

*Climb Up the Ladder to  
Success in Social Work*

**School of Social Work**

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**Greetings from the Director**

**Maggie Jackson, Ph.D.**



Spring is a time of new beginnings. Flowers are in bloom and students are beginning to bloom with anticipation of graduation. The month of May will bring to closure the spring semester and for many, the end of the formal education for students earning baccalaureate and masters degrees. Celebrations will be shared with family members and friends. Congratulations will be exchanged through face-to-face contacts, email, telephone, and mail grams. Flowers and fruit baskets will be given to graduates. The recognition provided by these various events will be the beginning of a new chapter for these graduates. On behalf of faculty and staff of the School of Social Work, we wish you the very best as you enter the workforce or continue with your education for advanced degrees.

As you graduate, we encourage you to live the words of John Wesley:

*“Do all the good you can,*

*By all the means you can,*

*In all the ways you can,*

*At all the times you can*

*To all the people you can,*

*As long as ever you can.”*

## Notes from BSW Program Coordinator Dr. Murali Nair

Our social work program is nationally recognized as one of the very few with an honors program, three active student associations and an internationally known productive faculty including three Fulbright scholars.

Due to active student advisement at all levels of studies, our attrition rate is very low. We work hard to recruit high caliber students as social work majors and make sure they not only get their degrees but also obtain social work positions and their social work licensure. Over three thousand of our former graduates are making a positive impact on our community, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Our social work alumni association is an effective way of networking with your classmates and fellow professionals in the years to come. Please do keep in touch with faculty and staff for all your networking needs. We are only a phone call away.

The School of Social Work undergraduate program is developing a database of all social work majors. We need your current e-mail addresses. Please send it to [m.nair@csuohio.edu](mailto:m.nair@csuohio.edu)

## Notes from MSW Program Coordinator Dr. Mieke Smith

The Joint Master of Social Work Program with The University of Akron has grown to have 250 students at the CSU site. At the 2009 Commencement on May 16, 2009, 80 students will receive their MSW degree. The Joint MSW Graduation Celebration is scheduled for May 8 at Quaker Square in Akron. The faculty and staff of the School of Social Work send our heartfelt congratulations to the students whose hard-earned MSW degree will be conferred.

We are now gearing up to process more than 150 applications for new admissions in the month of April.

In the meantime, we welcome feedback from the students, field instructors, and community about our MSW Program since we strive for maintaining its relevancy and contributions to the region's welfare.

## Notes from the Field Coordinator Professor Claudia Carson

Spring is in the air and students are beginning to plan for their next semester (summer), a well earned break, or the social work world.

Networking may be one of the single most important things that you as a student can do as you prepare to enter the social work world of today. Because jobs are at a premium today it will be even more important that you build strong positive experiences upon which you can build your career. So make your field experience as positive as you can. Meet people, meet expectations, and develop strong work habits. You will be looking for people to whom you can turn for contacts and references in the future. They can be the key to your career.

We are planning several events in the near future. The BSW Field Convocation was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 from 9:00 – 12:00 in Mather Mansion. The topic was **Holistic Health and Alternative Medicine**. This Convocation is provided for all BSW students presently in their field placements and for their respective field instructors.

On April 24 we will be hosting training for all new BSW field instructors. This is an opportunity for all new instructors to “get on board”. The training will take place from 9:00 to 12:15. We will provide training for working with our students within your settings: roles, responsibilities, expectations, the social work curriculum, and supervision.

We will be emailing an invitation, but if you are interested please be in touch with us so we can sign you up. We will provide social work contact hours for licensure renewal.

We will also be hosting a workshop for field instructors titled **Information Resources for Social Work Professionals**. This will take place during the summer semester. It will be facilitated by Fran Mentch, our Social and Behavioral Sciences Librarian

who also is a Masters level social worker. Information will be sent to you on-line.

