Job fair a hit!

On Friday March 13, 2015 the UW–Madison School of Social Work held its first ever job fair. The school is still collecting feedback from agencies and students, but it is fair to say it was a big success! There were 32 agencies represented and many with open social work positions. The agencies ranged from statewide originations with sites across Wisconsin to local Dane County services. One agency had four job openings at the start and all were filled by day’s end. With this success the School of Social Work plans to provide additional job fairs in the future both at the Madison and Eau Claire sites.

Ask an advisor

Continuing Education Legal Updates

‘The times they are a-changin...’ For those unfamiliar with Bob Dylan’s 1964 song, the message still applies: Effective March 1, 2015, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services has changed the continuing education requirements for social workers. Chapter MPSW 8 has been repealed and continuing education requirements are now found in Chapter MPSW 19 with three main revisions. The new rules are available at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/mpsw/19.pdf. All licensed and certified social workers in Wisconsin must meet these standards every two years.

Ethics and Boundaries

Social work credential holders in Wisconsin must complete four hours of continuing education in the area of professional ethics and boundaries. MPSW 19.02 (2) (b) states: “Social work credential holders shall complete their ethics continuing education credit hours in an interactive learning format.” MPSW 19.01 (2) states “‘Interactive learning format’ means a live, synchronous presentation with discussion or an asynchronous education program by a provider...” Synchronous tools enable real-time communication and collaboration in a ‘same time-different place’ mode. Examples are audio conferencing, web conferencing and video conferencing. Asynchronous tools enable communication and collaboration over a period of time through a ‘different time-different place’ mode. Examples are discussion boards, blogs and web-based trainings. Students should look for new opportunities to pursue their ethics and boundaries education.

CEH Limits

In-house training by public and private agencies have been limited to only 15 of the required 30 credit hours every two years as per MPSW 19.03 (1) (f).

Approved Provider List

The MSPW 19 now lists 20 approved affiliations, associations, accredited bodies, and training organizations that meet statutory standards to offer continuing education to credential holders.

Minnesota CEHs

For current and future Minnesota social workers, continuing education licensure is covered under Minnesota Statute 148E.165. The Minnesota Board of Social Work web site, http://mn.gov/health-licensing-boards/social-work/licenses/continuingeducation%20isp, provides information and answers to frequently asked questions on continuing education hours. For the biennial 40 C.E. hours per 24 month renewal term, two hours must be included in ethics. The web site notes: “The two hours in ethics do not need to be obtained from a ‘stand alone’ ethics C.E. program.”

The school encourages all students to become familiar with the requirements of the state board which will be regulating their license or certification.

Stay in touch

For alumni and pending graduates

The School of Social Work would love to stay in touch with its graduates to help, hear about graduates’ careers, and keep everyone updated on what is happening at the university!

Please e-mail alumni@socwork.wisc.edu or go to http://go.wisc.edu/update.

On Wisconsin!
New faces

The Part-Time Master of Social Work Program brings several people into the fold. There are two new directors at the helm, a new program coordinator, and a new office manager in Eau Claire. Program Director Dr. Betty Kramer, featured in the last issue, has tenure at the University of Wisconsin-Madison while Co-Director Dr. Leah Olson-McBride has tenured status at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. A common trait shared among those featured here is a prior connection with UW-Eau Claire before their present positions.

ALICE EGAN
MSW
Program Coordinator

Dr. Leah Olson-McBride received her BSW from UW-Eau Claire and her MSW from Loyola University Chicago. After completing her MSW, Leah worked as a child and adolescent therapist in the Chicago area and served as a program director at a community mental health agency in Vicksburg, MS. After serving as a social worker for several years, Dr. Olson-McBride returned to school and earned a Ph.D. in social work with an emphasis in education research methodology from Louisiana State University.

Eau Claire Site office manager Ken Smith is from the Milwaukee area. He earned his bachelor's degree in history at UW-Eau Claire. Ken enjoys living an active lifestyle and playing videogames with his friends.

CINDY MCCILLAN
MSW, LCSW, SAC
Academic Advisor

Chad McCullough, MSW, is the Eau Claire County Human Services deputy director. I have oversight responsibilities of services we provide to the residents of Eau Claire County. This includes behavior health programming, adult protective services, child protective services, children with disabilities and services to youth offenders. Most recently we have put a lot of energy into treatment courts and finding more effective ways to deal with adults in the legal system.

KAYLA BOETTCHER
Office Manager/Admissions Coordinator

Tom Wirth, MSSW, is in private practice working with adult individuals and couples. I specialize in the treatment of mood disorders, addictions, chronic illness, gender and sexual orientation concerns, and relationship challenges. I also do some clinical supervision and work part-time as a psychological consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services focusing on transgender health.

What are the challenges of your job?

Juggling my multiple roles of teaching, clinical work, and consulting. Being in private practice is particularly challenging because it requires not only professional clinical social work skills, but also tending to the many aspects of running a business, including marketing, bookkeeping, and insurance billing.

What is your favorite thing about your workplace?

