THE SALUKI SOCIAL WORKER
Together We Can Change the World

Social Work
Southern Illinois University

Volume 1, Issue 1
Spring 2020

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SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ALLIANCE GOES TO SPRINGFIELD

The National Association of Social Workers’ Advocacy Day will be held on April 2, 2020. The Social Work Student Alliance will go to Springfield on that day, to advocate for policy change with policy makers. One effort is being made by Dr. Dona Reese’s undergraduate Social Welfare Policy class, which will analyze a policy about training for state prison guards, come to conclusions about their recommendations for policy change, and then communicate their recommendations to policy makers in Springfield.

Professor Nina Koen led a student effort last April 2019, where our students participated in the National Association of Social Workers’ Advocacy Day:

Travis Dobrey and Erich Pilz, BSW students:
When we made plans on going to Advocacy Day we did not know what to expect. We actually had no plans or interest in doing this type of work. Dr. Reese uses a more hands on approach in her policy class. She believes that doing an actual policy is the perfect way to learn than just reading about it. Perhaps it was the perfect coincidence of studying social work and policy that made advocacy day seem like an easy choice. We had something tangible in our hands that we worked on. Something with our name on it. It had meaning. It really is the perfect culmination of hard work. 
The Capitol is a beautiful building. Walking inside one can feel and see the history from the paintings of presidential figures to seeing the statue of a woman inside the rotunda that reads “Illinois welcoming the world”. The architecture alone is worth the trip. We made our way through the basement tunnels that connect us to the Stratton house which is where the legislator’s offices are located. We met with Terri Bryant and discussed our proposal. Ms. Bryant told us that she has personal experience with various aspects of our proposal. Not only did it hold personal significance to us it was important to her as well.
While policy class is nearing the end, it does not mean that our policy is over. We have decided to volunteer our time and see this policy through. Ms. Bryant wants to continue meeting with us to get this policy to legislation. This was an amazing trip and we highly recommend it.

BSW Student Kara Lacy with Representative Terri Bryant

Kara Lacy, BSW student:
One awesome thing we got to experience included sitting in on The House and The Senate meetings. My favorite experience was getting to talk to Terri Bryant. Some of my classmates and I represented my policy class on a policy that we came up with. The policy is about sex crimes and horrible crimes that involve children. We stated that Illinois needs to move to a tier system on these crimes. When we proposed our policy to Mrs. Bryant, she read through the proposal. Then she stated that she would support this 100%. I am thrilled about my first experience with talking to a policy maker and NASW Advocacy Day. My class put a lot of hard work and effort into proposing this new policy. I never expected it to go to a
lawmaker and them support it 100%. Hard work really pays off. You can do anything you set your mind to!

Student trip to Springfield, in Spring 2019
SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY ADVOCACY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Lenorris Hughes (Lee), MSW student:
When it comes to the basic rights of all human needs, I, Lee Hughes am a soldier in the war against all wrongs aimed at the vulnerable society. Last year in the local Carbondale, IL community a five-year-old boy was playing by the street. The guardian that was watching him took their eyes off of him for a few moments, that’s when he ran into the street and got hit by a speeding car. The news of this incident broke my heart instantly. I have four children myself and I just could not imagine not coming home to any of them. The news of this tragic accident pushed my heart into action. For so many years all we ever do is talk about things like this but never do anything to prevent this from happening again. This is when I decided that we are going to try and get the traffic slowed down on the street where this baby got killed.

A petition was formed to request speed humps to slow down the traffic on this street. We pushed the petition all over the city of Carbondale and surrounding cities for over four months. We got over 200 local residents to sign it. I personally attended several of the City of Carbondale’s Council meetings and talked to them directly about my concerns for the safety of the youth. Over one year later nothing has been done about this young child getting killed. The city of Carbondale has a rich history of poorly serving the African American community, better known as the “Lower Eastside”. Not only are there small children dying but young African American males are getting shot daily over here. Something has to happen! This petition will show the community that they do have a voice and if they come together and speak loudly enough they’ll be heard. I’m going to remain steadfast and fight for the rights of all people. My duty as a social worker is to fight for those who can’t fight for themselves and this dead young child cannot fight anymore. We will get the change that we need in our community! We have no other choice...