A special thank you to the agencies and field instructors who continue to partner with us to provide field education experiences for our students. We are so grateful you are there and appreciate the time and expertise you share. If you are an agency not in partnership with us at this time and are interested, please contact us.

And finally, if you have any ideas, opportunities or points of discussion regarding the School of Social Work field education, please contact Claudia Carson (687-4516) or [c.carson@csuohio.edu](mailto:c.carson@csuohio.edu) or Edith Anderson (523-7465) or [e.m.anderson24@csuohio.edu](mailto:e.m.anderson24@csuohio.edu). We look forward to working with you throughout the year. Have a great spring!!!

## Faculty News

### **Dr. Craig Boitel**, Assistant Professor

Dr. Boitel recently had the following article accepted for publication:

Boitel, C., Farkas, K., & Fromm, L.; Hokenstad, M. C. (2008). Learning transfer principles in a comprehensive integration model. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*. (Accepted August, 2008).

Kathleen Farkas, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Social Work at CWRU and Dr. Boitel presented the following papers at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in Philadelphia, PA on 11/1/08:

- 1) The Field Learning Scale: A Tool for Measuring Learning in Field Education and
- 2) Integrating Classroom and Field Learning: Applying New Research from Learning Theory.

In January 2009 Dr. Boitel attended the Tri-State conference of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law at the NYU School of Medicine.

### **Dr. Larry Foster**, Associate Professor

Larry W. Foster, Ph.D., MSW, Associate Professor of Social Work, Cleveland State University, teaches courses at the graduate and undergraduate level on Social Work Values and Ethics, Social Work and Health Care, and Human Behavior/Development. Dr. Foster conducts and publishes research and presents his findings at professional conferences in the areas of Ethics and Health Care, specifically in Psychosocial Oncology.

Recently published was Dr. Foster's entry on "Bioethics" for the 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Encyclopedia of Social Work. Also, while on professional leave, Spring semester 2009, Dr. Foster continued to collaborate with colleagues at the Cleveland Clinic on psychosocial research in the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) Program. Dr. Foster's research ties psychosocial risk factors to patient quality of life and coping and to medical outcomes. The research will lead to evidence based psychosocial interventions and best practices in BMT. Since 2003, collaboration between Dr. Foster and the BMT Program, Cleveland Clinic, has generated four refereed articles in premier psychosocial and medical journals, 14 refereed research abstracts in medical journals, and 27 presentations at national and/or international medical and psychosocial conferences. Published in 2009 is a national survey of hospital ethics committee chairs regarding the ethics of denying bone marrow transplants based on psychosocial risk factors (i.e. substance abuse, lack of family support, non-compliance). Also published in 2009 is an article that focuses on psychosocial risk factors and the impact of these on post-transplant medical outcomes (i.e. survival, readmissions, length of stay) in bone marrow transplantation. These two research articles were presented at the *Bone Marrow Transplantation Tandem Meetings*, Tampa, FL, Feb. 2009, and will be presented at the *Association of Oncology Social Work Annual Meeting*, Savannah, GA, May, 2009.

Recently closed for data analysis are two multi-year longitudinal studies on which Dr. Foster is collaborating investigator; the studies examine the impact of lay care-partner support and modes of illness adjustment (denial, accommodation,

resignation, secondary gains) on medical outcomes such as survival rates. Dr. Foster's leadership in research that ties psychosocial risk factors to patient quality of life and coping and to medical outcomes in bone marrow transplantation is strengthening the psychosocial component in cancer care. Academically, the research enhances the opportunity for students from Cleveland State University to become consciously aware of how their learning fits into the health profession and an interdisciplinary team approach in providing good health care.

### **Dr. Christopher Mallett**, Assistant Professor

This year Dr. Mallett published five refereed journal research studies, received \$12,300 in grant funding, and presented some of these research findings at four national conferences (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National District Attorney's Association, The Performance Institute) and two state conferences (NASW – Ohio Chapter, Ohio Program Evaluator's Group).

