2012/2013 Year in Review

The faculty and staff of the School of Social Work welcome you to our special 2012/2013 Year in Review edition of our newsletter!
Greetings Alumni and Friends,

I hope you are having a peaceful and relaxing summer. Through this newsletter, we would like to update you on several accomplishments from the 2012/2013 school year. Our classrooms are full with eager students pursuing their education toward their BSW and MSW degrees. Further, this summer we have admitted a record number of new students into our MSW program.

Our students have worked in over 240 local agencies and provided over 151,800 hours of service to the local communities. We estimate that the economic impact of this service to be approximately $3,187,800.

In addition to teaching, our faculty continue to conduct research, publish and provide service to the university and local communities. Our faculty and students have also presented at state, national and international conferences.

This newsletter highlights some of our many accomplishments. As always, thank you for your support and involvement in our School.

Best wishes,
Michele Hawkins, PhD, MSW
Director and Professor
Visiting Scholar Dr. Chung-Song Kim

The School of Social Work welcomed visiting scholar Dr. Chung-Song Kim from South Korea for the 2012-2013 academic year. Dr. Kim, who is a Professor in Kyonggi University, Suwon, Korea, is completing residence at the School of Social Work during his sabbatical year. His research is focused on mental health. Dr. Kim is collecting materials to revise and update his book *DSM-IV: Case Studies of Mental Disorder* (2001). In the upcoming edition, entitled *DSM-IV-TR: Case Studies*, he will add treatments and management for patients with mental disorders, integrating social work perspectives in each chapter. The book is scheduled to be completed by August, 2013.

Social Work Lending Library Opens

Through a very generous anonymous donation, the School of Social Work established an FAU School of Social Work Lending Library for BSW and MSW students with financial need. The library has benefited social work students since Fall 2012 by helping to defray textbook expenses for which full time social work students currently spend approximately $500 per semester.

Interprofessional Collaborative

The School of Social Work, College of Nursing, and College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University developed an interprofessional curriculum to bring social work, nursing, and medical students together for collaborative practice-based learning. This interprofessional curriculum included two components: (a) the Interprofessional Education Development (IPED) program, and (b) the Senior Aging and Geriatrics Educator (SAGE) Mentoring program. All foundation level MSW students have the opportunity to participate in this collaborative learning experience.
October, 2012

**MSW Students Awarded Graduate and Provost Fellowships**

Christine Quinn, Shannon Watson and Christina Hirz, received the Fellowship for Academic Excellence. Karen Davis and Erica Andersen were both awarded Provost Fellowships. The students were recognized at the Graduate College reception on October 4th. In addition, Raymond Stephens received the Delores A. Auzenne Fellowship for Diversity and Sonda Rocchio received the Alice Griffin American Association of University Women (AAUW) Graduate Fellowship.

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November, 2012

**Interdisciplinary Grants Awarded to Faculty**

Social Work professors Dr. Naelys Luna and Dr. Juyoung Park, along with Jean Caldieron from the School of Architecture, were awarded a seed grant from the FAU Healthy Aging Initiative program. Their proposal is titled "Designing Active Continuing Care Retirement Communities". It is great to see Architecture and Social Work working together on this initiative. Dr. Park also received an FAU seed grant ($20,000) along with Dr. Ruth McCaffrey in Nursing on “Effect of Sit ‘N’ Fit Chair Yoga” on Community-Dwelling Elders with Osteoarthritis.

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December, 2012

**Community Advisory Chair Honored**

Jan Savarick, Chair of School of Social Work Community Advisory Board, has been named one of South Florida Business Journal’s “Influential Business Women of 2012” honorees. Jan, along with 24 other honorees, was featured in the South Florida Business Journal.
February, 2013

Dr. Dan Baker Presents “Happiness: Making Your Heartbeats Count”

The School of Social Work along with the Peace Studies Program welcomed guest speaker Dr. Dan Baker, author of “What Happy People Know: How the New Science of Happiness Can Change Your Life for the Better.” School of Social Work benefactors Phyllis and Harvey Sandler hosted an intimate event for Dr. Baker along with a select number of guests including the university president.

Social Work Students Win NASW Award

Graduate student Yasmine Holbrook received the Social Work student of the year award from the NASW-FL Broward Unit. Graduate student Richard Warren received the same recognition from the NASW-FL Palm Beach Unit.

