

INSIGHT EDITION

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2011

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT...NOW UNDER A NEW COLLEGE

The College of Behavioral and Health Sciences is the newest college at Middle Tennessee State University. "We were created to focus on preparing research-based service providers, and I think you'll find that MTSU provides the best education in health, mental health, and human services in the state."

Harold D. Whiteside, Ph.D.

Dean

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences



Message from the Chair

We are pleased to present our Spring 2011 Newsletter. There is a lot happening in the Department and we want you to stay up to date with us. Both the BSW and MSW programs are growing. We are now offering some of the BSW required courses in the evening in addition to offering two sections of every required BSW course during the regular daytime schedule. We find that our students are responding to the anticipated need of a growing social work workforce, particularly in the area of gerontology. Our growth in students has resulted in the need for more space. Effective Fall 2011, Social Work will have two newly refurbished classrooms on the second floor of Peck Hall. With our increase in numbers we find that our number of field agencies has also grown significantly, providing a wider variety of placements for our students. We invite you to stay in touch with us on Facebook. Search for MTSU Social Work and you will find one page for current students and another for alumni.

Rebecca Smith, M.S.S.W., Ph.D.

ACCREDITATION

Every 8 years the Council on Social Work Education reviews accredited Social Work programs to ensure they continue to meet accreditation standards. The BSW program at MTSU has been fully accredited by CSWE since 1976. The faculty are preparing a new

accreditation report for the BSW in Spring 2011, with a site visit scheduled for Fall 2011. The CSWE Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards were changed in 2008 to reflect required competencies that must be included in every accredited social

work program. In addition, an extensive evaluation of student learning related to these competencies is required. Current data indicates that our graduates are well prepared for beginning social work practice

A Tennessee Board of Regents University

MTSU is an equal opportunity, non-radically identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities.



Join us on **Facebook**...connect with current students and alumni. Search MTSU Social Work to find us on **Facebook**.




TITLE 4E PROGRAM UPDATES

By Steve Saunders

The Professional Development Group (PDG) continues to support the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) in best practice social work professional development and training. Current projects and areas of focus are:

- Pre-service training for newly hired DCS case managers and staff.
- In-service training for existing DCS staff. Courses are to be of a continuing education type utilizing a coaching model. Topics include cultural competence, non-violent conflict management, and engagement.
- Training of Resource (Foster) Parents which includes introductory training and ongoing training. Our staff train these parents on trauma, culture, and positive discipline techniques.

- Training on the Tennessee SACWIS known as TFACTS. MTSU is the lead university for the training of this new computer system.
- Juvenile Justice Aggression Replacement Training is conducted by our staff to the DCS youth development center and group home staff members. This initiative is significant in that the focus on evidenced based results is a new approach in Tennessee Juvenile Justice systems.

In addition to training responsibilities, the PDG staff participates in other projects to support best practice in Tennessee. Projects for 2011 include participating in quality practice teams at the regional level, training course development, and coaching of DCS supervisors and staff.

The MTSU Social Work Department, in partnership with DCS also offers BSW students the opportunity to serve Tennessee families and

Children who are at risk of abuse or neglect thru the Child Welfare IV-E Stipend Program. Currently the program has 17 stipend and 4 certification students with graduating over 50 students since its inception in 2004. The program is open to junior and senior social work majors. For more information regarding this program and child welfare go to: www.tccw.org

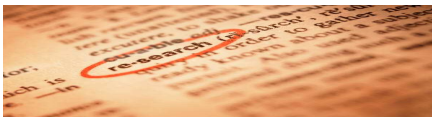
With the multitude of projects, PDG is staffed with: 1 Director, 1 TFACTS Manager, 11 Professional Development Specialists (PDS), 1 Stipend

Coordinator/PDS, 1 Administrative Assistant, and 2 student workers.



Research Projects

Dr. Kathleen Darby, has received two grants totaling \$14,000 for a School of Social Work research project (An Outcome Perception Study of School Social Work Practice). This project will seek to understand the differences and similarities in program perceptions and expectations among school social workers, school administrators, and teachers.



