



Social Work Newsletter

Welcome Dr. Laurel Iverson Hitchcock

By Dr. Jason Newell

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Laurel Hitchcock joined the social work faculty this fall. Dr. Hitchcock recently completed her PhD requirements in Social Work at the University of Alabama and will be graduating this December. She has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Social Welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Madison ('91), a Masters in Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham ('96), and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Alabama ('98). She has been a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) since 2000 and a Certified Private Independent Social Work Practitioner (PIP) since 2001. Dr. Hitchcock is teaching **Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Social Policy, and Social Work Practice with Small Groups, Communities and Organizations.**

Dr. Hitchcock has over ten years experience as a social worker in the areas of health care and community mental health. She has worked for Birmingham Healthcare for the Homeless, Project SAFE at the Birmingham Police Department, Medical Center East and Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority. Most recently, she worked at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) for the MPH/MSW Dual Degree Program in Department of Maternal and Child Health and the UAB Department of Social Work, teaching courses in so-



Dr. Hitchcock

cial work research and public health social work. Prior to her career in social work, Dr. Hitchcock served as a Peace Corp Volunteer in Senegal, West Africa ('91-'93). Dr. Hitchcock's research interests include social welfare history, social policy development, maternal and child health issues, and public health social work. Her dissertation research focuses on the development of the federal Crippled Children's Services (CCS) under the US Children's Bureau during the 1930s.

Dr. Hitchcock is married to Kevin Hitchcock who teaches building construction at Lawson State Community College. They live in Birmingham, AL. Dr. Hitchcock is originally from Madison, Wisconsin. Please help the faculty and students in welcoming Dr. Hitchcock to the Social Work Program and the University of Montevallo.

May and August 2009

Graduates

Jennifer Arrington
Mandy Adams,
Chris Belden
Debra Irvin-Coleman
Teneish Griffin
TaKasha Gunn
Heather James
Charity Johnson
Georgia McGuire
Patrice Reese
Leahnetta Robinson
Darlene Smith
Chelcey Thompson
Monique Williams

Newly Employed

Jennifer Arrington, Gateway
Chris Belden, Bibb County
DHR
TaKasha Gunn, Jefferson
County DHR
Heather James, Gateway
Charity Johnson, JBS Mental
Health Authority
Georgia McGuire, Dallas
County Community
Action
Patrice Reese, First Light
Women's Shelter

Note from the Director

Dear Students, Alumni and Friends of the Social Work Program,

I am honored to be working with the Social Work Program at the University of Montevallo. I have been a big fan of the Program for quite some time, having worked with many graduates and interns at various social service agencies in the Birmingham community. I hired Montevallo Social Work graduates whenever I had the chance and often told colleagues that they would be lucky to do the same.

The UM Social Work Program has a strong reputation for quality education and service to the practice community and academia. I am humbled to be following in the footsteps of Dr. Susan Vaughn and Dr. Ron Manning, and look forward to carrying on their amazing work and dedication to the program. It is a pleasure to be working with Ms. Jeannie Duke and Dr. Jason Newell. I couldn't ask for better colleagues. The current Social Work students have also been gracious and thoughtful in their welcoming me to the Program and University.

I now look forward to meeting and getting to know the Social Work Program's Alumni and Friends. Please feel free to call (205 665-6176), email (lhitchcock@montevallo.edu), or simply stop by the Social Work office. I would enjoy the opportunity to meet and talk with you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of service.

Best,



Laurel Iverson Hitchcock

Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

~ Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund and first African-American woman to be admitted to the Mississippi Bar

Faculty Contact Information

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Gifts to the Program

Olivia Acoff

Jennifer Arrington

Thera Bell

Detrick Bettis

Lance Day

Karen Driver

Jeannie Duke

Mary Alice Floyd

Maria Goodman

Stephanie Hogg

Susan Connor Martin

Florence Mitchell

Freddie Penick

Amy Daniel Pribyl

Lois Ann Ray

Jennifer Talley

Brandy Tate

Susan Vaughn

Niven Scholarship

Connie Arnwine

Kennie Pearson

Dawson Scholarship

Mary Louis Dobbs



What your gifts have made possible

LCD projector for use in the Social Work Classroom

Instructional DVD for classroom use

Postage for the Spring 2009 newsletter

Journals

Books for use in the classroom



Alumni News

Thera Robinson Bell '45 is retired. Her youngest daughter, Sue Bell Cobb is the first women chief justice of Alabama Supreme Court.