March, 2013

Second Annual Heart of Social Work Event

On March 1st, the School of Social Work hosted its 2nd annual Heart of Social Work event. More than 200 community members, faculty, and alumni were in attendance. We honored Joseph Bensmihen as Outstanding Community Member, Kokie Dinnan as Outstanding Alumna and Pam Brown as Outstanding Field Instructor. The winners of our Social Work Essay Contest, BSW student D’atra Franklin and MSW student John Blasi III read their essays. The event was generously sponsored by Boca Raton Regional Hospital, The Volen Center, Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service and Schmidt Family Foundation.
School of Social Work Career Fair
On March 25th, the School of Social Work Student Organization SOWSA hosted a career fair. Students had the opportunity to meet with representatives of many different agencies throughout the local community regarding job opportunities.

April, 2013

Dr. James Finley Presents Compassionate Care Conference
On April 5-7, Dr. James Finley, a Merton scholar presented a conference on “Compassionate Care: The Spiritual Dimensions of Healing, Trauma, and Suffering.” The School of Social Work co-sponsored this conference with the College of Arts and Letters/Peace Studies Program, College of Medicine, and the College of Nursing.

Scholarship Winner
BSW student Christina Escobar was honored as a University Scholar and received a $1000 scholarship during the University's annual Honors Convocation.

Phi Alpha Induction Ceremony
On April 19, the student organization Phi Alpha inducted students into their organization.

FAU Alum Acknowledged
FAU School of Social Work alum Brandy Macaluso won the “Statewide Crime Victim Advocate of the Year” award from Attorney General Pam Bondi, as well as the “Palm Beach County Crime Victim Advocate of the Year” award during the National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2013.
**NASW Student Advocacy**

120 students from the BSW and MSW programs traveled to Tallahassee for the annual NASW student advocacy event. Students worked on a range of policy advocacy projects including the Families First bill, Inmate Reentry bill, gun control issues, health and mental health related bills. Dr. LeaAnne DeRigne and Mr. Keith Platt traveled with the students over the 3 days.

**Sexual Abuse Documentary**

A BSW FAU student is featured in a documentary entitled, "Intimate Crimes: The Inside Story of Child Sexual Abuse." We commend Barbara Alcena on her courage to share her story and her commitment to sexual abuse prevention. The video provides viewers with an understanding of the dynamics of child sexual abuse, as well as offering suggestions for identifying, preventing, and responding to abuse situations.

**2013 College Awards Banquet**

On April 19th, the College for Design and Social Inquiry held its annual awards banquet. Social Work faculty member Dr. Allan Barsky was nominated Creative Scholar of the Year. Phoenix Adams won the Adjunct Faculty of the Year award, and BSW student Christina Escobar won an Honors Convocation Scholarship.

**Induction and Commencement Ceremonies**

500 people attended the Induction Ceremony on May 1st to welcome 98 new MSW graduates into the profession of social work. This is the largest graduating class since the MSW program began in 2000. In addition, 50 BSW graduates were welcomed into the profession at the Spring Commencement Ceremony. (We previously honored 47 BSW graduates in Summer 2012 and 41 in Fall 2012.)
Josh Mavica fought daily mental and physical struggles to adapt to civilian life, but he didn't let that stop him from getting an education. On May 2nd, Mavica, a 31-year-old combat veteran, proudly accepted his MSW degree. Mavica served five years in the Marines and did three tours of duty in Iraq. With his degree, he plans to help veterans ease into daily life after war. "I will do whatever I can to let them know that life doesn't have to go down the drain when you get back. You have to get through the hard times," he said. Twelve veterans were at Mavica's commencement ceremony. "We've got to take care of each other, no matter what profession we're in. We've got to take special care of each other. We're all we have," he said after his graduation.

June, 2013

Study Abroad

In June, Dr. Arlene Kaplan and Dr. Michele Hawkins led the fourth annual study abroad course to London. Ten graduate and undergraduate students toured historical and legal facilities that have an impact on social services, attended two days of an international social work conference, and spent two days shadowing social workers in a child welfare agency.

New MSW Student Reception

On June 20, the School of Social Work hosted a reception for more than 50 newly accepted MSW students. This was our third annual reception, which is a great opportunity for new MSW’s to connect with new classmates, faculty and MSWs already in the program.
Give a gift that keeps on giving. Your contribution to FAU School of Social Work supports students that will be devoting their careers to improving the lives of people. Your gift helps support research that seeks to understand how we can improve the lives of people in all walks of life. Your gift can make a difference. Give today.

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