



Social Work Newsletter

My Practicum Experience

by Jackie Collins

The practicum is both an educational and personal growth experience for the social work student. The education that is provided at the University of Montevallo is an excellent way for the student to become prepared but it is only until you begin the practicum that you understand the importance of this instruction. I am honored to be included in a program which allows you to use the knowledge that you have learned and put it in to practical use in everyday life working with clients. In my experience with the practicum I have been nervous and felt this energy turn into a feeling of success. I am at a Chilton Shelby Mental Health Center. This practicum includes substance abuse, intellectual disability and mental illness. The primary setting that I am within is mental health. There is a great deal of stigma that I have found to not only within society but within the client. It is heartbreaking to hear a client tell you that they can understand why no one wants to be around them.

I have learned to work with both the individual and the group. I have talked to families about their sons, daughters, mothers, brothers, sisters and other family who have suffered from an illness that many don't realize is chronic like sickle cell or diabetes. There are some cases in which the client is born with a disability; developed the illness later on in life and others where they have suffered a serious accident. It is harder to realize this because you are faced with difficult behavior that we can't see the cause of, as you might in someone who has broken their leg. I am involved with therapists who develop a plan of care to help clients figure out what they want in their lives; case managers who help provide transportation along with basic living skills; group home workers who provide care to those who want to learn to live on their own after being in a psychiatric hospital for years; and permanent supportive housing worker who helps the clients who have moved out into apartments where for some of them is for the first time in their lives.

(Continued on Page 8)

PROGRAM ADMISSIONS

The following social work students were admitted to the Professional Social Work Program Spring and Summer 2010:

Jennifer Barker
 Ursula Nixon
 Angela Slaughter
 Kathleen Hodgkin
 Robert Mashburn
 Elizabeth Parks
 Dotti Bailey
 Elizabeth Edwards
 Tiffany McCollough
 Hillary Franklin
 Kellie Williams
 Maranda Cleveland



Jackie Collins

Note from the Director

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

In this Fall 2010 issue of our newsletter, we spotlight our Social Work Practicum Program. Each semester in the UM Social Work Program, students are placed in social work settings across the state such as local county DHR offices, nursing homes, schools, homeless shelters, and public health clinics. Ms. Jeannie Duke, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, runs our Practicum program, and works with countless Agency Practicum Instructors to provide students with a quality experience. Articles in this newsletter feature the practicum experience from the viewpoints of both the student and the Agency Practicum Instructor. Also, Ms. Duke provides an update on the program as we get ready for re-accreditation. My sincere thanks to Ms. Duke and all the Practicum Instructors for their hard work on behalf of our students!



Other items in this issue highlight many important events from the semester as well as efforts by students, faculty and alumni. Events to read about include Social Justice Movie Night, the Licensure Exam Prep workshop presented by Ms. Jeannie Duke, and the re-vitalization of the Program's advisory committees. I want to thank our students, faculty, campus partners, alumni, and community partners for all their contributions and support to make these events happen.

Our recruitment efforts to attract more students to the social work profession continue to pay off. As of October 1, 2010, we have 113 social work majors, up from 82 majors in the Fall of 2009 and from 96 majors in the Spring of 2010. We have recently adopted the *Be a Social Worker* website (<http://www.beasocialworker.org/>), to help with our recruitment efforts. The website was developed by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), to educate individuals about the professional on such issues as salary, qualifications, employment opportunities and the real-life jobs of social workers in the United States. Please check out the website and recommend it to others interested in learning about the social work profession.

It has been a tremendous semester for the Social Work Program and I look forward to new and exciting events in Spring 2011. Stay tuned for information on our annual Advocacy Day Event set for February 4, 2011 and our Social Work Month celebration in March 2011. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of services, (205)-665-6176 or lhitchcock@montevallo.com.

Best,

Laurel Iverson Hitchcock, PhD, MPH, LCSW

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life." - Jane Addams

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Note from the Practicum Director

In social work, the culminating educational experience for students is the field education practicum. This is known as the signature pedagogy and is the “central form of instruction and learning in which a profession socializes its students to perform the role of practitioner” (CSWE, 2008). The intent of field education is to connect the theoretical and academic contribution of the classroom with the practical world of practice. It is a basic precept of social work education that classroom and field are of equal importance within the curriculum, and each contributes to the development of the competencies of professional practice. Field education is systematically designed, supervised, coordinated, and evaluated based on criteria by which students demonstrate the achievement of the program competencies.



At the University of Montevallo, social work students complete a 504 hour practicum in an approved social service agency under the guidance and instruction of an experienced social worker. Agency settings are selected based on interest and ability to provide students with a generalist practice learning experience. Current field education settings include mental health, school social work, homelessness, child abuse and neglect, aging, autism and services to Hispanics/Latinos. Students are involved in individual and family in-home services, groups with teen and adults, information and referral, case management, community outreach and planning, and crisis intervention.

The UM Social Work Program has recently revised the practicum evaluation form to comply with the Council on Social Work Education’s 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. The new form combines the activity checklist, student learning plan and practicum evaluation into one form. The learning plan/evaluation form is designed to provide students with learning experiences with systems of all sizes and to measure the 10 program competencies and 41 practice behaviors.

Quality field education is not possible without the interest and support of agencies and social workers committed to undergraduate social work education. Thank you to all of the directors, supervisors and social workers who support the UM Social Work Program by donating their time and energy to instructing and mentoring students.

Jeannie A. Duke

Jeannie A. Duke, LCSW, ACSW

Fall 2010 Practicum Students

Kim Carden
Supervisor: Shannon Messina
Agency: Glenwood, Inc.

Monique Allen
Supervisor: Sherry Webb
Agency: First Light

Tonia Inestroza
Supervisor: Johanna Alvarez
Agency: Hispanic Interest Coalition of AL

Jackie Collins
Supervisor: Jody Gothard
Agency: Chilton – Shelby Mental Health

Brian Milstead
Supervisor: Dorann Tanner
Agency: Shelby County Board of Education

Carolyn Hall
Supervisor: Erin Egger
Agency: Gateway, Shelby County

April Ray
Supervisor: Kelly Hicks
Agency: M4A

BJ McCroey
Supervisor: Jennifer Lackley
Agency: Gateway



Back Row (L to R): Ms. Duke, Kim Carden, April Ray, Brian Milstead. Front Row (L to R): Tonia Inestroza, Jackie Collins, Monique Allen, Carolyn Hall and BJ McCroey.

4 Advice about the Social Work Practicum Experience

By Sherry Webb, BSW, MSW, First Light Women's Shelter

Sherry Webb is an alumna of the University of Montevallo's Social Work program. She is currently working as the Director of Social Services at First Light Women's Shelter in Birmingham, Alabama. Sherry has been an agency instructor as a BSW and now as an MSW. She has extensive experience working with students. Her suggestions below reflect her many years of instructing and mentoring students during their practicum experience.

Here is her advice to students and other agency instructors.... Students enter practicum placement with anxieties, ideas, and many mixed emotions. As a practicum instructor, it has been my experience that students are uniquely different in their abilities. Field instructors play an important role in the development of the student – educationally and emotionally. Instructors are responsible for teaching students how to practice social work and not how to train them to do a specific job at a specific agency.

Students should learn as much as they can – outside of the normal paperwork documentation. Try to place students in many learning opportunities where they can be challenged and learn new ways to cope or deal with stressful situations. Expose students to DSM Codes, medications and their uses. Seek every opportunity available to tear down stereotypes and preconceived thoughts about the clients that students are serving and will be serving in the very near future. Teach them clear boundaries, make them feel like a member of the “team,” set deadlines, do not ask them to do things you would not do and treat them with respect and not as someone who can do all of your filing. Most of all remember that they are students and given to us for a short time to nurture and to educate and to give them the best experience we can.



We have a new Facebook page! From F/B simply search “University of Montevallo Social Work Program” or use this link; <http://www.facebook.com/University-of-Montevallo-Social-Work-Program>. Please “like” our F/B page and receive updates on the program and our alumni; also, please suggest our page to any other friends so our F/B community can grow.

Students who will be going into practicum in Spring 2011 with their agency:



Front Row (Left to Right):

Angela Slaughter – HealthSprings, Inc

Elizabeth Parks – Gateway, Shelby County Office

Ursula Nixon – UAB Women's Complications Clinic

Ms. Jeannie Duke

Hillary Franklin – Shelby County Board of Education

Back Row (Left to Right):

Jennifer Barker – UAB Women's Complications Clinic

Tiffany McCollough – Bibb County DHR

Christine Smith – Shelby Ridge Nursing Facility

Kellie Williams – UM Counseling and Career Center

Message from an Alumni

By Patrice Reese-Hardy

Social Worker at First Light Shelter



I am a proud UM Spring 2009 Social Work Graduate. Like many of my classmates, the learning and knowledge gained through the UM practicum process led to my current job. I work at First Light, an emergency shelter for women and women with children, in Birmingham, Alabama. Our goal at First Light is to work with homeless women and their children to create a safe and nurturing community so that they maintain their dignity, find hope and seek out opportunities to grow achieving their full potential.

Never being exposed to working with the homeless population prior to practicum, I assumed I would spend my time finding apartments and helping women to make their house a home. Contrary to that belief, my experiences have ranged from dealing with untreated mental illnesses to everyday economic causes of homelessness.

Even faced with situations that I never conceived I would deal with while working with the homeless, I felt more than prepared. UM equipped me with more than just the basic skill of meeting people where they are and not only looking at their current issue but the sum of the parts that might have led to that circumstance. I have learned how to step outside of my personal thoughts and beliefs and see the person for their need. That is something I thought I would struggle with but has become almost second nature through practice.

I am never more proud to say I am a UM graduate, than when someone notices the listening ear and concern that I share with a client. Montevallo didn't just teach me theory, but it also taught me compassion and to look beyond just what the eyes can see, but what the heart can see. UM made me not only a great social worker, they have helped to make me a better person.

Gifts to the Program

Mrs. Dorothy Castleberry

Ms. Rachel Ellison

Ms. Tiffany McCollough

Mr. Lance Day ('07)

Ms. Kay Herrin ('69)

Mrs. Ouida M. Lide ('46)

Mrs. Elizabeth K. McDonald ('46)

Mrs. Tiffany M. Hutchinson ('07)

Ms. Heather A. Youngkin ('92)

Ms. Patrice J. Reese '09

Dean Mary Beth Armstrong,

College of Arts & Sciences

Ms. Jeannie Duke

Dr. Laurel Hitchcock

Dr. Jason Newell

What Your Gifts Have Made Possible

Scholarships for 11 students in practicum during 2010-2011

Fees and mileage for students to attend local conferences

Textbooks for use in classroom

Instructional DVDs for classroom use

Journals

Postage for the Spring 2010 Newsletter

Alumni News

S. Joy Williams '05 is currently working for the Jefferson County Department of Human Resources Bessemer Division. She is a CA/N (child abuse and neglect) investigator specializing in out of home investigations. This is where incidents of abuse and neglect occur to children that are in DHR's custody (whether it is in a foster home, school, facility, etc). She is a mother of one, (Malik) and he is currently attending elementary school in the pre-K program. She is also attending graduate school at the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa in hopes of obtaining a Master's in Social Work, and expects to graduate in Summer 2012.

Kimberly Newton '10 has just been employed by the Covington County Mental Health Office, and will be working out of Andalusia in a group home.

KaTascia Dobyne '09 has passed the Social Work Licensure Exam, and is currently working with Jefferson County DHR in the family preservation unit. She quotes her supervisor, "Montevallo has taught you well!"

Jessica Shierling '10 is working at Talladega County DHR/ Clay County DHR as an Adult Protective Service worker. She works with clients from 18 years and above. She reports that the bulk of her reports have to do with self neglect ranging between the ages of 64-82.

Krisit Kakaloris '09 has passed the social Work Licensure Exam. She is working at Birmingham Aids Outreach.

Billie Robinson '09 has passed her licensing exam, and commented there were a lot of questions on her exam related to research.

Nicole Passante '10 writes "I am still working as the Director of Social Services at golden Living Center in Oneonta, AL. I would say I am doing well there although it is very overwhelming being the only person in Social Service. I have made very good relationships with several of the residents throughout the facility, who often come to my office just to stop and sit and talk on their own in addition to when they feel they need some support."

