Greetings from the Director
Maggie Jackson, Ph.D.

Spring is here! I love to see the rebirth of nature. Flowers are slowly blooming and fragrances are flowing through the air. Truly, transformation is taking place and nature will have transitioned from winter to spring to summer. What a glorious time in nature to experience the wonders of a changing environment? As the environment changes, human changes can occur.

As spring is unfolding, I am transitioning from being the Director of the School of Social Work to being a faculty member. Transition from administration to a classroom teacher is unfolding before my eyes. What a glorious moment? It is an exciting time to be in social work education. The joy of assisting and learning from students will provide a new beginning. The new opportunity to teach and work with students in the classroom will be a new challenge. Transitioning to teaching creates a newness of working with students to become beginning social work practitioners. What joy it will be to observe the learning processes of students? The challenges surrounding their flexible learning styles will lift my spirits. I am extremely pleased to have another opportunity to be in the classroom.

Academicians are individuals with life spans. We join universities and create for ourselves careers. As we start these journeys, we choose various paths. Leaving the classroom and moving into administration is a conscious decision in career development. Returning to the classroom is another path along the journey of career implementation. Cleveland State University School of Social Work has been a wonderful place to spend an academic career. Observations and experiences have been many over the years and have shaped the outcomes of delivering an action plan.

As I enter into the final pathway of career implementation, thanks to all those individuals who have made my career possible. Without you, I would not have been able to overcome the challenges and barriers. In one’s work, there are those moments of knowing that you are only successful if recognition is given to the unsung heroes/sheroes within the work space. Therefore, I give full acknowledgement to those persons assisting in the development and implementation of administering the School of Social Work.

It is honorable to be a social work educator and I am proud to have had the opportunity to be at Cleveland State University. A hearty thanks to students, faculty, staff and our community partners.
Dr. Maggie Jackson

Dr. Maggie Jackson, Director, School of Social Work is one of the very few heads of an academic unit at Cleveland State University, who has been at the helm for eighteen years. Her accomplishments include changing Social Work's status from a “department” to a “school” and initiating, in conjunction with the University of Akron, the first nationally accredited distance learning MSW program. She has been at CSU for over thirty years, practically almost all of her social work career. Some of the accomplishments of Dr. Jackson include, locally she was the President of the Neighborhood Centers Associations of Greater Cleveland, President of Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, President of Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and consultant to numerous other social service organizations.

At the State level, Governor of Ohio appointed her to a nine year term as the Board Member of the Ohio State Counselor and Social Work Licensure Board and she is a board member of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

At the National level, she served on the Council on Social Work Education accrediting commission for four years and was the site visit chairperson for several years. She is the chairperson of the United States Methodist Women’s organization and board member of the Northwestern College (Iowa). Also she is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers.

Internationally, Dr. Jackson was instrumental in setting up a study abroad program in Germany for social work students. She is a Board member of the Africa University in Zimbabwe.

In recognition of all the local, state, national and international activities, Dr. Jackson was honored by the YWCA of Greater Cleveland with a “Woman of the Year Award”. In the month of April, 2010, Dr. Jackson will be honored with the President’s (White House) Volunteerism Service Award.

Dr. Jackson had a long time interest in support systems used by individuals to enhance their well-being, and developed appreciation and understanding of the significance of those support systems helping individuals with the many struggles and barriers they encounter. This interest arose after researching and writing about social support systems being used by single parent families, and specifically, black men. Presently, she is exploring models to understand social work practices and their impact, as well as resources that support systems have provided for individuals in need. Her research for the textbook co-authored with Dr. Lonnie Helton, Social Work Practice with Families, entailed exploring support systems for various types of families. That research has led her to continue her interest in developing ways for students to better understand the manner in which they can assist clients through understanding the positive utilization of support systems. Another interest for Dr. Jackson is the development of a field education book that will help students as they integrate classroom theory with field practice. The format of the book is designed to address apprehensions as well as prepare students to understand the reality of social work applications within an agency setting.

