In fall 2010, 29 students entered the Part-Time MSW Program as four-year Generalists and in fall 2012, 48 entered as two-year Advanced Generalists. We are proud to say that all 77 students have achieved their goal of earning a Master of Social Work degree.

To celebrate their wonderful achievement, the School of Social Work hosted a Graduation Hooding Ceremony on May 18. The event was held at the UW-Madison Gordon Dinning and Event Center with an estimated 700 graduates, family, friends, faculty, and staff in attendance. The event included speeches from alumni Sarah Cormell, and graduates Beth Plummer, Shannon Schaefer, and Erin Salzwedel Gonzalez. The celebration was full of joy and much reminiscing about the journey each took to obtain their MSW.

Congratulations to the class of 2014!
Congratulations!

Kelsey Siverling, a third year student at the Eau Claire site will be married to David Woods on Friday, June 27th in Chippewa Falls, WI.

Alicia Knasinski, a third year student at the Madison site, will begin her new position as a Family Programs Manager/Lead Center Coordinator for the Madison Area Down Syndrome Society in partnership with GiGi’s Playhouse of South Central Wisconsin.

Jennifer Fortune, a third year student at the Madison site, is newly employed as a Transition Specialist for the Transition to Independence Program at Community Partnerships. She will be working with individuals ages 18 to 30 who are living with a mental health diagnosis.

Rachael Meline, a year one student at the Madison site had a little baby girl, Cecelia Katherine Meline on December 26, 2013. She weighted in at 8lbs 11 oz and was 19.5” long.

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 the students during break.

Farewell

Dani Dexter, Academic Advisor

The dedication of the faculty, staff, and students in the Part-Time MSW Program is incredible and difficult for me to leave behind. I am doing so in order to spend more time with my two young children and also to pursue an exciting new opportunity in the area of parent education and support. It has been my honor to serve you as an advisor for the Part-Time MSW Program. Thank you for dedicating your talents and time to an essential field. You are part of the rich history of social work at UW-Madison. Be proud of yourself, and go Bucky!
Who is my advisor?

In order to insure that your questions and concerns are responded to quickly, both Judy Switzky and Cindy McMillan are available to respond to your call or email.

At times, it may be best if one advisor works more closely with a student regarding a particular situation. We understand that students may have a preference for a particular advisor and prefer to correspond solely with that advisor. We respect that choice, so please let us know when this is the case. Please note, however, that your advisor of choice may not be immediately available and as a result a response may take longer.

Why would I see an advisor?

As you are graduate students, we do not require that you meet regularly with an advisor; however, there are times you will need to see us such as when you enter the program and before you graduate. Although we leave it up to you whether you choose to see an advisor for advice or other types of assistance, we highly recommend you do so yearly.

Behind the scenes” we are monitoring grades and checking enrollments to make sure everyone is where they need to be. If all is going well, you may not hear from us much; however, that does not mean we do not want to hear from you. What we enjoy most is meeting with students, so please do not hesitate to make an appointment.

We are happy to go over program requirements, discuss focus areas, answer enrollment questions, outline the certification and licensure process, etc. You can also set up an appointment just to check-in.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

A couple notes for our graduates:

You will receive your diploma in eight to ten weeks and it will be mailed to the “Home” address listed in MyUW. Check to make sure that address is accurate.

Regarding Wisconsin Certification and Licensure, your degree should post to your Student Center four to six weeks following commencement. Once your degree is posted, you must submit Form 1978 directly to UW—Madison Office of the Registrar, 333 East Campus Mail #10101, Madison, WI 53715. For those interested in Certification and Licensure outside of Wisconsin, your advisor is happy to meet with you and discuss specific requirements.
Beth Plummer’s change agent project focused on the Children Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment Survey. She collaborated with others to identify the need to re-design the assessment so as to encompass trauma symptoms that continue to focus on survival, social and identity measures and action focused planning. Beth also identified the need for regular and routine training practice of the CANS.

Beth reached her conclusions through the use of a survey she developed. She administered the survey to social workers and asked them to rank a series of questions related to the design of the current CANS; to provide strengths and limitations; and to provide information regarding what needs to occur in order for social workers to have a significant “buy in” to the CANS as an evidence based tool in public child welfare. Through the survey Beth found evidence to support the need to re-design the CANS. The next step for Beth’s change agent project is to share the survey results and participate in an upcoming coordination of the CANS training initiative at Northwestern University.

Meghan Eisenbraun developed an informational campaign in relation to the need for social workers in schools, and particularly in the Eau Claire school district. She found that the recommended number of social workers per student is 400:1 per the School Social Work Association of America. She also determined that the social worker to student ratio for the 20 largest school districts in Wisconsin are below that recommended level. In addition, Meghan determined there to be a correlation between a schools performance rating and the Social Worker to student ratio.

Using the information she collected from her research, Meghan created a handout highlighting the need for school social workers. She plans to provide copies of her handout to the School Board, the Eau Claire Superintendent, School Principals and Student Services Directors. The intent of this campaign is to highlight the need for School Social Workers and provide education about the work and benefits of having School Social Workers.

For Melissa Bergum’s change agent project she wrote a grant proposal to fund two screening inventories: The Diana Screen and the Trauma Symptom Inventory. Melissa proposed that these screening tools be used with pre-adoptive families to assess the risk factors for sexual abuse or lack of protection against sexual abuse, as well as look into the pre-adoptive parent's trauma histories. Melissa Bergum developed this project through researching and connecting with different institutions at which the tools were created.

Although Melissa’s grant proposal was not funded her agency has the proposal, for future development.