECOMING
Oct 5 - 11, 2015

go to this link to see the schedule of events
https://www.wright.edu/homecoming

WSU Social Work Alumni Society
Presents
Professional Boundaries
Ethics
3 CEU’s Ethics Workshop
Monday, October 19, 2015
6-9 PM
WSU Foundation Bldg.
$30
No charge for SW Alumni Society members in good standing.

Registration link:
http://community.wrightstatealumni.com/SWCEU

Fall Semester Dates to Note:
Monday, October 19, 2015, Spring Course Schedule released on the web
Thursday, November 5, 2015, Spring Registration begins
Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Veteran’s Day, University Closed
Thursday & Friday November 26 & 27, 2015, Thanksgiving Holiday, University Closed
Saturday, December 12, 2015, Last Day of Classes
Monday, December 14, 2015, Exam Week Begins
Saturday, December 19, 2015, Last Day of Classes
Monday, December 28 thru Friday January 1, 2015, Winter Break, University Closed

Spring Semester Dates to Note:
Monday, January 11, 2016, $100 late registration fee begins for initial enrollment on or after this date
Friday, January 22, 2016, Undergraduate and Graduate Graduation Application Deadline
Tuesday, January 26, 2016, late registration fee of $100 per credit hour begins
Friday, January 29, 2016, last day to drop with 100% refund
February 29 thru March 4, 2016, SPRING BREAK
Saturday, April 23, 2016, Last Day of Classes
Monday, April 25, 2016, Exam Week Begins
Saturday, April 30, 2016, Spring Commencement

Juniors Dessert with the Chair
BSW Junior students are invited to come chat and snack with Dr. Twill
October 13, 2015
12:30-1:30
Social Work Dept, 270 Millett Hall

Seniors Dessert with the Chair
BSW Senior students are invited to come chat and snack with Dr. Twill
October 13, 2015
3:30-4:30

Kids Nite Out
For Kinship Caregivers
Saturday, December 5, 2015
5:00-8:00 pm
~ Only $5 per child ~
facilitated and hosted by Wright State University Social Work Club
Reserve your space and register today contact Nicole Rhodes at rhodes.28@wright.edu or 937-684-1075
* Crafts * Face Painting * Open Gym *
* Rock Wall * Pizza *

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