Lesley Long '10 started a job at JBS Mental Health Authority in June 2010, and plans on taking the Licensure Exam in the near future.

Brigette Starr '10 is working on a project, "No Stereotypes: An Anti-Violence Campaign", dedicated to raising awareness about sexual assault and domestic violence in our community.

Donna Grissett McCarley '81 has moved to Perdido Key, Florida after retiring from Searcy Hospital. She accepted the position as Executive Director of Mary's Shelter Gulf Coast in January 2009.

Jennifer Arrington '09 is enjoying Grad school at UA, having made A's in her first two classes, and is looking forward to an equally successful fall semester.

Charity Johnson-Laister '09 reports that she was accepted into the advance standing MSW program at UA. She says, "I truly appreciate all of your assistance and council with my grad school application. You have really been a blessing to me."

Katie McGlothlen '10 works for the GreenHouse, CAC, in Dalton, Georgia, as a forensic interviewer. On September 25, 2010, she married Anthony Walker.

Lance Day '07 is working with the Athens Justin Project in Athens, Georgia. He has started a process group for AJP clients, organizing community outreach/ volunteer opportunities so convicted felons can successfully navigate reentry into the work force.

Jamie Case Gower '96 is employed by Huntsville Hospital as a data analyst, and is celebrating the birth of twins, Clementine Melores, and Finnian James, born June 13, 2010.

Cheri Waites '73 is looking for a social work position after almost 30 years of working with computers. She is hoping to find a good fit that will combine her experience with computers, programming, and data analysis with a position in the social work field.

Tara Bradley '09 and her husband Derek, proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Katelyn Noelle Bradley, born August 18, 2010. Tara works for Gateway, in the Focus Program, and got her license in March, 2010.

Ms. Jeannie Duke

1. Workshop with Dr. Dan Marullo, UAB, on August 26th at the Statewide Child Welfare Conference in Tuscaloosa, AL. The workshop focused training social workers to advocate for the best in counseling and psychological services for their clients.
2. Workshop at the Statewide Peri-natal Conference on August 27th on writing narrative psychosocial assessments.
3. Chair of the UM Dancy Lecture Committee
4. Conference Co-Planner for the Alabama Gerontological Society
5. Member of the University of Alabama Social Work Society

**Dr. Laurel Iverson Hitchcock**

1. Hitchcock, Laurel Iverson and Beverly A. Mulvihill. 2010. "Extending and Improving Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs: The Early Years of Title V, 1935-1941." *Maternal and Child Health Journal*.
2. Baker, Lisa R., Frederick H. Stephens and Laurel Iverson Hitchcock. 2010. "Social Work Practitioners and Practice Evaluation: How are we doing?" *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*.
3. *Inquiry & Advocacy: The Road to Title and Beyond*, Maternal and Child Health Leadership Network, Seminar Presentation, 10/28/10, UAB, Birmingham, AL.
4. Faculty Advisor for Alabama Arise Student Group
5. Member for SAFE Zone Advisory Committee

**Dr. Jason Newell**

1. Newell, J. M. & MacNeil, G.A. (2010). Professional burnout, secondary traumatic stress, and compassion fatigue: A review of theoretical terms, risk factors, and preventive methods for clinicians. *Best Practices in Mental Health: An International Journal*, 6(2), 57-68.
2. Newell, J.M. *Teaching Self-Care as an Essential Practice Behavior*. Skills Workshop presented at the Council on Social Work Education's 56th Annual Program Meeting. Portland, Oregon. October 2010.
3. Newell, J.M. *Self Care and Professional Quality of Life: Balancing the Risks of Helping Others*. Invited lecture presented at Creating a Culture of Caring: The University of Montevallo's Division of Student Affairs Annual All Staff Retreat. Montevallo, Alabama. May 2010.
4. Duke, J.A. & Newell, J.M. *New Tool, New Method: Using Child Welfare Cases to Teach Practice Behavior Competencies*. Workshop presented at the 27th Annual Association of Baccalaureate Program Directors Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. March 2010.
5. University Faculty Fellow for Housing and Residence Life

**New Faces in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences for Fall 2010**

Dr. Clark Hultquist (History) was appointed Chair of the Department of BSS.



Ms. Stacia Love is the Department's new secretary.