The first article, Juvenile competency standards? perfect storm: Ineffective punitive policies; undetected incompetent youth; and Roper v. Simmons (*Criminal Law Bulletin*, 2008) systemically reviewed all 50 state juvenile competency laws finding over-reliance on adult standards and utilization of more restrictive standards for youth via disability requirements. The second article, Alternatives for Youth's Advocacy Program: Effectively reducing minority youth's detention and incarcerations in Cleveland, Ohio (*Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, 2008), presents a two-year program evaluation of an agency that effectively reduces the jail sentences of 16- and 17-year-old felony offenders in Cleveland by providing educational and disability supports/interventions. The third article, Disparate juvenile court outcomes for disabled delinquent youth: A social work call to action (*Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 2009), presents the disparate and negative outcomes for youth with disabilities in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court system from an ongoing longitudinal study. While the fourth article co-written by Dr. Patricia Stoddard-Dare, Parental divorce: A protection from later delinquency adjudication for maltreated children (*Journal of Divorce*

*and Remarriage*, 2009) found in a two-county study of abused or neglected youth that parental divorce acted as a protective factor for later juvenile court delinquency adjudication. The fifth article, with Dr. Patricia Stoddard Dare and Dr. Chiquitia L. Welch, parental substance abuse disorder: Disparate outcomes for youth (*Corrections compendium journal*) found parents drug usage greatly harm their youth. The research grant (2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year – Lorain County Mental Health Board) is to provide client satisfaction evaluation and data analysis of all Lorain County social work agencies that provide mental health services (Dr. Patty Stoddard-Dare is the principle investigator for this project). Research and scholarship efforts are continuing in collaboration with Dr. Mamadou Seck, Dr. Chiquitia Welch, and Dr. Lisa Workman-Crenshaw on the link between maltreatment, disabilities, and delinquency.

### **Dr. Mieko Smith**, Professor and MSW Program Coordinator

In June 2008 Dr. Smith completed the two-year evaluation work with the Community Health Initiative in the Cleveland Ward One sponsored by the Kaiser Permanente of Ohio. In this capacity, Dr. Smith led the Photo Voice project by training residents to take photos and write captions to express their ideas of a healthy community. She also collected youth survey data of nutrition and physical activities from 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders at the Whitney Young and John F. Kennedy High Schools. Evaluation findings were presented at a retreat for the community stakeholders in May 2008.

Dr. Smith continues to provide her evaluation consultation with the Northern Ohio Recovery Association headed by one of our MSW Program graduates, Anita Bertrand.

Dr. Smith began her new role in the School as the Graduate Program Coordinator in July 2008. She hopes that she will help increase student-faculty interactions outside the classroom so that the students benefit from the faculty's rich expertise. In addition, she is working with Dr. Nair to increase opportunities for the students to prepare for licensure examinations.

## **Dr. Patricia Stoddard Dare,**

Assistant Professor

Dr. Patricia Dare has published the following articles:

Stoddard-Dare, P. and DeRigne, L. "Denial in alcohol and other drug use disorders: A critique of theory" will be published in *Addiction Research and Theory*.

Stoddard-Dare, P., Mallett, C., Welch, C. "Parental Substance Use Disorders" Disparate Outcomes for Adjudicated Delinquent Youth" will be published by *Corrections Compendium*.

Stoddard-Dare, P. and Mallett, C. " Parental divorce: A protection from later delinquency for maltreated children" will be published in the *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*.

**Dr. Murali Nair**, Professor & BSW Program Coordinator

Recent publications include:

Nair, M. (2009). "Social Work Spotlight: Documentary Filmmaking". A Book Chapter in **Careers in Social Work**. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.

Pesek T, Helton, L, Reminick, R, D. Kannan and Nair, M., (2008). *Healing Traditions of Southern India and the Conservation of Culture and Biodiversity: A Preliminary Study*. **Ethnobotany Research and Applications**, 6: 471-479.