Update: The City did not install the speed bumps, citing cost and practical problems, but approved over $40,000 for safety upgrades on Wall street. They will narrow the street’s lanes, add bike lanes, enhance crosswalks, lighting and signage. They will consider a stop sign and reduced speed limit, and will re-evaluate later to make sure this is working. Thanks to Lee Hughes for his social action to make this happen!
SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS INVITED TO CONDUCT RESEARCH PROJECT ON HOMELESSNESS

Effectiveness of a Warming Center in a Rural Community

Breanna Roseborough, MSW student:

In Spring 2019, the graduate students of Dr. Dona J. Reese’s SOCW511 research class immersed themselves into Carbondale’s homeless population to gather information regarding those who have stayed at the recently opened Warming Center, focusing on those who may not meet criteria to stay at other local shelters, such as the Good Samaritan. This population of individuals affected by homelessness was of particular interest for this study due to the lack of resources, especially regarding shelter, they have within the Carbondale community. Students conducted both quantitative and qualitative interviews with individuals staying at the Warming Center, professionals in the field, and community business owners to gain a wide scope of perspectives on this issue and of how to begin a social action movement to address it. Answers that were obtained through the research were that 100% of people who were homeless, and the majority of the professionals interviewed reported the center to be helpful, while business owners reported no difference in the community. This study also provided answers regarding the rate of employment among people who are homeless - most reported having employment, and most had a high school diploma, and some college. The students made a presentation of this research endeavor to an audience of individuals affected by homelessness, city leaders, professionals, and community business owners with the hope of sparking the social action Carbondale so urgently needs. Dr. Reese also was asked to present the results at a community conference. The students’ paper discussed policy implications, including knowledge and outreach.
regarding the needs of the homeless population in this rural community. They stated that affordable housing is something that needs to be advocated and addressed on a governmental level to help in addressing a long-term solution, as well as the need to look at sustainable job opportunities (Sylvester, A., Atinsola, B., Baquedano, S., Behm, J., Bell, R., et al.).*

FACULTY NEWS

WELCOME DR. SOLIMAN

With the reorganization of colleges and Schools at SIU, and the formation of the School of Human Sciences January 1, 2020, Dr. Hussein Soliman, a professor of social work, was selected to be the Program Coordinator/ Director of the Social Work Programs at SIU effective January 22, 2020. Social Work is now part of the new School of Human Sciences.

STUDENT HOTSPOTTING

The School of Social Work, in collaboration with the School of Medicine, offered students the opportunity to work within a multidisciplinary team setting and intervene with a community consumer that had a track record of high emergency room use. Through this year-long student hotspotting program, seven social work students worked with physician assistant students, medical students, public health students, and public administration students to build a team of social support, and intervene to reduce emergency room visits. Students were able to learn the language and acronyms from other disciplines, and impact patient health outcomes. The photo showcases Team 6: students Aaron Frazier, Hali Edgington-Sisco, Heather Jett, James S. Parks, Katherine Haggard, Chelsea Blixt and Maria Flint participated, while Dr. Elaine Jurkowski served as a coach. The program was underwritten by a HRSA grant.

- Professor Elaine Jurkowski

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FACULTY SELECTED FOR MEMORIAL LECTURE

Professor Patricia Saleeby, our Undergraduate Program Director in the School of Social Work, has been selected to provide the Ron Federico Memorial Lecture, for The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, at their 37th annual conference in March 2020 in Birmingham, Alabama. This is a conference in which Bachelor Program Directors from all over the nation meet to participate in continuing education regarding bachelor level education in social work. Dr. Saleeby’s lecture is “Preparing Social Work Students Beyond 2020 Through Grant Writing and Fundraising Skills”.

HUMAN RIGHTS SEMINAR IN MUNICH

Social Work and Human Rights
MUNICH, GERMANY
SOCW 478/ SOCW 578, 3 credit hours
May 25 - June 4, 2020

Global Seminar: http://ehs.siu.edu/socialwork/study-abroad/germany/

The School of Social Work at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale is offering a Study Abroad based in Munich, Germany beginning on May 25 - June 4, 2020. The SIUC School of Social Work has offered this course for 20 years, and students from all over the United States have participated in the course. The location of Munich and its surroundings add context to the study of human rights, as contemporary human rights arose from tragic events in this part of the world. Students will visit a former concentration camp outside Munich, with this visit illustrating why human rights have become an essential part of our world today. Other field visits focus on HIV/AIDS, homelessness, community mental health, refugees, harm reduction (Switzerland) and elder care. Participants in the course have the opportunity to explore concepts of human rights that apply to their own experiences, as well as historical events. This course is ideal for undergraduate or graduate students and professionals interested in learning about different approaches to social problems within a human rights context. Students do not need to be social work majors to take this course. The content of the course would be suitable for anyone wanting to learn more about the history and development of human rights.
The program fee is $1250 and this fee includes all necessary transportation relating to the course within Germany, accommodation, and some meals. Participants must arrange and pay for their own airfare or other transportation to Munich. Three hours of course credit is available from Southern Illinois University (in State SIUC tuition applies), which is then transferred to the participant's home university for credit. SIUC provides a limited number of scholarships for SIUC students. Financial aid may also be available for the course. Students should consult their own universities for availability of financial aid.