Ms. Jameka Allen is serving as a new adjunct instructor for the Social Work Program for the Fall 2010 semester. She is teaching SWK/PSYC 322 Human Behavior in the Social Environment.

Screening of *Open Secret* at Social Justice Movie Night

The UM Social Work Program hosted its first annual Social Justice Movie Night on September 27, 2010. In Comer Auditorium, over 70 people attended the screening of *Open Secret* (<http://www.constitutionalreform.org/opensecret.shtml>), the award winning film by Melanie Jeffcoat about Alabama's 1901 Constitutional Convention. The movie is a re-enactment that looks into a part of Alabama's history that is not well-known and not necessarily pleasant. Delegates to this convention openly discussed ways to disenfranchise black and poor white voters.

Ms. Jeffcoat attended the event to introduce the movie and stayed for a panel discussion on constitutional reform in Alabama. Other panel members included Nancy Eckberg from Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR) and UM faculty members Dr. Jim Day (History) and Dr. Carl Doerfler (Political Science). This event was co-sponsored by UM Social Work Program, the UM Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, and the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences. A door prize drawing followed the movie, and the following individuals went home with a copy of the movie: Jessica Beal, Ronald Davis, Kyle Richardson, Sandy Yancey and Kayley Hale.

The movie inspired several UM students, including social work majors Stephanie Clifton and Elizabeth Parks, to organize a student organization of Alabama Arise, a state-wide advocacy group that promotes fairer state policies toward low-income Alabamians. Part of the UM's Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences' chapter of Alabama Arise, the students plan to organize around reforming Alabama's Constitution and untaxing groceries in the state.

If you missed the movie screening in September, we have two copies of the movie available at Carmichael Library for check out by students and alumni – one in the DVD collection and one in overnight reserve at the circulation desk.



My Practicum Experience - (Continued from page 1): The practicum is a very involved experience and I have learned a great deal. There have also been other great opportunities that involve the community. There are a surprising number of community advocacy meetings related to mental illness. Since I have been doing the practicum I have been to Social Work Round Tables that involve community services and National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) which is an advocacy group that is made of clients along with their families who seek better treatment for consumers. These are only a bare minimum of what is out there for the community. Additionally, I have been given other educational opportunities and experiences such as agency workshops along with similar information setting which include trips to our capital to extend our knowledge on the candidacy opinions of services. These are important events that affect future services. In conclusion, the practicum experience has been a generous educational opportunity that will allow us to be competent care givers.

Program Advisory Committees Revitalized

We are happy to announce the charge of two new advisory committees for the UM Social Work Program, the Social Work Student Advisory Committee and the Professional Advisory. The Social Work Student Advisory Committee (SAC) has three purposes: 1) to provide input to the Social Work Faculty on curriculum development; 2) to bring student concerns to the Social Work Faculty; and 3) to serve as a coordinating group for special projects or activities of interest to social work majors. The Committee will meet at least once a semester and will be chaired by Dr. Jason Newell. Thanks to the following students for participating in this important group: Carolyn Hall, Stephanie Clifton, Kay Hodgins, B.J. McCroey, Ursula Nixon, Elizabeth Parks, Stephanie Porterfield, April Ray, Tarnesha Stephens, Jeff Sutton, Leah Thompson and Rachel Willingham.

The Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) provides assistance to the Program in curriculum planning, program development, recruitment and fund-raising. The (PAC) is comprised of faculty, alumni, field instructors and practitioners. It meets a minimum of twice a year on the UM campus. The Committee is chaired by Ms. Jeannie Duke, Director of the Practicum Program. Thanks to the following professionals and alumni for participating with this committee: Larry Cohill ('96) with the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs, Dr. Michelle Johnston with the UM Division of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, Jennifer Travis-Scott ('09) with Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A), Joe Wittmier with Chilton/Shelby Mental Health Center, Mandy Andrews with AL State DHR, Robert Robinson with the UM Office of Multicultural Affairs, Chris Belden ('09) with Bibb County DHR, Kelly Duke with Gateway Family Services, John Willis ('95) with Healthspring, and Sherry Webb ('96) with First Light Shelter.