I love the diversity of my work. Every day is different, with a satisfying balance of autonomy and collaboration with other professionals. I also value the opportunity to be creative in all aspects of my work by finding different methods of helping clients solve problems; the same approaches don’t work with every client.

In my teaching, I strive to bring creative methods for learning into the classroom. I favor a more interactive activity-based instructional style than traditional lecturing.

What is your favorite aspect of the MSW program?

The dedication, maturity, and commitment of the students.

What is your favorite thing about the social work profession?

Meeting the high demand of social work services with limited funding. Too many people at all geographical levels need services but can’t access them. The interplay between the political, economic, and social climate is becoming more complex all the time.

The increasingly divisive political climate consequentially impedes the effective resolution of the complex economic and social problems of today, which poses great challenges for the social work practice.

Any words of advice to pass on to aspiring social workers?

Be flexible and open to new opportunities. Stay current in the field through your career, and most importantly, take care of yourself.

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Program Coordinator Stephanie Van Pay is a Wisconsin native from Green Bay. Stephanie earned her bachelor’s degree in sociology from UW-Stevens Point and her master of science in social work from UW-Madison. She worked as a residence hall director at UW-Eau Claire for nine years and most recently comes from the University of Central Florida in Orlando as an MSW advising coordinator. On the personal side, when Stephanie is not busy rooting for the Packers, she enjoys walking her dog, Riley. She is also looking forward to enjoying the Memorial Terrace this summer.

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Instructors at a glance

Alan has served as an Instructor for the University of Wisconsin since 2012. Before that, he taught in the MSW program at Loyola University Chicago from 2005 to 2010. Alan consults for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and works for Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center in Mount Pleasant, WI.

 DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT JOB IN THE FIELD.

I am in private practice working with adult individuals and couples. I specialize in the treatment of mood disorders, addictions, chronic illness, gender and sexual orientation concerns, and relationship challenges. I also do some clinical supervision and work part-time as a psychological consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services focusing on transgender health.

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Any words of advice to pass on to aspiring social workers?

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Another significant challenge is the disparity in wages and the widening gap between the ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots.’ Many disfavored populations struggle with issues of poverty. It will take significant social action to create more equity for the folks who historically have had minimal incomes.

Any words of advice to pass on to aspiring social workers?

I began my first social work job when Ronald Reagan was first elected president. I am old! That was a time when social work and public service were not held in high esteem; jobs were very limited. However, a mentor of mine told me not to worry. If you are good at what you’re doing, and are committed to the profession, everything will work out just fine. I would say that same thing to folks starting in the profession today. Keep your head up and focused on better days that are ahead of us.

If you are good at what you do, and committed to the cause, good things will come your way and you will make a difference.

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Katelyn Johnson, Eau Claire Site

Katelyn has spent this year completing field placement at Bridgeways Counseling and Consultation in Rochester, Minnesota. She identifies one of this agency’s goals as removing the stigma from mental wellness. The concepts Katelyn has learned during her time with Bridgeways include advocacy skills, treatment modalities, and how to function effectively as an interdisciplinary team member. Katelyn has found it extremely rewarding to be in a setting where she gets to work with clients on setting and achieving their goals.

Katelyn’s field supervisor, Joy Kilber, describes her as having a high level of professional maturity, and says that Katelyn is “a good example of what a social work practitioner needs to be.” Kilber stated that what sets Katelyn apart as being exceptional is her “respect for all spectrums of people who walk through the door.”

In her free time, Katelyn enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with friends and family. She is looking forward to starting her career, and to having two-day weekends again!

Jalateefa Joe-Meyers, Madison Site

Jalateefa has been placed this year in the Sun Prairie School District. She has had the opportunity to work with students, families, and staff at a variety of grade levels. Jalateefa has developed the ability to truly meet children and families where they are, and to support them in reaching their highest potential. She says, “What I have loved most about my placement is the real time learning, even when it meant building my wings on the way down.”

The field supervisor, Ann Lauritzen, describes Jalateefa as having “courage and commitment to equity” while having a “gift of stepping into new situations with flexibility, openness, support and warmth is truly unique. She is able to establish relationships instantly, creating safe and welcoming spaces and situations, even during difficult periods.”

Jalateefa says that she is first and foremost a mother, dedicated to raising a healthy family. She also enjoys reading, writing, and singing. Following graduation, she intends to continue to further her education with the goal of obtaining a leadership position within a school district.

Lori Kroening accepted the program director position with AODA Services, Horses Treat, LLC, in Marshfield, WI.

Harmony Feldman McCullough: “Our family will be welcoming our second child in July.”

Erin Olson-Waters “married her best friend and colleague, Patrick Waters, on February 28, 2015.”

Susie Schuelke is moving to Calgary, Alberta. Susie hopes to gain a work permit and work as a social worker upon relocating.

Ashley Villella: “I had a beautiful baby boy in June who has joined me in this wild ride that is 4th year! Some day he will be very proud of his Mama’s amazing accomplishment!”

Ashley Vogel is graduating, purchasing a home, and moving to Grant County, WI.

Alyssa Umberger is to wed Robbie Zube in September 2015 in LaCrosse, WI.