Dr. Elisabeth Reichert, Professor of Social Work at SIUC and author of several books and articles on human rights, will conduct the course. For further details, please contact Dr. Reichert by email at reichert@siu.edu.

Human Rights Seminar in Munich, Germany
GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP

On Wednesday, October 17, 2018, Dr. Patricia Saleeby conducted a Grant Writing Workshop for our Field Instructors. The workshop addressed different ways to find funding for your social work organization; key aspects of a successful grant proposal; and helpful funding strategies. There was no cost for this event and participants were granted 3 CEU’s towards the requirement for LSW/LCSW licensure renewal. Workshop materials are available electronically. Please contact Dr. Saleeby at saleebyp@siu.edu

SCHOOL SAFETY CONFERENCE

On April 15, 2019, a regional conference on school safety was held at the SIU Student Center. The conference was hosted by Dr. Meera Komarraj, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The conference is considered part of the SIU mission to share education and research in order to promote the community’s awareness about important topics that should enhance quality of life. Accordingly, the goal of the event is to explore important topics that may help to increase awareness and understanding of factors related to school safety. Additionally, this conference will offer parents, administrators and community members helpful insights on protecting children.

Dr. Komarraj requested that the conference be open to local parents, administrators and community members. The free conference offers professional insight from a variety of researchers, school administrators and SIU faculty members. Provost Meera Komarraj gave an opening talk, with five other presentations from SIU faculty and a local school superintendent, giving a unique depth to the event.

The topics of the presentations included:
- Bullying and related activities in rural schools by Dr. Daryl Kroner, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, College of Liberal Arts.
- Parents’ perception of school safety by Dr. Hussein Soliman and Dr. Jennifer Koran, Professor of Social Work and Associate Professor of Quantitative Methods, College of Education and Human Services.
- School climate and school safety by Dr. Mary Louis Cashel, Associate Professor and Program Director of Clinical Psychology, College of Liberal Arts.
- Safeguarding children while protecting due process of law by Professor Steven Macias, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor
of Law, School of Law.

School Safety 101 by Dr. Steven Webb, Superintendent, Goreville Community School.

Dr. Hussein Soliman, School of Social Work who is the organizer and coordinator of the conference, indicated that almost 150 individuals registered for the conference, and about 80 students from SIU will participate in the event as a learning experience for them.

- Professor Hussein Soliman

TEXTBOOK HIGHLIGHT

Policy and Program Planning for Older Adults and People with Disabilities, 2nd edition

Dr. Jurkowski recently published a second edition of textbook entitled Policy and Program Planning for Older Adults and People with Disabilities. It also includes a set of ancillary materials such as a test bank, instructor guide, PowerPoint slides for instructors and a podcast series for students.

SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW ASSISTANT LECTURERS

During the past year, the School of Social Work hired four new Assistant Lecturers, who will bring rich experience into the classroom to inform their teaching. Brian Brown, PhD, is retired from Brehm Preparatory School. Diedra Hopes, MSW, is working as a Clinical Coordinator. Melissa McCutchen, MSW, MS.Ed., Ed.S., LCSW, is a School Social Worker. And Abby Odior MS, MSW, is currently working as a Counselor. Welcome to our new faculty!

SCHOOL OF HUMAN SCIENCES
INTERDISCIPLINARY/CLINICAL DAY

April 13, Spring 2020

The Social Work Program is currently joining other units in the School of Human Sciences (SHS) to organize the Interdisciplinary/Clinical Day. Students & faculty from the education units of SHS will participate in developing a learning and practice experience, where students will have the opportunity to share and exchange their knowledge and experience and gain insight on professional collaboration. Units participating in the event are: Social Work, Public Health,
Exercise Science, Sport Administration, Recreation Professions, and Food & Nutrition.

The purpose of the event is: 1) To help students learn how to communicate professionally and participate in addressing global health issues; 2) To provide students and faculty members with the chance to participate in developing a multidimensional assessment of a case, and 3) To encourage students to learn strategies to work collaboratively with professionals of various backgrounds in developing a comprehensive intervention plan.