Students attend conference on “Confronting Elder Abuse in America”

By April Ray

When one thinks of elder abuse—or abuse of any kind, the image that emerges is that of violence in the form of hitting or beating (physical abuse). The conference that I attended, along with fellow student Angela Slaughter, went in depth to illustrate the many forms of abuse toward our elders—which can be viewed as a minor crime. Other forms of abuse include emotional, sexual, exploitation, neglect, abandonment and self-neglect. Before this conference, I would never have identified self-neglect as a form of abuse, but it is abuse upon oneself.

Social workers, nurses, nursing home and assisted living administrators all assembled at this event to deepen their knowledge on this subject, how to prevent such cases from occurring, and to take the information from the conference back to their agency educate their staff, thus enhancing services.

Four speakers were present to define this issue, provide resources as where to turn to report such cases, and defined any legal outcomes that may arise as a result of abuse. The final speaker spoke on the topic of stress and how to deal with it in the work place. This seemed to be beneficial to each individual present, as we all have experienced stress in our lives, which can have an impact on our daily functioning, and ultimately hindering our work efforts. The speaker touched on ways to eliminate stress. Taking care of oneself, maintaining a positive attitude, laughing more and learning how to find a balance between work, family and personal life are all ways to deal with stress.

This conference served as an advocacy event to shed light on the widespread issue of elder abuse and to ensure optimal care and living conditions for our seniors by helping to restore the pleasures of simple daily living.

Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society

The Social Work Program is inviting eligible students to apply for membership to Phi Alpha. Phi Alpha is the National honor's society for social work students. Phi Alpha recognizes academic achievement among undergraduate and graduate social work students. An undergraduate student is eligible for membership after achieving the following national and local chapter requirements: 1) Declared social work as a major or second major; 2) Junior or Senior level status; 3) Completion of at least 8 semester hours of required social work courses; 4) Admission to the Social Work Program; 5) Overall 3.0 GPA and 6) Overall 3.25 GPA in social work courses. Pay a one-time national chapter due of \$20.00 and local chapter due of \$10.00. Congratulations to our Spring 2010 initiates: Sharkari Beechum, Kimberly Cardin, Kay Hodgin, Tonia Inestroza, Elizabeth Parks, April Ray, and Brigette Starr.



If you are interested in Phi Alpha, please contact Dr. Newell or complete the following application for membership. If you interested in learning more about Phi Alpha, you may visit the national website at www.phialpha.org. Students are inducted into Phi Alpha annually on Social Work Day.

Student News

Dorothy Castleberry has just been appointed NASW-AL Chapter BSW Student Representative.

Jermaine Jackson has been accepted to the McNair Scholars Program for Fall 2010.

Monique Allen and **Tonia Inestroza** attended a workshop titled "Drugs, Pregnancy and Parenting: What Experts in Medicine, Social Work and the Law Have to Say", at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Leah Thompson recently attended the Volunteer Leadership Conference for the March of Dimes, in Atlanta, GA.

Update on the SWK Program's Textbook Loan Program

Due to the rising costs associated with a college education, especially textbooks, the SWK program is working to expand the number of courses it will loan textbooks to students free of charge. For the Fall 2010 semester, we were able to provide textbooks to students in the following courses:

SWK 350 Introduction to Social Work Practice (20 students)

SWK 400 Skills for Social Work Practice (9 students)

SWK 420 Social Work with Groups, Communities and Organizations (9 students)

In the Spring 2011, we will add SWK 410 Social Work with Individuals and Families, and have recently been able to purchase twenty copies of the textbook with funding from the Alabama Higher Education Consortium on Child Welfare.

Please consider supporting our Textbook Loan Program with a donation of \$40 which will purchase one textbook for one course. Due to the increase in Social Work Majors, we will need to buy additional books for SWK 400 and SWK 420 for the Spring semester as we anticipate a doubling of enrolled students. As always your donations to the SWK work program are tax-deductible. For more information, please contact Dr. Laurel Hitchcock at 205-665-6180 or lhitchcock@montevallo.edu.