Nair, M. & Brody, R. (2008) **Macro Practice: A Generalist Approach** (Eighth Edition) Wheaton, IL: Gregory Publishing Company.

Dr. Nair was one of the finalists for the U.S. Professors of the Year Awards Program, which is sponsored by the *Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*.

## **Dr. Chiquitia L. Welch,** Assistant Professor

Dr. Chiquitia L. Welch is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Cleveland State University. She received her Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, MPA from the University of Pittsburgh, MSSA from Case Western Reserve University, and B.A. in social work from Cleveland State University. Prior professional experience includes employment at Cleveland Municipal School District, Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, and Summit County Children Services Board.

The overarching objective of Dr. Welch's research is to examine the co-occurring behaviors of substance abuse and delinquency among girls. Dr. Welch asserts that although there has been progress in understanding substance abuse and its relationship to delinquency, little consideration has been given to understanding the substance use/abuse–delinquency relationship in populations of females. She further asserts that understanding the substance abuse–delinquency nexus in the juvenile female population is important because arrest data show that an increasing proportion of the juvenile justice population is female, and a substantial proportion of arrests are for substance-related offenses.

Furthermore, Dr. Welch's experiences as a social work practitioner, as well as findings from her current research, have highlighted the need for the development of appropriate assessment tools and effective interventions to assist practitioners in their work with girls with co-occurring problems. She, therefore, seeks to conduct research that ultimately aids practitioners in service delivery to girls with multiple problems and their families.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE  
STAFF**

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Ms. Gail Morrisette is the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Social Work. Phone 216-687-3520. E-mail: [g.witherspoon@csuohio.edu](mailto:g.witherspoon@csuohio.edu), Room CB 311.

Ms. Tammy Shorter processes and maintains all MSW student records and BSW and MSW internships (field placement) records. Phone 216-687-4571.

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**Student News BSW**

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**My Inspiration**

*Jessica Thompson*

I have been inspired to working with major in the field of social work because I love working with children. I understand the things that go on in the world that deals with children and parents especially those that go through poverty and those that have unstable homes. I believe humans have needs; they are not always met but that doesn't mean that their needs are not important.

A social worker must be prepared to work with both the person and environment if they are to understand how to accomplish changes that will improve the quality of interaction between person and the relevant segments of the environment. Social workers possess a fundamental commitment to social betterment. Being a social worker is something I want to be a part of because I know that I can make a change in someone's life and I am willing to be committed to social betterment.

I want to be able to be a part of social institutions which provide the organized procedures for a society to meet its goals for achieving the well being of its citizenry. That's the life I want to live where I can be of help in an organization that can help in more than one way. The responsibilities of a social worker are something that I believe need to be taken serious

because as a social you deal with more than one person. You have to deal with a diversity of people. I know that I am perfect to be a social worker because I understand, believe, and am dedicated to making a change.

**Experience as  
an Ameri-Corp Volunteer**

My experience as an Ameri-Corp volunteer with City Year was life changing to say the least. Everyone has different experiences and views about their time spent volunteering, but for me, it was the best and hardest time of my life. I joined City Year in the hopes that I could somehow change my community and make a difference to someone.

City Year is divided into different teams. I was on the Curriculums Team that taught comprehensive sexual education and life skills to students in the Cleveland Municipal School District. When I joined City Year, I had envisioned that I would spend my time cleaning up parks and building playgrounds for disadvantaged youth. At the time, I was not a very outgoing person and hated public speaking with a passion. In fact, I frequently vomited before any presentation I had to do in front of people. Needless to say, talking about and teaching junior high school students about sex was not on my short list of things I wanted to accomplish in my life.

