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The Social Work Program  
Department of Allied Health and Human Services, Western Kentucky University  
Volume 1, No. 1, January 1995

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**H I G H L I G H T S**  
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**SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM  
WELCOMES NEW FACULTY**

We are delighted to have two new faculty members joining us this semester. You have probably already had an opportunity to meet them, but here's a little history.

**Dr. Dale Smith**, received his Ph.D. in social Work from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, AL, in 1994. He comes to our program as a native of Owensboro. He has most recently been working as a Staff Counselor with WKU's University Counseling Center. In addition to teaching as a part-time instructor with our program in the past, he taught social work courses as a Teaching Assistant while doing doctoral work at University of Alabama, and as a teaching assistant while doing graduate work at the University of Kentucky, and also taught at Virginia Intermont College as an Assistant Professor. He is currently teaching Statistics, Policy, and is Field Coordinator as well as Faculty Liaison for Field Practicum I.

The other new face is **Dr. Don Magel**, most recently of Sheffield, AL. He joins us as a Visiting Professor, after taking an early retirement from Arizona State University. Having taught for quite a few years at Georgia State, University of West Florida, University of Evansville, and University of Pittsburgh, he has also practiced in a variety of settings, including mental health, alcohol and drug prevention, administration, corrections, public welfare, and in private practice.

He commutes each week from rural Alabama, where he resides with his wife, a freelance interior designer. This semester Dr. Magel is teaching Foundations of Human Services, Practice II, and Human Behavior & Social Environment II.

**CONGRATULATIONS...to Social Work Scholarship Students!!!** We are very proud of our students who maintain such a fine academic record. Give them a pat on the back. Amy Bradley, Jennifer Burden, Lori Furlong, Nathan Gray, Timothy Hunt, Donna Keogh, Elizabeth Markle and Vonetta Smith.

**PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR...**It's time for seniors to be thinking about the process of assignment to a field placement for Summer and Fall '95. Dr. Dale Smith, Field Coordinator, is responsible for negotiating placements that meet the students' learning needs and CSWE accreditation standards. This process is essentially a negotiation between the student, the social work program, and the agency. **Within the next couple of weeks students who think they may be ready to enter field need to follow this procedure:**

1. Meet with your advisor to determine that you are indeed ready (i.e. all pre-requisites completed),
2. The advisor then communicates to Dr. Smith that you need a field placement (i.e. this needs to be thoroughly documented in your student file).
3. The student makes an initial appointment with Dr. Smith and brings any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc. (At this point, and

continuing through the placement process, the student has a great deal of input into decision).

4. Dr. Smith initiates contact with agencies to determine their suitability and availability.

5. When appropriate, Dr. Smith refers the student to the agency for a screening interview. (The student is "screening" the agency as well as vice versa.)

6. If it seems to be a good match, a contract is prepared by Dr. Smith for all parties to sign. **Obviously, this process takes time. Start early!**

**RENOVATION OF THE RESTROOMS**

The renovation of the restrooms in the Academic Complex to make them wheelchair accessible has been officially requested. Until these facility changes can be made, physically challenged students may use the restroom located in the dental hygiene clinic on 2nd floor. (Room 223 and take a right).

**P O T P O U R R I**

**Joyce Armer's** son (in California) continues to heal from his injuries received in a gas line explosion last October. We wish him well.

**Best wishes** to AMY CARTER and husband Matthew on the birth of their son, Andrew. Dr. Dawson is really glad she didn't deliver him during the final exam! Rumor has it that another social work student is expecting a little one??? But we won't tell...although, time will.

## NEWS FROM ASSW.

Co-Presidents: Amy Goode, Shelly Hanson;  
Co-Vice Presidents: Amy Bradley, Lori Furlong;  
Co-Secretaries: Bonny Foster, Vanetta Smith; Treasurer: Amy Carter; Student-Faculty Liaison: Pat Thomas, Lynn Westover.

We want to thank all of you who participated in the food drive for our Christmas family. It was great to see so many people donating and getting involved. A big thanks to Lynn Westover for all of her hard work in choosing the family and then delivering the food and other items.

This semester has gotten off to a fast start and there are so many things to be accomplished. We would like everyone to be a part of the ASSW. Membership is for all social work students whether you are accepted into the program yet or not. There will be an ASSW drive: January 30, (8:45-12:30); January 31, (8:45-1:00); and February 1, (10:00-12:00), on the second floor, red carpeted area of the Academic Complex. This is the time to sign up and pay your \$5 membership fee. Social Work T-Shirts will be available for \$10. I encourage all of you to become a member and help us serve our community.

The ASSW meetings will be on Tuesdays from 11:50-12:50; also, at 4:00-5:00. The meetings will be held in Room 201 of the Academic Complex beginning January 31, 1995. As a service to all social work students, we are purchasing five new file trays that will be alphabetized for student mail boxes (ex. A-E, F-I, etc.). Hopefully, this will help better the communication between all of our students. The file trays will be placed in the students lounge on January 19, 1995.

## National Honor Society for Social Work Students

As of September 1994, WKU students and faculty involved in social work education began a chapter of Phi Alpha National Honor Society (PIA) in order to encourage high standards of education for social work. Our chapter of Phi Alpha has been named the Delta Mu chapter ( $\Delta M$ ). An important purpose of Delta Mu is to recognize and promote scholastic achievement among students and faculty involved in the undergraduate social work program at WKU.

An undergraduate student is eligible for active membership after achieving the following national minimum requirements: a) Declare social work as major. b) Achieved sophomore status. c) Accepted into the social work program. d) Completed 9 semester hours of required social work classes. e) Achieved an overall GPA of 3.0. f) Achieved a GPA of 3.25 in required social work classes. There is also an initiation fee of \$15.00 which covers the life time membership dues.

The charter members and officers would like to extend this invitation to any social work student who qualifies to become a member of the Delta Mu chapter of the Phi Alpha National Honor Society. We are all eager to promote a closer bond among students of social work and to encourage academic excellence in our field of study.

The current 1994-1995 officers include: President- Debbie Jones; Vice- President- Theresa Crawford; Secretary/ Treasurer- Amy Bradley.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member please see any one of the officers for more information and for an application

for membership. We look forward to you becoming a member.

---Debbie Jones,  
President



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