Claire T. Willis '68 is as Office Manager at Oldham Chemicals Corp. Her husband passed away six-years ago and her house flooded during Katrina. She stays busy with her garden, reading fishing, and traveling when she can.

Susan Vaughn '71 is volunteering as a social worker half day a week at Shelby Emergency Assistance and well as serving on the Board of First Light (a women's shelter in Birmingham). She has also been trained as a literacy tutor and hopes to begin working with a "struggling" reader soon. Susan recently took a two week trip to Maine, New Brunswick and New Hampshire. Thus far, she says, "retirement appears to be agreeing with me despite missing my colleagues and students."

Freddie Penick '89 works with UAB.

Amy Daniel Pribyl '05 is a Day Treatment Counselor at UAB Health Services Foundation. She received her LCSW in April 2009. Amy is expecting her first child, Bella Mae, on June 14th.

Stephanie Hogg '06 works with Hospice Complete. She also has a new corgi puppy.

Lance Day '07 works with the Athens justice project.

Karen Driver '07 received her M.S.W. from the University of Alabama. She currently works with Driver Contracting and Installations, Inc., a family business. She is free to advocate for individuals with disabilities and their families without the influenced of policies and procedures. She is also the Chair of the Housing Task Force Committee with ARC of Shelby County. The committee is commissioned to assist people with disabilities in renting or owning their own home.

In Remembrance

We are saddened to report to you the loss of **Rebecca Johnson Roberts '80**. Rebecca was a retired Probation Officer. She is survived by her husband, James L. Roberts, and her mother, Mrs. J. Sam Johnson Sr., both of Clanton, as well as other family members. She will be missed by many. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Rebecca's family.

Licensure Computer Test Available for Alumni Use

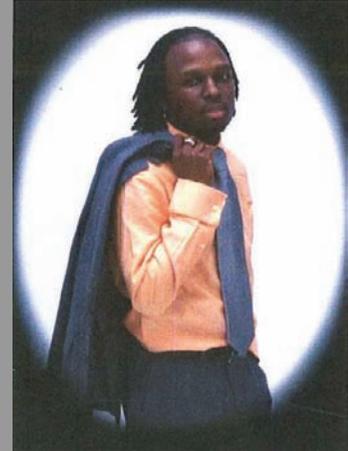
The Program has purchased both the LBSW and LGSW computer practice test. They are available by appointment Monday thru Friday between 8am and 5pm on campus only.

If you wish to use them contact the office at

(205) 665-6180

or email bssdept@montevallo.edu

In Remembrance: Detrick Bettis



The Social Work program was saddened by the lost of a recent graduate, Detrick O'Neal Bettis on July 6, 2009. Detrick graduated from the University of Montevallo's Social Work Program on May 9, 2009 and was working at Gateway in Birmingham, AL as a social worker. He was born on November 1, 1984 in Meridian, MS to Willie & Lois G. Bettis. He graduated from Sweet Water High School in 2003 and was a member of the Star Bethel P.B. Church in Sweet Water, AL. Before attending the University on Montevallo, he completed coursework at the University of West Alabama and Wallace State Community College. Detrick was an outgoing and hard working young man. This was evident as he often worked two jobs while also attending school full-time. He is remembered by Social Work students and faculty for his dedication to improving the lives of children and families through his work and his faith. He will be greatly missed.