I could have asked to be put on another team, or to teach another, less embarrassing subject, but I decided to take a risk and challenge myself to step outside of my comfort zone or in this case leap outside my comfort zone. My first day of teaching was a disaster. I had been throwing up all morning because I was so nervous. When my teaching partner and I got to our first class, I realized just what I was getting myself into. The first two minutes were hell. About thirty loud and rambunctious kids were in front of us and were being so loud that they couldn't hear my partner or I introduce ourselves or explain why we were there. I had mental flashbacks of standing in front of my classmates in junior high when I was making a speech and being made fun of because I was so nervous. I started to feel myself getting sick again, but I swallowed my fear and mustered up the little strength I had left and

announced as loudly as I could that we were going to talk to them about sex! Immediately the room got quiet and all eyes were on me. My partner and I looked at each other and smiled; now we had their attention! By the end of the first class, the students were participating and asking questions and really seemed to be enjoying what we were talking about. That day was the scariest day of my life, and the best. I felt like I had faced the firing squad and didn't get shot.

After that first day, I really began to enjoy teaching and realized that I loved working with teenagers and talking with them about important issues. I knew that I was empowering these young people to make smart and healthy decisions for themselves and I felt that I was really making a difference. City Year was not what I thought it would be; it was so much more and I could have missed out on it if I hadn't challenged myself and taken that risk. I joined City Year to make a difference in my community, but the biggest difference was in me.

*Annie Michaelson, Corps Member '05-'06  
BSW final year student*

### **Reflection of an Engaged Learning Peer Counselor**

*LaTrice M. Hairston*

I'm a junior here at CSU. I am seeking my bachelor's degree in Social Work; with the intent to go on and get my master's in Social Work. Being a student here has not only been a challenge, but also a privilege with a key, that has, is, and will, open many doors for me. My life is touched every day by some activating event whether it is a student, counselor, tutor, instructor, professor or supervisor, all have improved my life. A simple hello, a word of concern over my education, or a simple e-mail, the impact is far greater than anyone could ever imagine.

From one heart to another heart, life and its experiences chose social work as my field of ministry. I did not have any other options that would fit with what I believe needs to be done. I raised six children as a single parent; later to marry my husband after they were all grown up. My children lacked a lot of

what this world had to offer; because I did not value education as I do today. I can say that while raising my children I was an optimist, and life wasn't so bad! At least, that's what I thought! Until I discovered that I had not given my children any reason to set goals. They had great moral values, but they had not a clue as to what degree to set them. They were ignorant to the steps of success.

My goal today is to open up a homeless shelter for single parents and their children. Not just any shelter, but one that is transitional and would teach parents as well as their offspring how to be successful in this society. I believe that in most cases we are not winning, because we were not taught how to win. And those that were in charge of us did not thrive because no one taught them how to thrive. So, to my professors and instructors here at Cleveland State University, be aware I am proud to be part of "Engaged Learning" and as a sponge; I am here to absorb all the information I can, so that I can wring it out into the life of someone else.

## **Social Work Honors Program**

The purpose of this didactic, interactive program is to encourage students to develop a closer identification with social work scholars, practitioners, and academicians. The Honors program is designed for the social work majors during the junior/senior year of study for an undergraduate degree. In order to qualify for this program, applicants need a 3.50 cumulative GPA in all courses. The successful completion of the requirements for this program (four credits) with a grade of B or better leads to graduation with Honors in Social Work. Please note that these credits are not counted towards your graduation requirements. For more information contact: Professor Nair at 216-687-4571

## **Social Work in Action BSW Student Association**

**Social Work in Action** was very excited to ring in the New Year and start 2009 off with a bang! Since then we have been out volunteering in the community on a weekly basis. We have made a lot of

connections with local Agencies and are excited to get Cleveland State and Social Work in Action's face out to the neighborhoods in need. We want communities and Agencies to know that Cleveland State cares! Besides getting the word out that CSU Social Work students are eager to lend a helping hand wherever needed, we are also trying to provide Social Work students an avenue to get experience in all the different fields of Social Work.