Dr. Craig Boitel

Dr. Craig Boitel’s research interests are primarily in looking at ways in which we teach; particularly how we teach clinical skills in the classroom and the field. Dr. Boitel is committed to helping students deal with these very complicated cases. Recently Dr. Boitel published an article along with Drs. Kathleen Farkas, Laurentine Fromm, & Terry Hokenstad on classroom and field integration in the November, 2009 issue of The Journal of Teaching in Social Work. Their article, Learning Transfer Principles in a Comprehensive Integration Model, examines learning transfer principles that promote integration by systematically and multi-dimensionally linking coursework with field education. They propose a model to improve the integration of classroom and field instruction by specifying how content in each course and in the field is shared, by coordinating the learning process in both settings, and by defining the contributions of faculty, students, field instructors, and field liaisons.

Dr. Christopher Mallett

Dr. Christopher Mallett is focusing his research interest on assisting at-risk and minority youth with disabilities. These research studies (two co-written with Dr. Patricia Stoddard-Dare) have identified some partial explanations for why one child

**Dr. Elizabeth Cagan**

Dr. Elizabeth Cagan is busy as President of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the C.S.U. Chapter. Entering contract negotiations this semester. She is the Chair of Director of School of Social Work Search Committee.

**Dr. Andrew Edwards**

Dr. Andrew Edwards is the founder and the Faculty Advisor to the North American Association of Christian Social Workers, Cleveland Chapter.

**Dr. Larry W. Foster**

Dr. Larry W. Foster conducts, publishes, and presents his empirical research findings at professional conferences in the areas of Health Care Ethics and Psychosocial Oncology. Specifically, on February 27, 2010, Dr. Foster participated in a panel presentation at the Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) Tandem Nursing Conference entitled, “Psychosocial Screening in BMT” in Orlando, Florida. Toward the end of the spring semester, Dr. Foster will be traveling to Phoenix, Arizona for a refereed paper presentation at the AOSW 26th Annual Conference. Dr. Foster’s paper is entitled, “But the Cancer is Gone! Dying from Treatment Related Effects: Clinical and Ethical Perspectives.” In June 2010, Dr. Foster will also be presenting at the “Ethics for Behavioral Health Professionals at Northwest State Community College,” sponsored by Behavioral Health Professionals of NW Ohio, which will be held in Archbold, Ohio.

**Dr. Lonnie Helton**

Dr. Lonnie Helton, continues to be involved with the AASWG and in June, 2010 will be co-presenting a paper, with Dr. Mamadou Seck and Prof. Linda McCordile on Team-Building and Group Dynamics Involved in Two Faculties Working Together (i.e with the CSU and U of Akron MSW Program), at the 33rd International AASWG meeting in Montreal, Quebec. He taught the Group Work Practice course again last fall and continues to work with the Substance Abuse Certification faculty to enhance the group work course content. This course was originally developed by Dr. Helton and Professor Claudia Carson (now retired).

Dr. Helton has four new articles (now in press), which will be published in 2010. Two of the articles address Resilience Assets and Cultural Values in Urban and Regional Appalachian Women. These qualitative studies will be published in the *Journal of Social Service Research*. Another article (now in press), on The Psychosocial Environment and Distance Learning, will be published in later edition of the *Journal of Social Service Research*. Also, Dr. Helton’s article on Higher Educators’ Perceptions of Rural and Urban Social Work Students will be published in the *Journal of Contemporary Rural Social Work*.

Dr. Helton is being featured in the spring, 2010 *Berea Alumnus Magazine* as a featured alumnus. The article with focus on Dr. Helton’s teaching and research, with an emphasis on his research with alternative medicine and the Appalachian Culture. Dr. Helton is a member of the Ohio Appalachian Educators’ Association, the Appalachian Studies Association and the Rural Social Work Caucus. Dr. Helton has been asked to serve again in March as a Judge for the Miss Richmond/Miss Berea Area Scholarship Pageant, a regional forerunner of the Miss Kentucky Scholarship Pageant.

