Congratulations 2016 graduates!

We wish you the best in your future endeavors!

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!

Two new focus areas in Health and Aging to be offered in the Part-Time Program

The Part-Time MSW Program will begin to offer new graduate options to prepare social workers to meet the unique needs of aging adults and their families starting in Fall 2016. The curriculum changes are designed to meet the rapidly increasing need for social workers in medical and geriatric social work. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a 19% growth in the field of healthcare social work from 2014-2022, and the population of aging adults in the U.S. is anticipated to double over the next 25 years. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the median income for Healthcare social workers in 2014 was $54,020/year, which is about 18.5% higher than the median income for social workers overall at $45,500/year. “Those who specialize in social work with older adults will have exciting opportunities to contribute to and shape essential practice, policy, and service delivery issues that will be at the forefront in our society over the next half-century,” says Part-Time MSW Program director and gerontologist Betty Kramer.

In Wisconsin, rural counties are currently facing some of the highest numbers of aging adults, with many northern and western areas reaching a density of more than 20% of citizens at age 65 or older, according to the Eau Claire County’s Plan on Aging. “There is a desperate need for professionals who specialize in aging and health in Eau Claire and the western region of the state,” said Mechele Pitt, the program’s Eau Claire site director. “The Part-Time MSW Program is well-placed to help train the next generation of social workers to support the quality of life and well-being of Wisconsin’s aging adults.”
Ask an advisor

Do you wish, want or need a clinical social work license?

With an MSW you can move forward and obtain an advanced practice or master’s certification or license from the state in which you reside. Each of the 50 states have their own rules and regulations for certification or licensure. For Wisconsin residents you’ll want to pass the National Master’s ASWB exam and receive your CAPSW (Certified Advanced Practice Social Worker). For Minnesota residents you will be obtaining a LGSW (Licensed Graduate Social Worker).

What’s your next step? Many of you will begin to practice on your graduate level. But, sometime in your career you may want to license as a clinical social worker. Why? Maybe you wish to provide mental health clinical treatment to clients. Or maybe because your employer has determined that a clinical license is a requirement for the job you have or are seeking.

One of the steps required by many of the 50 states is clinical supervision. In Minnesota 4,000 hours are required. From the Minnesota Social Work Licensure Handbook it states: “Supervised Practice: Required for eligibility.”

You need a supervisor. But who?

In Wisconsin the DSPS reports:

Approved supervisors include: 1. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a doctorate degree in social work. 2. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a master’s degree in social work. 3. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 5 years of full-time clinical social work experience. 4. A psychiatrist or psychologist. 5. Another individual approved in advance by the Social Worker section.

In the Minnesota Licensure Handbook it reports: “An LGSW engaged in clinical social work practice...must be supervised by an LICSW who has at least 2,000 hours of experience in authorized social work practice, including 1,000 hours of experience in clinical practice after obtaining an LICSW license. The LICSW licensing supervisor must have completed a one-time requirement of 30 hours of training in supervision.”

What to look for in a qualified supervisor?

Be cautious! Make sure the person who’s offering to supervise you, whether paid or not, understands your state’s requirements and regulations. Do they meet your state’s supervisor requirements? Do they have experience in supervision? Will you benefit professionally by their guidance? Do you have to pay for their services? It’s certainly fair to request payment for providing you their skills and knowledge.

Where to find a qualified supervisor?

At some places of employment your employer may provide your needed supervision. Other times you’ll be seeking out someone to hire privately. Contact peers, past supervisors and NASW for ideas on who might be a good fit for you and your supervisory training. But, no matter where you find your supervisor, make sure your social work services for which you’re being supervised meet the requirements of your state’s definition of supervision and clinical practice!

State of Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter MPSW 4 has the definition of supervised clinical practice: http://go.wisc.edu/9mqj4z

And, the Wisconsin definitions for Practice of Social Work and what ‘clinical social work practice’ means in Chapter MPSW 2.01, (8): http://go.wisc.edu/84e4ca

In Minnesota please review Minnesota Statutes:

- 148E.115 http://go.wisc.edu/01l449 (Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers; Supervised Practice)
- 148E.120 http://go.wisc.edu/8q6bc9 (Requirements of Supervisors)
- 148E.125 http://go.wisc.edu/rk5442 (Documentation of Supervision)

Final guidepost: Know the statues from the state you’re seeking your license! A good consumer is an accurately informed consumer!
Changing of the guard

Things happen in individuals’ lives and new opportunities open up. The Part-Time Program staff are no different.