Since Social Work is a very large and broad area of practice we want to give students an opportunity to see which areas really suite them and their specific set of skills and talents. We want every Social Work major to get the most out of their time here at CSU, and graduate with a sense of purpose, that comes from knowing where their niche is in Social Work. We currently have volunteer outreaches with Cleveland Christian Home, The Salvation Army, Cleveland Heart Reach, Lutheran Ministries, Metro Hospital, and Earth Day Coalition. We work with inner-city children, the homeless and environmental activists. We hope to incorporate many more fields of practice, like elderly care, very soon.

We participated in Make a Difference Day and look forward to participating in National Do-Gooder Day on April 25<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we had an exciting opportunity to meet with Chancellor Fingerhut on behalf of all the Social Work students at CSU. We were able to discuss with him the idea of getting a tuition credit for a certain amount of volunteer time every semester. We were also be a part of the Social Work Fair on March 10<sup>th</sup> and we will be part of many of the Orientation Fairs coming up, as we strive to be an active presence on campus.

We meet on Tuesdays at Noon on the third floor of the Chester Building. We hope to see you there. If you have any questions or want to get involved, feel free to email us at:  
[socialworkinaction2008@gmail.com](mailto:socialworkinaction2008@gmail.com)

## Student News MSW

### Reflections of an Advanced Standing MSW Student

*Barbara Reitman, LSW\**

There are times in your life when you are chosen, others when you make a choice that changes your life. Such is my choice of being a social worker. I entered the Cleveland State School of Social Work in the fall of 2005 just after nursing my mother through two life threatening illnesses, the latter of which ended her courageous life. My choice to become a social worker was greatly influenced by the time I spent working with the various providers who cared for my mother and working with my husband Bob in an administrative role in our private mental health practice. Bob is a licensed professional counselor working with at risk youth and families on the west side of Cleveland and in the community in Lorain County.

I served my bachelor's level internship with Lorain County Children Services after having completed the Ohio Child Welfare Training offered through Cleveland State. I became a Licensed Social Worker in May of 2008 and went to work with the Berea Children's Home and was trained and worked as a Multi-Systemic Therapist for 6 months. Currently I am employed by the Berea Children's Home in the In-Home Family Treatment Program and serve as a therapist for at-risk youth and their families. I served my final internship in the social work master's program as a therapist for children from zero to six (0-6) years old and their families assisting with developing attachment relationships and adjustment to the difficulties of today's complex lifestyles.

There is not a day that goes by that I don't recognize and appreciate the extraordinary gift I have received in my new career. There is a richness and purpose in social work that is exhausting and fulfilling. I am grateful for the joy I feel and the opportunity I have received.

*\*Barbara Reitman, Recipient of the NASW Region III  
MSW Student of the Year Award*

## AMERICAN RED CROSS CHAPTER DISASTER SERVICES

*Dagmar Clark*

For over two years I have been a member of the Disaster Assistance Team (DAT) in Cleveland and I plan on doing this forever. Volunteers are the second responders, after Police and Fire Departments, when natural disasters or fires happen. DAT members receive their training at the local Red Cross Chapter; the classes go from beginners to team leaders, further education is also available. Medical and mental health volunteers are part of DAT as well. FEMA courses are also accessed through the Red Cross. Tonight from 6pm until 6am I will be on call; if there is a house or apartment fire I will receive a call and meet my team member(s) at the Red Cross. We will take a fully stocked van to the location and assist the household members affected by the fire. Temporary housing or sheltering for larger buildings along with monies for food, clothing and medication are some of the services we can provide on location. The scope of the fire and situation of the residents guide us in services applicable. Another part of our assistance is an assessment of the damage in a room by room format. If unsafe conditions make it impossible to enter or the police/fire department secured the building for other reasons we receive additional information from the Fire Chief on location. The work of professionals and volunteers is crucial to assist the victims. A shortage of volunteers is often the case, especially when larger National Disasters require local volunteers' assistance; this is strictly on a voluntary base.