**Dr. Edward A. McKinney**

Dr. Edward A. McKinney has devoted much time and energy in advocacy in the community. Dr. McKinney is an active member in several national organizations, including: March
Against Poverty, Stop Targeting Ohio Poor (STOP) and the Family Connections Center. Dr. McKinney is currently conducting a comparative analysis of data collected from his prior sabbatical in Africa. His research focus currently is examining how select African countries are responding to the needs of the elderly. Specifically, as the life span increases, the need for assistance programs for the elderly may be needed to accommodate the elderly in select African counties.

**Dr. Aravindhan Natarajan**

Dr. Aravindhan Natarajan received his Doctorate in May 2010 from Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. His dissertation was on criminal justice and substance abuse.

**Dr. Mamadou Seck**

Dr. Mamadou Seck has been collaborating with Dr. Mark Singer at CWRU and Dr. Flannery at Kent in a recent publication: “Psychological and Social Characteristics of Juvenile Offenders with Serious Mental and Behavioral Disorders,” in Corrections Compendium. Dr. Seck was has also been recognized at the Montclair Who’s Who in Collegiate Faculty, as an honored member for 2010-2011. Dr. Seck has also been training for the Community Emergency Rescue Team (CERT)- to become a trained volunteer.

**Dr. Patricia Stoddard-Dare**

Dr. Patricia Stoddard-Dare helped to secure external accreditation for the first Chemical Dependency Certification program in the State of Ohio and recently appointed as the coordinator of this program at CSU. Some of her recent publications include:


**Dr. George Tsgaris**

Dr. George Tsgaris, was the on-line instructor for the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) – Justice Management (JM) Program. He developed the online component – *Special Topics in Executive and Agency Administration: The Administrator as an Educator: Developing an Online Training Module* (an 8-week special project) and the co-instructor was Ken Gibson, M.S. – UNR, Tech Support.

Dr. Tsgaris developed a similar project (that he did independently on site) in Orlando Florida in March 2009 at a National Juvenile Justice Conference sponsored by the National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the National District Attorneys’ Association (NDAA). The Special Topic at that time was: *Using Evidence-Based Research to Support Female Gender-Specific Programs.*

**Dr. Michael A. Dover**

Dr. Chiquitia Welch-Brewer
Dr. Chiquitia Welch-Brewer: Research interests include Female Juvenile Offenders. She is a Board Member of United Youth Initiatives. She received a mini summer research grant to design CSU Gen Ed Diversity course, American Experience into E-learning format. Some of her recent publications include:


Dr. Lisa Workman Crenshaw
Dr. Lisa Workman Crenshaw is the administrator of a scholarship program in child welfare. She currently serves on the advisory board and curriculum development committee for the Black Studies Department, is a faculty advisor for two student organizations, National Association of Black Social Workers and the National Association of Social Workers, and the Summit County Youth Emancipation Task Force, which focuses on securing supportive services for youth aging out the county’s child welfare system. She holds professional membership in the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW), Council for Social Work Education (CSWE), and the Emerging Scholars Interdisciplinary Network (ESIN). Dr. Crenshaw’s professional expertise is on the impact of abuse and neglect on children and families with a specific focus on child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and youth aging out of the foster care system. She has research experience in the recurrence of child sexual abuse referrals and risk assessment tools and grant work experience in the areas of kinship adoption and the identification of barriers in public and private service delivery systems.

Dr. Crenshaw’s future goals include opening a group home for at-risk adolescent females, program planning and development, and research evaluation within the area of child welfare. She is additionally interested in the establishment of partnerships between academia, the faith-based community and social service agencies.

Dr. Crenshaw is currently partnering with The Purple Project focusing the needs of youth aging out of today’s foster care system.

Valerie Treisch-Chirdon, LISW-S
Valerie Treisch-Chirdon, LISW-S, is the School of Social Work Field Education Coordinator and joined the faculty in January 2010. Although Ms. Treisch-Chirdon joined the faculty in January 2010, she is not new to the School of Social Work, as she received both Bachelors and Masters in Social Work degrees at CSU. Ms. Treisch-Chirdon brings with her numerous years of experience in child welfare and will be responsible for placing more than 200 students/year in field education opportunities.