Fall 2009 Practicum Students and Placements

Back Row from Left:

Katie McGlothlen
UAB Obstetrical Complications Clinic
Supervisor: Valencia Pruitt

Jennifer Travis-Scott
Middle Alabama Area Agency on
Aging
Supervisors: Kelly Hicks & Carolyn
Fortner

Billie Robinson
Hatley Health Care
Supervisor: Amy Daniel

Nicole Passante
Golden Living Center
Supervisor: Alicia Hunter

KaTascia Dobyne
Bibb County DHR
Supervisor: Karen Smith

Front Row from Left:

Jeannie Duke, Practicum Director

Brett Willis
Chilton-Shelby Mental Health
Supervisor: Jody Gothard

Tara Bradley
Lakeshore Rehabilitation Hospital
Supervisor: Karen Garber

Kristie Kakoliris
Shelby County Board of
Education
Supervisor: Dorann Tanner

Jessica Shierling
Talladega County DHR
Supervisor: Nicole Parker

Bridgett Starr: My Volunteer Experience



While living in Montgomery, I was a Volunteer Advocate for Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) from 2004 until 2006. STAR is a non-profit rape crisis center that offers a variety of services to the community including free counseling to the survivors and families of rape, a twenty-four hour crisis hotline, and most importantly, a medical facility with which to collect sexual assault kits. Without STAR's facility, victims of rape would be forced to wait in an emergency room with a police officer by their side for hours, which would be both humiliating and would compromise the victim's

confidentiality. My primary responsibility as a volunteer advocate was to provide crisis intervention counseling, information and referrals for victims of sexual assault and their family members. In addition, I also participated in STAR's twenty-four hour rape crisis hotline.

As a volunteer advocate, I took a minimum of two twelve-hour shifts from the hours of 5 pm- 5 am a month. During these shifts, I assisted the SART/SANE nurses with the retrieval of forensic evidence during the sexual assault exams on victims. The exams typically took between 2-6 hours to complete. Oftentimes, we would encounter our clients just moments after a rape occurred. We frequently faced hysterical mothers and beaten victims who were understandably shaken from their assaults. As a volunteer advocate, it was my responsibility not only to tell them about the services available to them, but also to hold their hand and wipe away their tears as the nurses performed the sexual assault exams.

It gives me peace to know that whenever our survivors look back on their sexual assault, that they can remember the caring person who held their hand and supported them in their difficult decision to prosecute perpetrators. When thinking of my abilities as an upcoming social worker, I believe that my nonjudgmental attitude and genuine desire to see clients excel are the backbone of my strength and personal moral code.

Note: Bridgett continues to participate in STAR's Take Back the Night rally which is a world-wide event focused on raising awareness about sexual assault. STAR's rally usually includes speeches by District Attorneys, Law Enforcement, and other respected community leaders. In addition, there is a moment of silence, a candle-

light vigil, a reading of the Survivor Psalm or similar poems, and an open forum for survivors or friends/family of survivors to tell their stories. For the past two years, a local motorcycle group of about fifteen men and women lead the sexual awareness march through downtown Montgomery and to the steps of the capital where Take Back the Night is held. Bridgett was responsible for media relations and community donations at this year's event.



Fall 2009 Practicum Students

Tell Us Your Story!

We are interested in collecting stories from our social work alumni about their careers in social work and the role the University of Montevallo's Social Work Program played in the success of that career. We are interested in your stories to better describe the legacy of the Program and to feature alumni members from different social work practice settings in our newsletter. Additionally, in line with the Social Work Reinvestment Initiative (<http://www.socialworkreinvestment.org/>) sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers, we would like to increase recruitment and retention of new social workers into the profession through the history and stories of our current practitioners. If you are interested in sharing your story or have questions, please contact Laurel Hitchcock at lhitchcock@montevallo.edu or call her at 205-665-6176.



Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.
~ Scott Adams

Jennifer Travis-Scott

This Spring I was given the opportunity to conduct research for a second time through the McNair Scholars Program by Dr. Tracy Payne. After accepting the opportunity, I realized that I had a new passion for another cohort of people (aside from the elderly population). I wanted to learn more about PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), the veteran population, and how Veteran's PTSD affected their families, loved ones, and caregivers. My mentor, Dr. Jason Newell, and I decided to do a comprehensive review of the literature on PTSD and Secondary Traumatic Stress in order to identify gaps in the literature. Over the course of the five week program, I gained a wealth of knowledge on PTSD and the secondary effects of it on families. It was an eye opening experience that at times induced personal feelings on some of the effects, as well as reflected some of my own past experiences with my father who suffered from PTSD. The knowledge and experiences gained from conducting this research will remain with me forever, and have even given insight to my future endeavors of pursuing my Doctoral degree.