### Master of Social Work Student Association

The *MSW Student Association* is attempting to bring knowledge through informing CSU students about injustices within our communities and abroad through a series of Social Justice lectures during this spring semester:

“Social Work Education in Botswana” by Dr. Edward McKinney, Professor of Social Work and Fulbright Scholar

“Child Abuse” by Dr. Lisa Workman-Crenshaw, Assistant Professor of Social Work and Darlynn Constant, Child Protection Coordinator, UH Case Medical Center.

### Notes from the Alumni

**Kirsti Mouncey, LISW-S, LCDCIII** has been the Clinical Director at the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center since January 1, 2008. She started working at the center in 2006 as the Trauma and Addictions Specialist offering therapeutic services to clients who have experienced sexual abuse, as well as suffer from an addiction such as to drugs, alcohol, food or sex – a role she still fills in a limited capacity. Kirsti also develops and executes professional trainings for others in the social service field, she also advocates on a community wide level so the needs of trauma survivors can be met and the devastating long term effects of childhood trauma can be understood.

**ALECIA R. EVANS HAYES, BSW, LSW** is the Regional III Director of NASW (National Association of Social Workers)

### A Reflection Moreed Kamal\*

I received my BSW from CSU in May of 2007. I think that the BSW program is a fantastic program. I would like to encourage any student that has a love for helping individuals in need, during stressful times or crises, to join this program.

I also received a MSW from CSU in the accelerated Master's Program in May of 2008. As the title suggests, it is an extremely accelerated program as well as a challenge. All of the professors in the social work field are very knowledgeable, understanding and compassionate towards their students. If I can do it being visually challenged, anyone can do it.

I am now being considered for employment at the Social Security Administration. Again I would recommend any student to become a part of CSU's Social Work program.

*\*Mr. Kamal is visually impaired*

### *Ten Reasons to Learn Social Work Research*

*Professor Chris Mallett*

*I always hated math,  
I never took physics -  
But after this course,  
I may learn to like statistics!  
(Saundra Holmes, former Social Work student)*

Yes, and you could too! If prose is not enough to convince you, then check out this Top Ten List of "Reasons why Research is important in my Social Work Life":

10. Research knowledge will help me determine my "median" and "average" grade point!
9. Research courses are not "elective" courses in the social work curriculum ☺
8. There are research topic questions on the LSW and LISW exams!
7. Social work graduates can continue to lead the field toward our "evidence-based" practice goal!
6. Social work funding sources (Medicaid; Medicare; managed care; local) require research based outcomes in social work practice!
5. Social work research knowledge helps you examine social policies, social programs, and social work interventions!
4. You can impress friends and family by discussing the central limit theorem and its relation to external validity.
3. You can offer your social work clients "effective" programs and interventions!

2. Every social work agency performs research on practice!
1. Employers hire licensed social workers who can perform research on practice!

### *Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society – Delta Zeta Chapter*

The purposes of the Phi Alpha Honor Society are 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.

#### Qualifications for membership

An undergraduate student is eligible for membership after achieving the following requirements:

- Declared social work as a major;
- Completed 12 semester hours; or,
- Achieved an overall grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale);
- Achieved a 3.25 grade point average in required social work courses.

A graduate student is eligible for membership after completing at least 12 hours of course work and achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.5. The Fall Induction Ceremony was held on November 12, 2008. The Spring Induction Ceremony was held on March 6, 2008. For additional information: contact Professor Nair, Faculty Advisor, at 687-4570.

### **CSU Library News Update**

The newest edition of the Social Work Encyclopedia is here. The latest edition of this important reference work is now available in the CSU Library reference section, and online as an e-book. To use it online all you have to do is follow this link <http://scholar.csuohio.edu/record=b1269250~S0> and click on "Connect to full-text online, 20<sup>th</sup> edition

only". Inside the search box, type the word Bioethics or the words Human Needs, and you will see the articles authored by our very own Larry Foster and Mike Dover from CSU School of Social Work. Please call Fran Mentch, at 687-2365, if you have any questions about this wonderful resource.

