CONGRATULATIONS!
Class of 2013
The first group of Four-Year Advanced Generalists to graduate
Ask an Advisor

Should I join NASW?

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 145,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies. NASW’s website provides social workers with the latest research and news from the profession, access to your local NASW chapter, opportunities for advocacy and networking, job postings, and numerous opportunities for professional development, including online trainings.

I haven’t had a job interview in a while; what should I do to prepare?

Whether you are interviewing for a field placement or trying to land your first job as a Master’s level social worker, you want to go in feeling prepared and confident. For interview preparation go to: http://careers.socialworkers.org/documents/interviewing.pdf. Students and recent graduates can also take advantage of Letters & Science Career Services: http://www.issau.wisc.edu/careers/students/index.html. L&S Career Services has a number of publications available to help polish your resume and prepare for your interview. L&S Career Services even provide professional resume reviews.

Julie’s Farewell

After nearly two years of working as the PTP Office Manager, I resigned on May 18 in order to pursue my education in the Full-Time MSW Program at UW-Madison. I did not have an intention of becoming a social worker when I took this job, but now it’s hard to envision my future without social work in it. I’ve enjoyed getting to know many of you and hope that our paths continue to cross in the program and in the world of social work!
Sincerely,
Julie

April’s Hello

I am excited to be the new PTP Office Manager in Eau Claire. Previously I worked as a contractor for the United States Army. I received my Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and my Master of Arts from the University of Louisville. I am the mother of three little boys who keep me busy, and remind me each day of the joys of life. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with all of you in this wonderful program.
Sincerely,
April
Taking the ASWB Master's Exam
By Kristi Wood

Are you getting ready to take the ASWB exam for the Master’s level? Here are a few suggestions to be prepared.

1) Allow yourself a good month to study for the exam. Set aside four-hour blocks of time to take the practice exams that are in the study guide. After you take the practice exams, go back and look at each question, not just the questions you answered incorrectly. You may have answered some correctly out of luck, and the answer key can give you some valuable insight into why the correct answer is the best answer.

2) Go to the School of Social Work Library and check out the study guide for the exam. It is free, and you can check the guides out for a week at a time.

3) Take all five of the practice exams. You will likely find that the more practice exams you take, the more prepared you will be.

4) Be aware that the questions are multiple choice, and that there will often be two answers that seem like they could be the right answer. You are looking for the BEST answer to the question.

5) Become familiar with the ASWB website www.aswb.org. There are a lot of helpful hints there as well.

You do not have to take the exam prior to graduation, but it is an option. For me, it was a huge relief to get it done and out of the way in the spring so I could focus on final projects for the semester and look forward to graduation.

Good luck!

“The more practice exams you take, the more prepared you will be.”
Kristi Wood

Change Agent Projects

Stephanie Lindsley
At the WCSWE Conference
Stephanie Lindsley presented at the WCSWE Conference on human trafficking as part of her change agent project. This is a semi-annual conference put on by the Wisconsin Council on Social Work Education. This year the conference was held in April at the Wisconsin Dells. WCSWE is a statewide association that focuses on social work education promotion.

Yia Lor
Change Agent project
Yia Lor built a Hmong house and painted a mural as part of imbedding Hmong culture into the Eau Claire Area School District curriculum.
Linda Pankow:
Name of Agency and Program: Family Service Madison-Counseling and Psychotherapy services
Name of Agency Supervisor: Randy Wagner
Project Details: Re-vamped outcome measurement data system for Counseling and Psychotherapy Services by researching and implementing four efficient outcome measurement tools to use systematically with clients. They included GAD-7, Phq-9, TSQ, CTSQ. With these tools progress can be tracked effectively.

Jennifer Fortune:
Name of Agency and Program: Bethel Lutheran Homeless Ministry
Name of Agency Supervisor: Mark Wilson
Project Details: Improved access to community resources by increasing information and presence of outreach services for individuals who use Bethel’s services and are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. I networked with professionals from other agencies, assisted in presenting information regarding programs and eligibility to clients, and directly connected clients with community resources to promote empowerment.

Melissa Bergum:
Name of Agency and Program: Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services, Special Needs Adoption
Name of Agency Supervisor: Rebecca DeBroux
Project Details: I have written a proposal for a reallocation of funding for the use of two tools that the special needs adoption social workers could utilize in order to better serve the children in this program. The two measurement tools are the Diana Screen and the Trauma Symptom Inventory-2.