Attending the McNair conference in New York was a once in a lifetime experience for me. Being in the presence of so many other scholars was awesome and the experience was extraordinary. Presenting at and attending the conference



Jennifer Travis-Scott and
Faculty Mentor Dr. Jason Newell

felt surreal in that I was given the chance to present my work at a national conference, and people from other parts of the country were interested in what I had to say! I felt honored to be there to say the least. The conference was a great place to network with other scholars as well as receive encouraging words from the speakers (some who were former McNair Scholars). The entire experience has been more than I could have ever asked for, and I'm forever grateful for it.

Social Work Program Ready for Re-Affirmation

Since the mid-1970s, the University of Montevallo's Social Work Program has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education [CSWE] (<http://www.cswe.org>), the national council that certifies all undergraduate social work programs in the United States. The Social Work Program initially applied for and was awarded accredited status in 1974, the first year all undergraduate social work programs became eligible for accreditation. The Program was reaffirmed in 1977, 1980, 1989, and 1997, and 2004 for the purpose of preparing entry level, professional social workers. This accreditation helps establish the Program as a qualified provider of social work education. Further, any social worker wanting to obtain licensure must graduate from an accredited program. In 2011-2012, the Montevallo Social Work program will once again go through the re-affirmation process with CSWE. We look forward to working with students, faculty, staff and alumni as we prepare for re-affirmation. If you have questions or want to volunteer to be a part of the planning advisory committee, please contact Dr. Laurel Hitchcock @

lhitchcock@montevallo.edu
or 205-665-6176.

Duke and Newell hold workshop at the Alabama Child Welfare Conference

In August 2009, Ms. Jeannie Duke and Dr. Jason Newell presented information on the new Alabama Child Welfare Consortium Case Studies at the 8th Annual Fall Social Work Conference - Achieving Balance: Bridging Child Welfare Practice and Research. Montgomery, Alabama, August 2009. Titled *Integrating Alabama Child Welfare Consortium Case Studies into Social Work Curriculums*, their workshop focused on how educators and field supervisors could utilize these case studies into the classroom and field practicum. The Alabama Child Welfare Consortium consists of faculty members from Social Work programs, both BSW and MSW, from the State of Alabama and experienced child welfare workers from the State of Alabama Department of Human Resources. This working group developed a series of twelve child welfare case studies, and each of the cases was reviewed by a consultant with expertise in child welfare case development for the purpose of social work education. Each case in-

cludes a presenting situation, current situation, background summary, strengths/needs, and resources.

In addition to the foundation case information, there are case scenarios and teaching tools based on the Alabama Core Child Welfare Competencies. It is the expectation of the Alabama Higher Education Consortium on Child Welfare that these cases will be used to enhance both social work education/training and child welfare social work practice in Alabama.

Ms. Duke and Dr. Newell will also be presenting information on the case studies at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Director's annual conference in Atlanta in March 2010. This workshop will be titled *New Tool, New Methods: Using Child Welfare Cases to Teach Behavior Competencies*. To learn more about these case studies, please contact Ms. Duke (dukej@montevallo.edu or 205-665-6184) or Dr. Newell (jnewell2@montevallo.edu or 205-665-6185).

Dr. Newell participates in new residence hall program on campus

The Social Work program is proud of Dr. Jason Newell's appointment to the Faculty Fellow Program. It is a new initiative through the Office of Housing and Student Life with the goal of establishing a "residential college" atmosphere in the new residence hall. One of the components of the residential college model is to include faculty in the daily lives of residents in a non-academic format. Other faculty participating in the program with Dr. Newell include Dr. Betsy Inglesby (English), Tarsha Bluiett (Education), and Dr. Nathan McMinn (Business). Each fellow is assigned a floor in the residence hall, which consists of approximately 40 students. Fellows assist in the organization and participation of activities for the residents, as well as provide mentorship, advising, and adjustment counseling. As most of the residents in the new facility are freshman, one of the goals for this program is to assist freshman students as they make the important transition to college life.