Social Work Field Experience

Field Education is the Signature Pedagogy in the new CSWE standards for accreditation...but this is not new news at MTSU! We have been able over the years to partner with so many excellent Field Instructors to train, lead and prepare our students for the profession of Social Work. With the addition of our Middle Tennessee Collaborative MSW Program our Field Instructors have lead the way in preparing Advanced Practitioners to impact our clients and communities.

This fall will mark a milestone in Field Education! We have over 100 BSW Students who will be enrolled in Field I or Field II. Students will be learning in just about every area of practice, from urban to rural settings; macro and micro placements and with a variety of populations.

If you are interested in serving as a Field Instructor for Social Work BSW or MSW

students, please contact Angela Pharris at 615-898-2510 or apharris@mtsu.edu

Faculty Update

Retiring Faculty

Karen Lee, 2007

Dr. James Taylor, 2009

Robert Rucker, 2010

New Faculty

Dr. Kathleen Darby, 2007

Carmelita L. Dotson, 2010

Angela Pharris, 2010



MSW PROGRAM UPDATE

The Mid-Tennessee Collaborative MSW Program began in Fall 2009. This is the first 3 university collaborative MSW in the country and includes Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University, and Austin Peay State University. Students take in-person courses at their home campus, while all online courses contain a mix of students from all 3 locations. Students may attend either full-time or part-time. The program was developed for the working professional so courses are either in the evening or online. We encourage employment based practicums.

Under current CSWE processes, a program must be approved to begin courses. This ensures that all of those students who attend the

program during the Candidacy phase of accreditation receive an accredited degree. Also note that in Tennessee those individuals who graduate from a program in Candidacy are eligible for a temporary social work license which is then converted to a permanent license once the program completes Candidacy and is fully accredited.

In May 2011, we will graduate the first MSW class from the Mid-Tennessee Collaborative MSW Program which includes 27 students.

MID-TENNESSEE COLLABORATION MSW PROGRAM



www.mtsu.edu



www.tnstate.edu



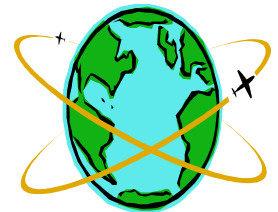
www.apsu.edu

BSW PROGRAM UPDATES

The BSW program now has 400 social work majors and is the largest BSW program in the state of Tennessee. We currently have 10 social work faculty dedicated to the BSW program. Our Advisory Board welcomed new members last spring. In addition to advising the faculty on current trends in our local social work community, the Advisory Board members are assisting with program evaluation by conducting Exit Interviews with graduating seniors.

TOUR AND DISCOVER SOCIAL WORK IN CHINA PLUS TIBET!

Dr. Seime is planning a trip to take students to China and Tibet, May 30, 2012. The trip will consist of 12 days in China and 4 days in Tibet. It is fantastic! The trip will begin in Beijing with a visit to The Summer Palace, The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, The Great Wall, and more. There will also be opportunities to visit various social agencies, hospitals, and schools. You may sign up for this trip beginning March 31st to receive discounts of \$200 discount for China and \$125 for Tibet. Please contact Dr. Seime for additional information.



BSW Social Work Clubs

NABSW

www.nabsw.org/mserver (national website)

NABSW (National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc.) is a student organization consisting of pre-social work and social work majors or students who have a minor in social work. The organization advocates for social change, justice and human development of African people here in the U.S. and throughout the world. Currently NASW has 12 active members and continues to recruit. They are currently partnering with Patterson Park Community Center (Murfreesboro) for projects such as, ACT prep classes for high school students, senior computer classes, and tutoring elementary students on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Jacqueline Wade and Carmelita L. Dotson

Phi Alpha

www.phialpha.org (national website)

Phi Alpha Honor Society

The purpose of the Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideals. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership, those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. Currently there are 11 active members. If you are interested in joining Phi Alpha, the national honor society for social workers, please contact Crystal Clayton or Dr. Margaret Seime for details and an application.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Margaret Seime