The Interdisciplinary/Clinical Day is expected to be held on April 13, 2020 (3:30 p.m.- 6:00p.m). Students who are interested in joining the event should forward their names to the faculty member who is responsible for the event in each education unit of SHS. Participants who join the event will receive a certificate of participation in an interdisciplinary/education training. Dr. Hussein Soliman, Coordinator and Director of Social Work will be the contact person for any information regarding the event: soliman@siu.edu

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Professor Paul Brinker, Graduate Field Practicum Coordinator, is an alumnus of the School of Social Work, having received both his BSW and MSW at our School. He was a supervisor at the Department of Children and Family Services in Murphysboro, where he worked for 26 years. He says that his social work education prepared him to do the type of work he was doing, and gave him a solid foundation to continue to learn the things he needed to learn on the job. He used the social work principles he learned, including a strengths-based approach. He says, “I know that social work works – the planned change model – knowing who our client is, respect for the human condition, compassion, non-
judgmental attitude. I know these things make a huge difference in any type of social work.”

Professor Brinker said that all of our students are in field placements, and preparing for termination with their clients at the end of the semester. They provide a huge number of free man hours for local agencies and schools. The students greatly benefit from the experience as well, which according to Professor Brinker is “an off-campus classroom”.

Professor Brinker helped to lead the social work student trip to Springfield for the National Association of Social Workers Advocacy Day in 2019. He is also a founding member of the fledgling School of Social Work Rock and Blues Band (which hasn’t yet practiced).

ALUMNI REPORT

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of our alumnus, Dan Everhart, who passed away on Dec. 23, 2018. He graduated from the School of Social Work with a MSW in 1993, and was named Graduate Student of the Year. After practice as a social worker in a local prison, Dan spent the remainder of his career at Microsoft. He was a social activist, fighting for internet accessibility, participating in the Occupy Wall Street and Food Not Bombs movements, and helping to create the Northern California Counties Time Bank, which advocated for egalitarian economics, among many other social action efforts. He promoted Gandhi’s nonviolent approach to social change, and said loving your enemy is a revolutionary act. He acknowledged his relative privilege in our society, and called for elders to step back from positions of power and provide opportunities for younger and more diverse voices. We value his efforts in our world, and the impact that a social worker can make.

- Professor Sarah Buila
COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT

WARMING CENTER

In the winter of 2019 in Carbondale, the Sparrow Coalition and the Interfaith Council partnered with the City to establish a Warming Center. This was a temporary night-time shelter during the winter months. Roger Webb, the Co-Director of the Sparrow Coalition, gave this report:

At closing, on April 1, 2019, the Warming Center had 618 stays over 72 nights, for an average of 8.6 persons per night. 57 people were registered, including 20 women, for an average of 10.8 stays per person. There were a maximum of 15 guests in one night, and a minimum of 3 (the first night). There were five paid staff, including the Coordinator, two interns from the SIU School of Social Work, plus 17 volunteers, who worked nighttime hours or helped with laundry.

This winter 2020, the City of Carbondale has provided a new building to the Warming Center, a large building that originally was a dormitory. The building is large, has many sleeping rooms, bathrooms, a gathering area where residents eat breakfast, and an office area. The number of people being served has increased. The Center is operating well, providing vital services to vulnerable people in our community.
MAKE A GIFT TO THE SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES FUND!

The Social Work Activities Fund supports students, faculty, and our community. To assist us in these efforts, you may make a gift to the SIU Foundation Social Work Activities Fund. Even the smallest donation can make a big difference.

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- Go to: https://siuf.org/giving/payment.php
- Type “Social Work Activities Fund” in the box that says “if the area or fund you wish to support is not listed, enter its name below”
- Then continue through the screens

If you would like to write a check:
- Make it payable to “SIU Foundation”
- On the “For” line at the bottom of the check, make sure to write “Social Work Activities Fund”
- Mail the check to:
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  1235 Douglas Drive
  Mail Code 6805
  Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4308

SIU Carbondale and the SIU Foundation retain a small percent of all gifts to enhance philanthropic-related initiatives. For our charitable disclosure information, please visit www.siuf.org.

Quote of the Day

We are changing the world, one community at a time.
Professor Elaine Jurkowski
PLEASE CONTACT US WITH MORE NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, FACULTY, STAFF, OR STUDENTS:

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