In January, Dr. Leah Olson-McBride transitioned from the role of Part-Time Program Co-Director to Chair of the Bachelor of Social Work program at UW-Eau Claire. Leah will be teaching Methods of Social Work Research in the Part Time Program this summer and looks forward to spending more time with the MSW students.

Mechele Pitt

While we will miss Leah, we are very excited to welcome Mechele Pitt as the new Part-Time Program Site Director for the Eau Claire site.

Mechele is the Executive Director at Anu Family Services, Inc. and has been employed at Anu since November of 2006. Anu Family Services is a child welfare agency located in Wisconsin and Minnesota which is producing nationally-recognized child permanence and placement stability outcomes for children in out-of-home care.

She is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in Minnesota and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Wisconsin. Mechele has her Masters in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor’s degree in the area of Human Development and Family Living from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She completed the Post-Graduate Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate at the University of Minnesota, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare.

Mechele is an adjunct lecturer for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work. Mechele was also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Stout from 1999 to 2012. She has taught graduate and undergraduate level courses in the areas of social work supervision, child development, individual and family counseling, cultural diversity, work and family issues, and child and adolescent counseling.

She has been working in the child welfare field since 1992 and has more than 20 years of experience working with youth in a variety of out-of-home care settings. Mechele also has clinical experience doing in-home family therapy, as well as individual and group counseling with adolescents. Mechele was a Lead Therapist at Eau Claire Academy. She provided in-home therapy for Children's Services Society and then went on to become the Children’s Court Services Supervisor for Eau Claire County. In this role she provided oversight to the Northwest Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Group Care/Shelter Care Facility and the Juvenile Court Intake Office. She was also a Social Worker Supervisor at Eau Claire County, specializing in youth services, prior to coming to Anu Family Services in 2007.

Mechele is committed to higher learning and has served on the University of Wisconsin-Stout Human Development and Family Studies Advisory Committee for over 15 years. She has also served on the Social Work Field Practice Institute Advisory Council Advisory Committee for Saint Kate and Saint Thomas.

Mechele was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award by the Multicultural Student Services Organization at UW-Stout and she was also awarded the Anu Family Services Award of Excellence in 2012.

Welcome to the Part-Time Program Team, Mechele!

2016 Social Work Job Fairs

The School of Social Work held its second job fair in Madison at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery Center (WID) on March 11th. There were 23 agencies represented from around the Madison area. Various brown-bags and workshops for resume writing, cover letters and job search strategies were held in preparation for the job fair. The students from the BSW, Full-Time MSW and Part-Time MSW Programs attended with resumes in hand.

One Part-Time MSW student who attended wrote that they ‘made good contacts’ and were apply to 3 of the agencies from the job fair. Another student stated that was much more relaxed and easy to talk with everyone about their agency than having a formal interview.

The Part-Time MSW Program and the UW-Eau Claire BSW Program hosted a job fair on the UW-Eau Claire campus at the Davies Center, Friday, May 6th from 1-4pm. Beginning at 11:30am Staci Heidtke, Associate Director of Career Services at UW-EC, presented on successful interviewing strategies. We had an excellent turnout at our first Eau Claire site Job Fair. Thank you for attending!
Distinguished Field Supervisor
Ellen Higley

This spring, the School of Social Work is honoring three field supervisors with the Distinguished Field Supervisor Award. The criteria for this award includes providing quality field opportunities for students, providing quality field supervision, promoting social and economic justice, and demonstrating the ethics and values of social work. One of this year’s award recipients is Ellen Higley of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, who has been a school social worker for 18 years.

Ellen has been providing field supervision for Part-Time MSW Program students since the program began, and was nominated by the field faculty member working with her this year. According to the faculty, “Ellen’s commitment to the MSW Program and to furthering the advancement of school social workers in Wisconsin is unwavering.”

Ellen shared that she supervises students because she wants to give them the experience of serving kids and families in public schools, and to impart the importance of keeping public education strong. She is especially committed to seeing improvements in the way that schools serve marginalized populations. Thank you, Ellen, for your dedication to our students and to the field of social work!

Announcements

Congratulations to Madison site Instructor Amanda Zuehlke who gave birth to son Vilas Ryan at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2016. He weighed in at 8lbs, 8ozs and is healthy as can be!

Madison site office manager, Ciera Sudgen, will be leaving us in the fall. She will be attending UW-Madison as an English graduate student. We will miss you Ciera but wish you all the best in your new and exciting journey! As if her plate wasn’t full enough she is also busy planning a Fall wedding. Congratulations Ciera and Emerson!