Social Work Forum

The Social Work Forum is a student organization consisting social work, sociology, and anthropology students, who would like an opportunity to meet other students, keep current on issues related to the social work profession, attend conferences, and become involved with social services activities in the community-a great way to reach out and make a difference! The Forum continues to engage in community service projects, such as with Greenhouse Ministries here in Murfreesboro. Recently members came up with a slogan for the club:

Social Work empowering the world

Faculty Advisor: Beverly English

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Visit OUR Website:
www.mtsu.edu/socialwork

Look for a new edition
every Fall and Spring
semesters



Follow us on facebook...MTSU Social Work
(official page of the Department of SW) and
MTSU Social Work Alumni

Announcements

- MSW students will attend the TN Coalition against State Killings (TCASK) conference February 26th at MTSU.
- MSW and BSW students will attend Social Work Day on the Hill, March 30th in Nashville.
- The Social Work Advisory Board now conducts Exit Interviews with graduating BSW students. This event is followed by a reception for the students.
- Dr. Margaret Seime will be presenting at the Fourth International Conference in Social Work. The Conference will be held in Los Angeles, CA from March 24-27. Dr. Seime's presentation is entitled, "An Experiential; Learning Experience on Global Social Work."
- Selected BSW students will participate in MTSU's Scholars Week, April 4th-8th.

Becoming a Licensed Social Worker
By Steven W. Pharris, LMSW, LCSW, JD

Being a licensed social worker demonstrates the commitment to the professional ethics of practice. In addition, persons having a license have met certain requirements indicating an understanding of social work practice. In 2008, Tennessee began offering four different types of social work licenses creating standards for the profession and protecting clients from malpractice or professional misconduct. The four types of social work licensure in Tennessee are: Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW), Licensed Masters Social Worker (LMSW), Licensed Advanced Practice Social Worker (LAPSW), and the Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

Each type of licensure has its own specific requirements; however, there are many similarities in the application process. In order to become licensed in TN, everyone must complete an application and submit no less than the following information: Proof of graduation from a CSWE accredited program (official transcript); submit a criminal background check; 3 professional references; and successful scores for the appropriate level examination offered by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). For advanced practitioner licenses, such as the LAPSW and LCSW, supervisory requirements must be met as well.

For students, there are several things to consider when graduating with a degree in social work. For example, *Do I need a license?* Many agencies require staff to be licensed in order to protect themselves, the practitioner, and the client. In addition, many social work interventions are billable, but only if the practitioner is licensed. *What if I have prior criminal charges?* It is important to disclose any previous arrests or convictions and explain the circumstances. Licensure Boards review each application on a case by case basis. *Can I pass the examination?* The exams are administered by ASWB and designed for the practitioner to demonstrate minimal competencies related to social work practice.

As you begin your career in social work, consider the benefits of being licensed to practice. Licensure demonstrates the knowledge and commitment associated with social work and may make you more marketable when seeking employment. You can find more information about licensure requirements, applications, and benefits at the following web sites:

Tennessee Board of Social Work Licensure
<http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/SW/>

Association of Social Work Boards
<http://www.aswb.org/>

National Association of Social Worker, Tennessee Chapter
<http://www.naswtn.com/>

Mission Statements

The **Social Work BSW Program** will provide a learning environment where students are taught to think critically, be creative, participate actively in their education, and grow as individuals while respecting the rapidly changing and diverse world in which they will live and practice social work. Class work and special student work experiences must demonstrate how to relate effectively to all types of people and to appreciate how emotional, social, economic, political, and spiritual forces influence the behavior of those we are helping. We strive to develop competent, ethical professionals with the knowledge, values and skills for effective practice with individuals, families, groups and communities, and who can provide outstanding leadership in the field of social services.

The mission of the **MTC-MSW Program** is dedicated to the enhancement of human well-being, diversity, and social justice through developing and improving systems of public social services, especially for children and families, by offering graduate training in Social Work with a hybrid model of delivery. The mission of the program reflects the dominant values of the social work profession and is dedicated to serving the needs of the region, preparing social workers with an Advanced Generalist practice orientation suited to the social context, and reflecting the values and skills of the profession.