Dr. Murali D. Nair
Dr. Murali D. Nair received the 2009 University Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching. He is a consultant to Corporation for National and Community Services facilitating grant proposals for AmeriCorps, Learn And Serve and Summer of Services.

Professor Edith Anderson
Special thanks to Professor Anderson from faculty, staff and students in coordinating the BSW and MSW self studies for reaffirmation of accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education on time.

Jason Moore
Our new BSW Program Secretary. Welcome!
Cleveland State University
First in Ohio to Receive State Board Accreditation for Master’s Level Chemical Dependency Counseling Program

Cleveland State University is the first Ohio institution to receive master’s level accreditation from the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board for its Chemical Dependency curriculum. The joint program in Chemical Dependency Counseling is a 12-credit-hour certificate sponsored by the Counseling and Social Work programs at Cleveland State University. The program is designed to provide master’s level students in social work with all the academic training required for licensure as a chemical dependency counselor. State accreditation is important because it signals that the program is providing state-of-the-art training in addictions work with individuals, groups, and families, and it ensures that persons who complete these degrees will meet educational standards for licensure.

Please contact the social work coordinator for this program, Dr. Patricia Stoddard Dare with any questions p.stoddarddare@csuohio.edu or call 216-687-4568.

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 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 216-687-4570

Cleveland State University’s University Partnership Program in Child Welfare

If you are interested in working in the field of child welfare and would like to be considered as being among the best trained and best educated child welfare workers in the nation, Cleveland State University’s, University Partnership Program in Child Welfare is for you! This program has been at Cleveland State University since 2004. It is a collaborative partnership between the Ohio Department of Children and Family Services, the Public Child Service Association of Ohio, the Institute for Human Services, the Public Child Service Agencies of Ohio and some of the Public Universities in Ohio.

Some of the goals of this program are to introduce students to the realities of the child welfare profession, create a supportive atmosphere that allows transfer of learning to occur, and reduce staff turnover in public child service agencies. The benefits of this program for social work students are to have specialized educational training within this area, have core training waived once hired at a public child service agency, incur various employment opportunities within the field of child welfare, network with other child welfare professionals within the State of Ohio and receive $5,000 to $10,000 financial reimbursement. If this sounds like the program for you, please contact Lisa Workman Crenshaw, PhD via email at l.workmancrenshaw@csuohio.edu or telephone at (216) 687-4556. I look forward to speaking with you!
Social Work in Action
BSW Student Association

Connecting incoming CSU students with current students, bringing the School of Social Work and CSU to the students to the community.

Monthly Service Day: students commit to a specific agency and offer time as well as a donation for the cause.

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. Strive to be an active presence on campus.

Get information, become a member, Meet the officers, discover the cause.

Officers for this year:
President- Beth Litz
Vise President – Derek Cwiklinski
Secretary – Carolyn Greene
Treasurer – Jennifer Dick
Green Room Moderator – Donnamarie Nowden

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: socialworkinaction@gmail.com or bsw@csuohio.edu

Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society – Delta Zeta chapter
Mary Arnold, President

Last semester, the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society chapter at Cleveland State University won a very honorable award. Out of 380 Alpha chapters nationwide, our chapter at CSU won the service award. Harriette Cater the vice president of Phi Alpha and I, were invited by the national office to present a poster session on CSU Chapter’s service activities at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. In November 2009 Harriette and I spent the weekend networking with other students from across the country in the Phi Alpha Society. This experience was one of a lifetime. We hope to continue the growth of our chapter here at Cleveland State University.
Rebecca (Becky) Carlton
MSW Student

I am in the first year part-time grad program in the School of Social Work here at CSU. I am a CLASS Senator in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in Student Government Association. I represent student government in Faculty Senate, University Curricular Committee and University Library committee. Within the SGA I am on Investigation and Legislation and Disability Inclusion committees.

The benefits of being in these activities are extra ordinary. Being part of extracurricular activities, especially being an officer helps you develop leadership and social skills, many which are transferable skills learned especially for macro-level social work practice. Employers are not just looking for a strong academic record, they are looking for productivity. Again, I cannot stress enough, leadership and social skills.