Update from Alabama Chapter of NASW by BSW Student Representative

By Dorothy Castleberry

On September 4, 2010 I attended an orientation for new board members at Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in Montgomery, Alabama. I was introduced to the board members, and President Dr. Debra Nelson-Gardell presented a slide show presentation that covered the history of NASW, rules, regulations, policies and procedures, budgets, as well as the confidentiality code. The NASW is currently working on several projects for 2011. As these projects unfold and come to fruition, I will let you know. The Alabama Chapter of NASW now has the software readily available for the social work pre-licensure exam. Just call to make an appointment and someone will be glad to assist you. If you are not a member of NASW, I encourage you to join. The benefits and learning opportunities are well worth the membership fee. Information is available to check out through the mail for CEUs (continuing education units). The Alabama chapter of NASW has a newsletter and website that offers a wealth of information about local chapters and happenings in the NASW. They are always looking for new ideas, volunteers and people who want to get involved to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. I came away from this meeting with a new profound respect for what the Alabama Chapter of NASW Alabama does.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world." - Anne Frank

Falcon Scholars-Reaching Out

By Carmen Lambert, Falcon Scholar in Action

In 2009, the University of Montevallo developed Falcon Scholars in Action. This is a program comprised of 25 students that have been carefully selected to serve in non-profit organizations in Shelby County, such as The Shelby County Juvenile Detention Center, Kid's 1st Awareness, Safe House, and Family Connection. Scholars are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours a week at their assigned facility. However, many Falcon Scholars find a love for the people at their organization and find themselves putting in more than the required ten.

I am placed at the Juvenile Detention Center, and fully enjoy every hour I spend there. The children at Juvenile Detention are detained for unacceptable behavior, but they are not "bad" kids. Many of these adolescents come from homes of child abuse and neglect, and each one has a unique story. As a Falcon Scholar, I am able to assist the staff when needed, but also sit and talk with the teens. After adapting to the facility, I have found the adolescents needed understanding and good role models. Many of them have been raised in households that accept criminal actions, and some exhibit behavior that reflects that of their parents. This is a perfect example of how society can shape individuals. Due to limited or absent parenting and exposure to criminal activities, these children adhere to the label of delinquent because they do not know anything else. By listening to stories and providing positive input on how to handle tempting or feared situations, I am able to offer helpful advice. In my opinion, it is important for most of these children to know that someone believes in them, as many of them do not receive positive feedback at home. I understand that change will be difficult for these children will, but at least I can give them the encouragement and belief they need to do so.

Licensure Preparation Workshop Piloted

In an effort to help improve the licensure pass rates for UM social work graduates and social workers throughout Alabama, the Social Work Program faculty organized a three-hour workshop for UM students, alumni, and social workers from the community on September 17, 2010. The workshop was funded by a nominal registration fee of \$20 and a small stipend from the Alabama Higher Education Consortium on Child Welfare.

Slots were limited to 70 seats due to room capacity, and we had to closed registration about one week before the workshop due to the demand. Topics covered during the workshop included understanding the organization of the examination, information about the three types of questions on the examination and how to improve knowledge of how to answer a test question. Ms. Jeannie Duke, MSW, LCSW, ACSW, Clinical Instructor and Director of Practicum in Social Work conducted the workshop to rave reviews from the participants.

One participant commented that most helpful information was “the advice related to answering the questions, preparing for the test, and being calm when answering test questions.” Another participant stated that “learning how to study for the licensure exam” was the most helpful to her. We plan to offer in the Spring of 2011. If you are interested in getting on our waiting list, please contact Stacia Love at loves@montevallo.edu.

Additionally, licensure preparation materials are on permanent reserve at the Carmichael Library on the UM Campus for students and alumni. Just ask at the circulation desk.



ALUMNI NEWS FORM

Please complete this form and return it to us so that we may include information about you in our next newsletter.

Name _____ Year of Graduation _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

Place of Employment _____

Position _____

News _____

I wish my gift to be applied to the following:

_____ DVDS for the classroom

_____ Louise White Dawson Schlorship

_____ Student registration fees at professional meetings

_____ Mary Edna Porter Schlorship

_____ Unrestricted (to meet the needs of the Program)

_____ Jeanette Niven Schlorship

"Washing ones hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral." -Paulo Freire

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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>

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 through Friday between 8 am and 5pm on campus only.

If you wish to use them contact the office at

(205) 665-6180

Or email bssdept@montevallo.edu

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