Amanda Fox receives the Outstanding Staff Award

Amanda Fox, Secretary for the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences (including the Social Work Program) will receive The Outstanding Staff Service Award from the University of Montevallo's Alumni Association at the convocation on Founder's Day October 8, 2009. Amanda won this award because of her hard work and dedication to the students, faculty and staff across the Montevallo campus. Social Work faculty, students and alumni provided letters of support on behalf of Amanda. Quotes from these letters included:



"Amanda has a passion for students. Every student who walks through the door is special to her and she helps them to her fullest."

Ms. Fox is one of the most remarkable young women I have ever known. She is efficient, patient, caring toward her colleagues, supportive of students, and an excellent ambassador for the department and the university."

Please join us in congratulating Amanda on this honor and recognition.

Today's problems cannot be solved if we still think the way we thought when we created them.
~ Albert Einstein

Faculty News

Jeannie Duke

- § Program Planner Liaison, Alabama Gerontological Society's annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL
- § Workshop, "Caring for the Intervener," Alabama Gerontological Society's Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL
- § Chair, Dancy Lecture Series Committee, UM
- § President, Alzheimer's of Central Alabama Board of Directors
- § Workshop, "Learning Styles," Baccalaureate Program Director's meeting, Phoenix, AZ
- § Workshop, "Caring for the Caregiver," Area Agency on Aging, Dothan, AL
- § Traveled, Greece and the Cyclades Islands
- § Attended, CSWE accreditation training,
- § Attended, Higher Education Consortium Lobby Day, Montgomery, AL

Jason Newell

- § Faculty Fellow, Residence Hall, UM
- § Senator, Faculty Senate, UM
- § Workshop, "Alabama Child Welfare Consortium case Studies into Social Work Curriculums," Annual Social Work Conference, Montgomery, AL
- § Faculty Mentor, Jennifer Travis-Scott, McNair Scholar's Program

Action is the antidote to despair.

~ Joan Baez, *Singer, songwriter, and activist.*

Technology Upgrade in Jeter 105

We are happy to report that the primary social work classroom in the Jeter Building (Room 105) will soon become an integrated technology classroom. Thanks to contributions from friends and alumni of the Social Work Program, the classroom currently contains a portable laptop and projector unit. This equipment will become permanently affixed in the classroom along with new audio and video equipment, a new projection screen and a new lectern. Not only will this new technology enhance classroom instruction for the Social Work Program, it will better prepare our students to understand and work with technology in their future careers and social work practice settings. Funding to complete the technology renovations in Jeter 105 was provided by the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Mary Beth Armstrong, and facilitated by the Chair of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Dr. Jim Day. This collaborative use of funding between our Social Work Alumni Members and the University of Montevallo's administration demonstrates a strong commitment to our students and the quality of their education in the 21st century. All the renovations will be complete by the end of 2009.

University of Montevallo

Dates To Remember:

Thanksgiving Break—Nov
25-27

Fall Graduation – Dec 18

Spring Begins – Jan 11

Advocacy Day – January,
TBA

College Night Week – Feb
10-13

Spring Break – Mar 15-19

Advocacy Day scheduled for January

Mark your calendars. The next Advocacy Day sponsored by the Social Work Program will be held during the last two weeks in January. This year, we will be working with co-sponsors from the Montevallo Campus, to sponsor a half-day advocacy workshop on Asperger's Syndrome for students, faculty, staff, and interested community members. The workshop will be open to the public and free to participants. Professionals requesting Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be charged a nominal fee of \$10.00 for processing.

The objectives of the workshop include:

- Increasing participants' knowledge about autism spectrum disorders, specifically Asperger's Syndrome
- Improving participants' ability to identify and interact with youth/young adults identified with Asperger's Syndrome
- Increasing participants' knowledge of community resources available for youth/young adults with Asperger's Syndrome, especially in Central Alabama

We look forward to our students, alumni and community partners attending our next Advocacy Day. Please contact Ms. Jeannie Duke for more information (jduke@montevallo.edu or 205-665-6184).

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To learn more about the Social Work Program, please visit the UM website at:
<http://www.montevallo.edu/bss/socialwork.shtm>



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