I highly recommend participation in Student Government to develop learning in parliamentary procedures, advocacy and program implementation, along with networking and building quality friendship bonds.

Good luck in your journey on becoming an effective and competent Social Worker. R.Carlton@csuohio.edu

My Journey to the Stage
By Charisse Berry, BSW Student

Doubtful, furious, my thoughts going astray
Feelings of giving up fill my head today
I am on a mission to get to the stage
People around me don’t fuel my fire, but add to my rage
I am a village of one, serving my one and only
GOD is by my side, though times I still feel lonely
My walk to success is becoming more difficult everyday
I look deep inside myself and push the hate away
I face this journey, one step at a time
Pushing myself to the stage, glory will be mine
Negativity runs rampant in the air I breathe
Getting to the stage is the reason I can’t leave
Leaving is not an option, I have to endure this crap
That negative people constantly throw in my lap
A heart as big as mine has a burden to bear
It doesn’t understand why people just don’t care
They go through the motions and pretend to get through the day
Obstacles are people too, I just push them out of my way
Insensitivity and ignorance surround my atmosphere

I walk through, ignore it, and fight back the tears
Where is humanity, caring for others, better treatment of human beings?
My eyes are burning because of what I’m seeing
I will deal with it despite my rising rage
Lord help me through this, I’m trying to get to the stage

Living My Dream
Ruby Pratt, BSW Student

Through the years, I have seen the need for guidance, training, and direction for our youth. I am an advocate for people and it is my desire to continue to do so professionally as a counselor. Young people have more coming against them today than ever before. It is truly a sad state of affairs when a child’s dream is to be alive when they grow up. A change must take place in society for our children. If it is to be, it can start with me.

Everyone has dreams and it is my desire to help motivate them to bring those dreams into fruition. With the skills that I learned to be a social worker, it empowers me to help change come into the lives of people. Through assessment, I can identify the needs, seek solutions, and set obtainable goals. Then, I can direct people to the proper resources for help and advocate for them if need be.

My concern is the family structure that is dysfunctional due to so many variables. One of the most common ones is teen pregnancies. I would like to be instrumental in helping to decrease this phenomenon and getting our children educated. This will supply them with the tools needed to be productive and responsible. We must help them change the way they think.

If you think you can then you can!

We must provide parents of dysfunctional households with the skills to be responsible parents. The issue of drugs, poor money management, abuse, neglect, alcohol, selfishness, and sexual promiscuity dealing with the parent or child must be resolved. It starts a vicious cycle for some, because children do what they see. These things also steal dreams and leave people feeling helpless and hopeless.

This is a humanist problem and not just a bureaucratic one. Although, the funds from the government are useful in meeting physical needs the humanist compassion is beneficial in meeting emotional needs. It will heal emotional hurts and restore self-esteem.

We want to empower people to live their lives to the fullest. To help them change the cycle of negative, victim, or prison mentality. America is a land of opportunity. With the right skills and tools, anyone can make dreams come true. I want to be a restorer of hopes and dreams. I truly want to help someone else experience the liberating power of independence.
Stephanie Pamias

Stephanie Pamias (BSW August, 2009), whose Fall 2008 policy brief has been instrumental in the HB 391 which is in the process of being introduced: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_391.

Ms. Pamias’s policy briefing is substantially similar to the Safe at Home law in California, and formulated it on the basis for Ohio legislation. Dr. Michael Dover, Ms. Pamias’s former professor, encourages students to consider finding solid legislation from other states that isn’t on the books in as it is consistent with a “diffusion of innovation” approach to social policy.

Ms. Pamias is an NASW member and is employed in a local nursing home as a social worker. I’m hoping that NASW can make passage of this bill a legislative priority!

Kevinee Gilmore

August 2009 BSW graduate completed her internship in the Washington D.C. office of The United States Senator John Kerry. The Senator’s letter on Kevinee stated:

“Kevinee was a member of the Congressional Foster Youth Program. Kevinee demonstrated great initiative in my office, offering to help my legislative and administrative staff with a variety of projects entirely on her own initiative. Throughout every project, she demonstrated a positive attitude and was consistently cooperative, ready to learn and willing to follow projects through to completion.”

