

Message from the Director

By Dr. D J Williams

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We have completed another very successful academic year, and congratulations are extended to students, faculty, practitioners, friends, and all of our community partners! In this issue of Snapshots, we are pleased to report many of our recent successes.

In the last issue, we described the implementation of our GO FAR! Approach (Genuineness, Optimism, Fun, Accountability, and Rigor), and our entire program responded. Our incoming cohort for Fall Semester is well-prepared with a high cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA). Several of our current students have achieved success in specific areas of research and practice. Our community partners remain actively involved in providing support for our program and high quality field education. The Social Work faculty has also achieved unprecedented success

in research and scholarship, and we are building exciting new collaborations within Idaho and beyond.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Snapshots and invite you to celebrate success with us!



www.isu.edu/sociology/socialwork

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Idaho State University-Dept of Sociology,
Social Work, & Criminal Justice

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

~Mahatma Gandhi

Outstanding Student Success

Debra Bischoff is scheduled to co-present with D J Williams on the emotional impact of capital punishment on family members of convicts at the American Society of Criminology Conference in Atlanta.

Jessica Hatch and **Jamie Hyles** successfully completed social work educational experiences overseas. Jessica traveled to Paris, France, while Jamie worked in Jamaica.

Jessica Milford co-

presented with Candace Christensen on the topic of indigenous feminisms at the Association for Women in Psychology National Conference.

Gina Shuttleworth will be co-presenting with Staci Jensen-Hart and Jodi Davis on dialogue journaling in social work field education at the National Association of Christian Social Workers Conference in Atlanta.

Jenna Wegner

coauthored a paper with D J Williams and Emily Prior that was published in the prestigious journal *Social Work*. The paper outlines a new approach for resolving important socio-sexual problems.



Faculty Research Highlights

D J Williams recently gave an invited plenary speech on offender gambling research to the North American Gaming Regulators Association. He has also been appointed to be the Director of Research for the Center for Positive Sexuality in Los Angeles.

Jeehoon Kim coauthored papers in the academic journals *Children and Youth Services Review* and *Activities, Adaptation and Aging*. Dr.

Kim also recently gave three research presentations at the 20th International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Seoul, Korea.

Staci Jensen-Hart holds the child welfare training and evaluation contract for the state of Idaho. As principal investigator, she is busy collecting and analyzing data regarding training effectiveness in different

regions across the state.

Candace Christensen had research papers published in *Qualitative Social Work* and the *British Journal of Social Work*. She also gave presentations at the National Organization of Forensic Social Work Conference in Seattle and the Association for Women in Psychology Conference in Salt Lake City.

ISU Social Work Education Changes

Beginning Fall 2013 Semester, ISU is changing its general education requirements. Instead of completing course requirements in 13 Goals, ISU students will fulfill requirements (minimum of 36 credits) from Nine Objectives. This change allows more

flexibility for student elective courses.

Although the general education requirements have been modified, the prerequisite and required courses in the Social Work Program have not changed. However, we are raising the Social

Work application standard from a 2.5 GPA at the time of application to 2.75. We expect our students to be well-prepared for their Social Work education and to work hard throughout our program.



SSWA Update

By Dr. Candace Christensen

The Student Social Work Association (SSWA) had an amazing year in 2012-2013.

SSWA officers and members organized a fundraiser hosted by the CoHo coffee shop. This event included live music and prizes and served to raise awareness about the prevalence of violence against women.

SSWA also took a group of 20 students to Advocacy Days in Boise. These students spoke with legislative representatives, learned about state-level policy development, and met with NASW representatives.

SSWA members also participated in the CommUniversity and Bengal Days events on campus.



Hutchinson Memorial Quadrangle, ISU Campus, Pocatello, Idaho

SSWA elections were recently held, and the new officers for the coming year are:

- President:**
Allison Rider
- Vice President:**
Teresa Jackson
- Secretary:**
Michael Mares
- Treasurer:**
Shawntel Lee
- Idaho Falls Representative:**
Carrie Barrett

We congratulate our students for their active participation on campus and in the community, and we look forward to another successful year ahead!



Message from the Field Director: *Field Notes*

By Staci Jensen-Hart, LCSW



Thank you to all the field instructors who have stepped up to supervise our social work students! We appreciate your commitment to “growing” new social workers in partnership with us. Take a look at some of the valuable contributions our students have made at their field placements this year:

- ♪ Consistently provided intake and assessment services, including comprehensive social histories.
- ♪ Responded to crisis and ongoing needs of clients.
- ♪ Co-facilitated and facilitated educational and support groups.

- ♪ Developed program evaluation tools for ongoing use.
- ♪ Provided valuable translation skills to insure Spanish-speaking clients have a voice.
- ♪ Secured funding to support the introduction of needed groups for incarcerated women.
- ♪ Created handbooks for parents and workers.
- ♪ Delivered meals to the elderly.
- ♪ Established processes for more efficient and effective client service.
- ♪ Co-authored research with field instructor which will be presented at a national social work conference in October.

We have ongoing needs for agencies willing to be involved in training our new generation of social workers through junior practicum placements (40-60 hours per semester of in-agency work), group practicum experiences (12+ hours per semester), and senior practicum placements (400 hours).

If you are interested in collaborating with us, please contact:

Staci Jensen-Hart, Field Director, at hartstac@isu.edu.

Agencies that partner with us to provide field placements for students receive discounts on ISU Social Work-sponsored CEU training.

Spring 2013 Outreach in the Community

On May 1 we held our **Spring 2013 Outreach in the Community event, “Using a Sex-Positive Framework as an Ethical Approach to Working with Perpetrators and Victims of Sexual Violence.”** The presenters included D J Williams and Candace Christensen (ISU Social Work), Emily Prior (College of the Canyons

and the Center for Positive Sexuality, Los Angeles), and Liz McDowell (Eastern Idaho Regional Behavioral Health Center). The presenters also gave a version of this presentation at the 2013 National Organization of Forensic Social Work Conference in Seattle. The Spring Outreach event was extremely well

-attended, and we offered three ethics CEUs to social work practitioners.

We are pleased to announce that Liz is a new member of our ISU Social Work Advisory Board, and Emily will be a visiting faculty member in our department for the Fall 2013 Semester.

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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. It offers a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) degree program 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 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.

Guardian Scholars Update

By Sherri Gaudio

The Guardian Scholars (GS) program, sponsored by ISU Social Work, completed its first academic year at ISU with tremendous success. GS is a nationally recognized program designed to assist former foster youth with the transition to college and throughout their college careers in order to provide support and thus increase the likelihood of retention.

The program began last fall with two scholars

and two mentors. In less than a year, the program has more than tripled in size with 11 scholars and five trained mentors set to participate starting the Fall 2013 Semester. GS is supported by the ISU College of Arts & Letters; the Department of Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice; and the Guardian Scholars Committee.

GS applied for and received a donation from the Leadership

Pocatello Alumni Association. This generous donation is earmarked to assist the current scholars with monthly learning opportunities to help develop the scholars in their academic pursuits. The program has several fundraisers and community outreach events planned, and all members of the community are welcome to attend.



Contact
Sherri or Staci at
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL