

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

**CEU
OPPORTUNITIES**

Dates tba -
watch for
flyers in your
email

- Fall Social Work Outreach in the Community

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Program News

Home run hitter Willie Stargell astutely observed,

“Life is one big transition.”

However, transition and change also bring opportunity. We are excited to tell you about the opportunities that change and transition are bringing to the ISU Social Work Program.

- Dr. D J Williams has been named the new Social Work Program Director.

- Staci Jensen-Hart, LCSW, has returned to the position of Field Director.

- Brett Judd, LMSW, is moving on to his private practice of counseling and teaching continuing education within the community. We want to thank Brett for his years of service to our Program and wish him the very best!

- Two new faculty members, Dr. Jeehoon Kim and Dr.

Candace Christensen, will be joining us in the fall! Dr. Kim’s specialization in aging and research will add an important component to the Program for students and partner agencies in the growing field of gerontology. Dr. Christensen brings expertise in violence prevention and work with families. Look for additional information about these new faculty members in our next newsletter and on our web site.

Faculty Research Highlights

Our faculty has been productive this past year conducting cutting-edge research. Staci Jensen-Hart and her student research assistants published a study on child-parent relationship training for military families in the journal *Advances in Social Work*. Staci was also an invited presenter for the Idaho

Association of Play Therapy Conference in Boise, and she holds the statewide child welfare training and evaluation contract with the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare. DJ Williams coauthored papers in *The Forensic Therapist* and the *Electronic Journal of Human Sexuality* along with coauthoring

chapters in three academic books. He also presented with a panel of experts on sexual diversity at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in New York City. As you can see, we continue to engage in exciting scholarship that shapes the field of social work and related social sciences!

Program Assessment

In October, we celebrated as we received notice from the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) that the ISU Social Work Program was reaffirmed for accreditation!

Academic Year 2011-2012 program assessment data continue to demonstrate that our social work students have

achieved competency as indicated by CSWE’s Ten Core Competencies and as measured by our program assessment plan. As part of our self-study for reaccreditation, a new course, Advanced Social Work Theory and Practice, was introduced this year. Curriculum within this course is designed to assist students in developing

reflective practice skills, deepening their understanding of theoretical frameworks, implementing theory in practice with an emphasis on evidence-based practice, and applying professional writing skills. Seventeen students successfully completed the course this spring.

SSWA: Social Work Club News

The Student Social Work Association (SSWA) has enjoyed a fun and productive year. Student participation has been excellent, and involvement is expected to increase in the coming academic year. Last

November, SSWA conducted a food drive that helped the Southeast Idaho Community Action Agency (SEICAA) obtain meals for needy families prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. SSWA also participated in

the ISU CommUniversity event, and many students also attended Advocacy Days in Boise. SSWA looks forward to future success in 2012-2013.

Continuing Education

We continue to expand opportunities for social work continuing education to our community and agency partners. This year, we offered nine continuing education units in conjunction with the elective course, Self-Care for Helping Professionals, taught by adjunct faculty member, Brian Plow-

man. Two additional outreach opportunities, Spirituality and Social Work and Human Trafficking, were offered for community social workers. Thus, a total of 15 continuing education units were offered to the community at an average cost of \$10.00/unit. Approximately 160 social workers were in at-

tendance for these continuing education events. As we strive to develop and maintain community partnerships with social service agencies, we look forward to continuing to offer low-cost continuing education units on current research within the field of social work.

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that you cannot sincerely try to help another without helping yourself.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Diversity in Our Midst

Diversity is something that social workers emphasize in practice and in learning. When I hear the word “diversity,” I think of culture, gender, and ethnicity, among many more social dimensions. One thing I wasn’t expecting to experience was the diversity of background and practice experience between myself and my co-workers in my senior practicum. I believe this is a small piece of diversity that tends to get overlooked when it comes to learning about it in the classroom. Sure, we can sit in a classroom and learn about differences in culture, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status, but one thing that gets overlooked is the diversity we will experience among our co-workers. I am in the middle of my senior practicum right now and experienced this right from the very beginning.