## CSU's Career Services Center

### Comprehensive Resources for CSU Students/ Alumni

- Resume Critiquing
- Videotaped Mock Interviews
- Career Workshops
- Job Fairs (Fall & Spring)
- On-Site Interviews w/Employers
- CSUcareerline.erecruiting.com (for job search)
- Career Library

#### *Contact:*

*Elizabeth Z. Okwudi, M.S.W.*

*Coordinator, Career Services Center*

Cleveland State University

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## **SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION**

### **Occupational Outlook Handbook**

**2008-2009 Edition**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

#### **Significant Points**

- Social Work employment is projected to grow much faster than average.
- 5 out of 10 jobs are in health care and social assistance industries and 3 in 10 work for state and local government agencies.
- While a bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement, a master's degree in social work has become the standard for many positions.
- Competition for jobs is expected in cities, but opportunities should be good in rural areas.

## **NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH - MARCH Celebration at CSU**

During the entire month of March as part of the national social work month celebration one section of the ground floor library was decorated with social work literature and other artifacts. On March 10<sup>th</sup> as part of the day long SOCIAL WORK FAIR, thirty social service organizations and two universities (Columbia University School of Social Work and Case Western Reserve University Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences) participated.

#### **Lecture series on the campus included:**

*Women and International Development by Professor Beth Cagan*

*Healing through Nature by Professors Todd Pesek, MD, Ron Reminick, Murali Nair*

*Child Abuse and Neglect by Professor Lisa Crenshaw*

*Secret of Long Life through Life Style Changes – Learning From other Cultures (explore beyond our gene and modern medicine) by Professors Todd Pesek, Ron Reminick, Murali Nair*

*Juvenile Offenders and Mental Disorders by Professor Mamadou Seck*

*Mental Health and Myth by Professor Miekeo Smith*

*Social Work Education in Africa by Professor Edward McKinney*

*Female Juvenile Offenders by Professor Chiquitia Welch*

*What does it take to become a Professional Social Worker by Professor Edith Anderson*

*Social Work Licensure by Professor Murali Nair*

**Study Abroad  
India Experience  
June 18- July 18, 2009**

To preview hundreds of digital pictures of former participants, their reflections and several documentaries, visit Professor Nair's media website: [http://academic.csuohio.edu/nair\\_m](http://academic.csuohio.edu/nair_m)

**REFLECTIONS OF SOCIAL WORK  
STUDENTS  
INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES**

*Edited by Dagmar Clark, MSW Student*

- Show respect for clients, spending time listening attentively to their needs, and treat them as you would like to be treated.
- Guide each population to find positive things about themselves and strengths that they possess.
- At times it is difficult but it is unhealthy for client and worker to get too attached to one another.
- Do not promise things that you cannot do for your clients.
- If you do not know something, say so and try to get the information.
- Starting to work with other agencies by gathering information about services provided and possibly referring client to the agency is the beginning of establishing valuable connections.
- Having a good relationship and being able to communicate with your supervisor is important. To feel that the supervisor is there to provide answers and support, as well as training are specific areas that holds great value.
- Be respectful to children and expect respect from them. Staying in control is of importance.
- Do not punish youths for bad behavior; understand that it takes explaining the consequences.
- It is social workers' job to protect clients and children in particular.

- Balancing SWK and personal life is important.
- It is the balance needed in life that makes better social worker and can prevent burn out.

**Orientation to the Social Work Major**

Every month we offer an orientation session in Chester Building Room 315. Next session:  
Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

In case you cannot attend this session, call 216-687-4570 to make an appointment or come to Chester Building # 326. Professor Nair will be the faculty advisor to all students who have not yet declared their major in social work.

**Social Work Licensure Examination  
Review Sessions**

More information - contact NASW – Ohio Chapter  
614-461-4484 or "Danielle Smith"  
<DanielleSmith@naswoh.org>  
Licensure Questions - Contact Professor Nair:  
216-687-4570 or [m.nair@csuohio.edu](mailto:m.nair@csuohio.edu)