Kristi S. Wood:
Name of Agency and Program: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Name of Agency Supervisor: Chris Lenske
Project Details: I focused on the issue of providing supports to youth ages 18 to 21 who age out of OHS. I have closely studied the work of Mark Courtney and Amy Dworsky (both alumni of our School) regarding the issues these youth face as they enter adulthood. Thanks to them we now have longitudinal data from the Midwest Study that tracks youth from ages 17 to 26. Many of these youth face obstacles that other youth do not. I am using this data as well as other research to make the case that these youth often need housing and case management services until at least age 21 in order for them to make a more successful transition. I am conducting a cost-benefit analysis for the state of Wisconsin to provide these services for youth who age out of OHS.
**Sarah Grob:**

*Name of Agency and Program: Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) Shelter Program*

*Name of Agency Supervisor: Cecilia Goldschmidt*

Project Details: I have developed and started a trauma-informed care yoga curriculum which is being taught every three weeks at the agency. This curriculum provides shelter residents the opportunity to practice beginners yoga and relaxation. Classes are facilitated by me and my colleague, Lachrista Greco.

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**Stephanie Lindsley:**

*Name of Agency and Program: Wisconsin Association for Family and Children’s Agencies (WAFCA)*

*Name of Agency Supervisor: Linda Hall*

Project Details: The goal of my change agent project was to inform WAFCA member agencies about human trafficking to make them more aware of the need to address the issue, provide them with information about engagement in best practice with this population and encourage implementation of new programs to increase the amount of resources for victims. To accomplish this goal, I gave a presentation at the WAFCA Winter Retreat on March 14, 2013 to fifty member agency executives. The presentation was informed by research and qualitative phone interviews. I also developed a Human Trafficking Resource Guide which was distributed along with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to all WAFCA member agencies. I also gave a poster presentation on the qualitative human trafficking research done for this change agent project at the Wisconsin Council on Social Work Education Conference on April 5, 2013.

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**James Benkard:**

*Name of Agency and Program: UW Health’s Wingra Family Medical Center (Wingra FMC)*

Project Details: My project was an opportunity to increase the staff's level of cultural competence when working with transgender patients. A mezzo-level intervention training was chosen. Four individuals with specialized knowledge on the subject matter presented the topic.

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**Sarah Cormell:**

*Name of Agency and Program: St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin Behavioral Health Clinic*

Project Details: I was asked to develop a response to the rise in prescription drug abuse in the St. Croix Chippewa Indian Tribal Community (Tribe). I decided that I would facilitate three forums. The first forum was a gathering of professionals from all tribal agencies including Behavioral Health, Medical Clinic, Dental Clinic, Pharmacy, Community Health, Maternal Child Health, Indian Child Welfare, Tribal Police, Aging, Tribal Court, Tribal Youth and Juvenile Justice, Education, Housing, Domestic Violence, Emergency Response, Legal, Finance, Benefits, and Tribal Council. The second forum was a community forum. The final meeting is in June and it will be bringing together community members and professional stakeholders.

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**Yia Lor:**

*Name of Agency and Program: Eau Claire Area School District*

Project Details: For my change agent project, I chose to focus on closing the achievement gap by engaging students in the classroom through an ethnic studies curriculum. I collaborated with the School Social Worker and Culturally Responsive Coach on classroom lessons, staff development projects, along with a school and community organization project. I even got to work on a local school board campaign with many leaders in the community. One of my favorite memories is taking a group of educators to the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University and visiting the Hmong markets in St. Paul. I’ve learned that I really enjoy helping others understand the complex aspects of Hmong culture. I’ve seen so much growth in myself, and I know that this experience has made me a better advocate for others!
Congratulations!

Instructor Jenny Fahy’s new arrival and family

Instructor Alice Egan’s children

Instructor Angela Willits’ Son, Griffin

Social Work Month

Since 1984, March has officially been National Professional Social Work Month. The School of Social Work celebrated at both the Madison and Eau Claire sites by providing treats for students during break.

New Job:

My name is Alicia Merdan and I graduated in May 2013. I recently accepted a part-time job offer at Caillier Clinic. I have the opportunity to earn my required supervised hours at this agency. At Caillier Clinic, I have been trained in behavioral treatments and am a line staff on the Autism Treatment Team and Behavioral Intervention Team. I will be providing behavioral treatments including applied behavioral analysis, in conjunction with supportive in home family psychotherapy.

Dr. Ryberg, congratulations on your retirement!

Thank you for years of service to the Part-Time MSW Program

Instructor Jessie Cylkowski’s Daughter, Lila

Have a submission for the Fall Newsletter? Please send submissions to alande@wisc.edu

Madison Address:

1350 University Ave
Madison, WI 53706

Eau Claire Address:

105 Garfield Ave
PO Box 4004
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

Phone: 608-263-3576
Fax: 608-263-3836
E-mail: alande@wisc.edu

Part-Time Program Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday
8:00-4:30

socwork.wisc.edu/parttime

Student Yia Lor’s wedding

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Graduation Open House Reception!