As soon as I entered into my practicum at Bannock County Juvenile Justice, I was instantly the “low guy” on the totem pole. I would be lying if I said this was not a struggle for me, because it was. Being the intern, I was automatically less experienced and knowledgeable than my co-workers. Thankfully, all of them are great people and were very welcoming towards me.

In the area of juvenile justice, we deal with anything and everything that defines deviance. Growing up, I was never the kid that would be considered a “trouble-maker.” I didn’t associate with people who did drugs, or if they did, I was completely oblivious to it. That in itself already put me behind in expertise. My co-workers may have grown up the same way I did, by not getting into trouble with the law, but they have been in the field for 10+ years.

I have never considered myself naïve, but now as a practicum student, I see I am really quite naïve. I get nervous that I am being “worked over” by a client or manipulated to the point where I second-guess whether my decisions are correct.

If there is anything I would like my fellow social work students to take from this article, it’s this: go into your practicum aware of the environment you will be working, including the population of clients, your co-workers, and the type of agency you are choosing. There are so many diversity issues that will come about during your practicum. By being aware of the entire diversity spectrum within your agency, you will have already somewhat prepared yourself for difficult encounters that arise.

*Robbie Jenks
Social Work Intern*



**We
are
on
the
web!**

Agency Spotlight: Bannock County Juvenile Justice

This semester's local spotlight agency is Bannock County Juvenile Justice (BCJJ). BCJJ has been a part of the Pocatello community for quite some time. People may assume that BCJJ's main clients are the juveniles within the justice system, but what most don't realize is that their main client is the community. The mission for BCJJ is to protect its citizens from juvenile crime. The agency strives to accomplish this goal by assisting families in developing skills that will enable them to be productive and responsible members of society while also holding youth who are under their responsibility accountable for their actions.

BCJJ bases its techniques and interventions on a balanced-restorative approach philosophy. The balanced and restorative justice model is a correctional philosophy that emphasizes three important principles: accountability, competency development, and community protection. At BJCC, all youth are held accountable for their actions. When a crime occurs, a debt is incurred. It is known throughout the department that

youth must be held accountable for their actions by restoring the victim's losses. This repayment can be done by community service, restitution, and/or a letter of apology written by the juvenile to the victim.

Throughout the agency, there are several programs that are provided to the families and juveniles to improve their environment that may have gotten them in this situation in the first place. One program that has been a large part of BCJJ is the Youth Development Center (YDC). YDC was formally known as the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP). The Youth Development Center is a program for youth on probation who are at highest risk within the community. Youth are given the opportunity to develop skills that can be used to improve their future. Some of these skills include education, social etiquette, money management, cooking and cleaning, practice with job preparation (resume writing and filling out applications), and substance abuse education. Youth are held accountable for showing up to probation meet-

ings and following all of the conditions of probation. The youth at YDC are also involved in giving back to the community through community service. This program provides a way for youth to transition back into the community.

Over the past year, ISU students in applied sociology classes taught by Dr. James Burnett provided help and assistance within the YDC. These students assisted with a variety of tasks the youth need to accomplish, such as finishing school assignments, preparing to take the GED, and completing community service. These students are seen as role models for the youth in the YDC program. With help from the ISU Department of Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice, the YDC has enjoyed significant recent success. An article summarizing this success was written by Drs. James Burnett and D J Williams and published in February in *American Jails: The Magazine of the American Jail Association*.

*Robbie Jenks,
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The Social Work Program is located within the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Letters. The Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) degree program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting agency.

The mission of the Social Work Program at Idaho State University is to prepare students to work as professionals in entry-level social work generalist practice. It is the program's vision that graduates will work within the social work profession by: 1) contributing to the enhancement of quality of life; 2) empowering individuals, families, groups, and communities; and 3) advancing human rights and social and economic justice. Consistent with the University's mission, the Social Work Program strives to develop students who think critically and are able to provide health-related and other professional social work services within agencies and programs to the people of Idaho, the nation, and the world.