Dr. Elizabeth Lewis Scholarship

We are happy to announce the establishment of the Dr. Elizabeth Lewis Scholarship in the School of Social Work. Professor Lewis taught more than 30 years at the School of Social Work. She is instrumental in introducing the community development and group work sequence in the curriculum. Her friends and colleagues established the Dr. Elizabeth Lewis Scholarship fund to honor her long and dedicated services to the social work profession.

Earn an MSW in 9 months and Intern at a cutting edge medical facility to become an LISW with the US Army.

The Program includes paid tuition, books, and salary with benefits. To Apply contact LT Thomas Tucker at 1-877-256-1011 or email Thomas.tucker3@usarec.army.mil.

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, Coordinator, Career Services Center, RW 280, Phone: 216-687-2242, E-mail: e.okwudi@csuohio.edu, www.csuohio.edu/career.

For more information - Contact
NASW – Ohio Chapter at 614-461-4484 or Danielle Smith at DanielleSmith@naswoh.org

For Licensure Questions - Contact
Professor Nair: 216-687-4570 or m.nair@csuohio.edu
The Social Worker’s Pledge

“Do you solemnly pledge in the presence of this assembly to faithfully and ethically practice the profession of social work. To do all in your power to make and maintain the highest standards and practices of the profession?

Will you constantly endeavor to increase your knowledge and skills in social work and to practice within your area of competence, developing and enhancing your professional expertise?

Do you pledge to keep the confidentiality of your clients, safeguarding and promoting the empowerment, equality, and self-determination of such clients?

Will you endeavor to fulfill your rights and privileges as a social worker and take your share of responsibility in promoting the welfare of the society?

Do you promise to address social problems; to challenge social injustice; to respect the inherent dignity and worth of each person; to recognize and respect the central importance of human relationships; and to behave in a trustworthy manner?

Finally, do you pledge to keep the standards in the NASW Code of Ethics to clients, colleagues, in practice settings, to the social work profession, and to the broader society?

CSU Library Update

New database at the Michael Schwartz Library: AgeLine used to be a free database offered by AARP (American Association of Retired Persons), but it was recently sold to Ebsco Publishing. In order to support the curriculum at Cleveland State University, the Library purchased access rights to this database. The following is the description from the publisher: “AgeLine focuses exclusively on the population aged 50+ and issues of aging. This database indexes over 600 journals, books, book chapters, reports, dissertations, consumer guides, and educational videos. Publication coverage is (primarily) from 1978 to the present.”

If you have any questions about this or any other Social Work related Library resources, Please contact

Fran Mentch, Social Work Librarian | f.mentch@csuohio.edu | 216-687-2365

School of Social Work MILESTONES

• One of the largest undergraduate and graduate programs at CSU.

• All full-time professors have Doctoral degrees.

• Three faculty members are Fulbright scholars (a national honor awarded to selected professors in recognition of their respective profession).

• BSW graduates passage rates for the social work licensure examination of eighty-two percent is above national average of sixty-eight percent.

• More than two hundred and fifty social service agencies serving diverse population in the Greater Cleveland area provide internship opportunities to social work students.

• BSW student association “Social Work in Action” won the Best Student Association of the Year Award in 2008.

• The Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society, CSU Chapter, won one of the five outstanding chapter service awards in 2009. This was in competition with 324 other nationwide chapters.

• One of the faculty members from School of Social Work received the CSU Distinguished Teaching Award, 2009.

• Upon graduation, students qualify to take the State Social Work Board Licensure Examination

• Large percentage of BSW graduates pursue MSW degree.

• Most graduates are successfully employed at social service agencies in Northeast Ohio.

• Two of our BSW students received second place at The National Conference of the Council on Social Work Education (the national accrediting body for all BSW and MSW Social Work Programs) for their poster presentation session.

• The School of Social Work has one of the lowest attrition rates at CSU
Practice Wisdoms of Senior Social Workers

In Dr. Nair’s Spring 2010 SWK 485, Intervention II class, one of the assignments entailed interviewing a senior mentor or supervisor to obtain practice and personal wisdom for those in the Social Work profession. Below are the results of the top 50 priceless pieces of wisdom for Social Workers:

1. Understand the challenges in the system.
2. Understand what the barriers are to complete the desired outcomes.
3. Understand what opportunities does the agency have to be successful.
4. Social workers must bring problems & solutions to the supervisors because we are the ones on the front line, so we must convey issues to administrators. If you are ever in doubt get a second opinion from a colleague.
5. Social work is a profession; therefore we are marketing our business. We must network with other organizations and be inclusive to develop programming to address relevant problems.
6. Social workers must rely upon recent literature to process and assess data in order to advocate and change policy.
7. You have to have passion for this work. It’s undervalued, underappreciated and under supported. You will never get rich from it. But, it will change your life.
8. Don’t take anything personal whatever they are saying or doing has absolutely nothing to do with you.
9. Try not to take work home
10. Find healthy outlets
11. Recognize when you are starting to burn out- take a “mental health day” when needed.
12. Know your limitations and stay within your scope of practice. Always ask for help; Remember you do not know everything. “Know when to ask for help from your co-workers, supervisor, or other helping professionals.”
13. “It’s not about you. It all depends on where the client is and where they need to be, not where you want them to be. They have the right to self-determination.”
14. Be willing to work on your own issues-with colleagues. Have a strong support system: a counselor for therapy or other social workers in the field.
15. “If you feel you have to share your work problems out of the office, don’t go into great detail. Be very broad or general about the client or work issue, in order to keep clients’ confidentiality.”
16. “If you start becoming very negative about things, know when to ask for time off.”
17. “Do activities that you enjoy or that is relaxing to you.”
18. Don’t take everything too seriously.”
19. “Know when to separate work from your personal life. (Boundaries)
20. “Be honest because clients know when you’re not.”
21. “Respect your supervisor, even if you don’t agree with them. They may know about the policies than you.”
22. “Remember, you can’t help someone unless they want to be helped.”
23. “Change is good– do a different job in the same field.”
24. You don’t have to understand everything your client has experienced to be caring and helpful
25. Its important to be flexible and creative; if you see the need to think outside of the box; come up with new solutions and ideas.
26. Always respect the dignity and worth of your clients
27. Need to have a non-judgmental attitude and the ability to cope with difficult situations and challenging clients
28. You need to be able to put aside your own personal experiences to deal with others in a logical, clinical and helpful manner.
29. Never leave anything on your desk, I make sure I do all of my paperwork is done on that day.
30. Having strong connections to people in your life and being able to turn to them for support if needed.

31. Learning how to maintain professional and personal boundaries and learning how to keep them healthy while maturing as an individual and as a professional.

32. Regarding life as a series of small steps in the right direction, where every step is connected to the next and the finality and totality of all is what really matters.

33. Being aware that there is not just one single way of reaching a good outcome. There are many ways and we have to be open and flexible to be able to see them all and pursue them as possibilities.

34. Trying to achieve good relationships with co-workers and clients, so that people feel valued and respected.

35. Trying to stay organized. For example having telephone logs, monthly to do lists, weekly planners, etc. Also keeping desk maintained to avoid clutter.

36. If you have a supervisory position, it is wise, to not degrade people because it can cause conflict and sometimes creates a lot of activity behind your back.

37. Be aware of your surroundings upon visiting a client.

38. Learn about different cultures so you will have some idea to respond to the people who you will come across.

39. “Mission trumps salary”

40. I learned then one must start to look at “the whole person” to understand what they are trying to cope with.

41. All people are capable to grow and change

42. Always put the individual first and not their symptoms!!

43. Take vacations with her family or have free time to spend.

44. It is important always to be studying, reading, attending to trainings, conferences and so forth.

45. Humility is an essential piece and quality that a social worker need to have”

46. “Make time for family”

47. “Take time for yourself”- everyone needs a break at some point, if you are sick take the time you need to rest

48. Document everything” documentation is key

49. Make sure your client’s can feel comfortable with and around you

50. Project and think about what you will be doing in 5 or 10 years from now.

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