Seniors Practice Social Work in Siouxland and Chicago Internships

Pictured above: BCU senior social work majors are busy with their internships. Four days weekly each senior works in a social service agency, attending classes on campus every Friday.

Front, l-r: Hollie Schroeder, Alejandra Olais and Nitausha Williams; back, l-r: Corey Schink, Monica Mondragon, Sara Gualazzi, Jan Britton and Jade Meier.

Jan Britton is at the Siouxland Mental Health Center, with Pam Mellott, LISW, and Wade Kuehl, LISW, supervising her internship. One of the first BSW-level interns, Jan is helping clients who are homeless or need food. She also attends weekly group sessions, visits families at Friendship House and assesses clients who come into the clinic as a crisis. Very often these clients just need someone to talk to.

Sara Gualazzi, interning at Boys and Girls Home, reports she loves her experience working with families, groups and individuals. Sara states, "I'm putting to use my skills learned in Practice 1 and 2 and having a lot of fun!"

Jade Meier is interning at the Iowa Department of Human Services in the Native Unit. She has been working on developing strategies for the recruitment of Native American foster families.

Monica Mondragon is in Chicago for her internship at West Suburban Medical Center, where she worked with young mothers, drug addictions, mental illness, child abuse, domestic violence and end-of-life concerns. She says her internship offered a wide variety of experiences. (See more about Chicago Semester on page 5.)

Corey Schink is excited to be the first male intern at the Council on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. He says that CSADV continues to challenge him to reach his personal best each and every day.

Alejandra Olais, interning at Siouxland Community Health Center, says, "I have had some amazing experiences. I never thought I would have the chance to intern at an agency where I would not only learn about the patients, but learn more about myself and alter my values."

Hollie Schroeder is interning at the Dakota County Victims Assistance Program. Hollie says, "I am having an eventful time learning about social work and criminal justice working together."

Nitausha Williams is a Yankton Sioux Tribal member who advocates for ICWA eligible clients in the Siouxland area. She is interning at the Department of Human services in the Native Unit. She is working on developing a working foster care recruitment strategy aimed at Native Americans by collaborating with Iowa Kids Net.
STRENGTHS OF DIVERSITY
Briar Cliff social work students have been active learning about and supporting the strengths of diversity during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Two seniors, Nitausha Williams and Jade Meier, used a March 5th Native American community event as an opportunity to work on their macro change process, designed to recruit more Native American foster parents. They are pictured below with Kathy Lehman of KidsNet. Pictured, l-r: Kathy Lehmann, Jade Meier and Nitausha Williams.

MARCH FOR LOST CHILDREN
Students provided support for the Tenth Annual March for Lost Children on Nov. 21. Junior Candace Payer provided leadership for educational elements of the events. Pictured below, l-r: Heather Craig-Oldsen, Monica Mondragon, Nitausha Williams, Brian McCarthy, Minerva Valenzuela and co-organizer Candace Payer.

FACILITATING INTERGENERATIONAL GROUPS
At the end of first semester seniors culminated their Practice II course by facilitating intergenerational groups at the Siouxland Center for Active Generations. Pictured below, front, l-r: Nitausha Williams, Hollie Schroeder, Jan Britton, Corey Schink and Agnes Donovan; back, l-r: Jade Meier, Alejandra Olais, Alice Koppock, Monica Mondragon and Sara Gualazzi.

LIFE WITH NO CULTURE, A VANISHING PEOPLE
Native American cultural speaker, Dwight Howe, presented “Life with No Culture, A Vanishing People” on Feb. 27. Students also met with Dwight to discuss the difficulties of maintaining traditional cultural values today. Pictured below, l-r: Heather Craig-Oldsen, Cecilia Woods, Brittany Parker, Chris Denny, Howe, Tina Tassler and Maria Cancino.
Briar Cliff University social work policy students visited the Iowa Legislature with their instructor, Heather Craig-Oldsen on February 13. The day began with a briefing session with representatives of the National Association of Social Workers Iowa Chapter. Students met with NASW Lobbyist, Lyle Krewson; Executive Director, Kelli Soyer; and MSW intern, Brian O’Gary.

Of special interest this year is SSB 1186 which would provide social work student debt repayment in Iowa for social workers in critical service area.

The policy students met with Senators Rick Bertrand and Bill Anderson in the Senate and thanked them for last year’s deciding votes for the loan repayment legislation. Bertrand explained, “Senator Anderson and I agreed to vote for the bill last year because it is a way to keep professional young people in the state. This is an act that is good for Iowa’s economy.” The students asked the senators for their support again this year.

A highlight was a discussion with Representatives Mark Smith, Chris Hall and David Dawson on this year’s legislative issues.

Rep. Smith, a social worker, provided a tour of the Capitol building which focused on Iowa’s social justice history. He and Rep. Dawson also led students to the dome of the capitol, a rare opportunity for visitors.

*Pictured below, l-r: Candace Payer, Kathy Boman, Maria Cancino and Tina Tassler climb to the dome, atop the Iowa Capitol building.*
Sister Shirley Introduces SWRK

The Introduction to Social Work class has had the opportunity to learn about social services in the Siouxland area by visiting various agencies. At DHS, they learned about all of the programs available through Income Maintenance. They were amazed at the many resources available to residents.

A visit to Bridges West and meeting with Jonette Spurlock and Briar Cliff alums Allison Carstens and Amber Martin gave students a first-hand look at a valuable family shelter service. Freshman Brady Yaneff said he learned a lot about the direct assistance social workers provide for those in need. “I need to start volunteering to experience the different areas that I can go into,” Brady noted.

Jane Sanders, Jackson Recovery Centers Prevention Specialist, always gives very helpful and real information about the disease of alcoholism and addictions. Jodi Huju thought Jane’s description of the “crazy making circle” helps explain the family dynamics that occur in the family dealing with alcoholism.

During the class, students also visit PACE and the Center for Active Generations, Mary Treglia Community Center and Goodwill Industries. Sister Shirley finds that the agency visits help make the fields of social work become more active for students when they can see first-hand how social work is practiced. Pictured front, l-r: Kiley Kuhl, Maggie Mendoza, Tascha Donnelly. Back, l-r: Rudy Rivera. Brady Yaneff, Ivan Rojas, Liberty Johnson, Kallie Kilstrom, Sister Shirley Fineran. Not pictured: Jodie Huju.

Social Work Students Study Poverty and Social Justice

Abby Buckhouse and Corey Schink have stepped out of their comfort zones to learn more about the culture of poverty in Siouxland and help plan to decrease it through the Micah Project. They are pictured below with Tronn Moller, executive director of Faith and Community Development, New Orleans, and consultant to Micah.

Emerging out of the work of these students the social work and business departments are sponsoring poverty mobility and fiscal literacy events in April. On Monday, April 15, Adam Carroll, popular presenter to young adult audiences, will present Winning the Money Game at 7:00 pm. in the Saint Francis Center of the Stark Student Center.

The following morning, Tuesday, April 16, Marybeth Foster, Executive Director of the Iowa Credit Union Foundation, will talk about Individual Development Account (IDA) programs at 9:00 am in the Saint Francis Center. Joining her will be John Parks, CEO of the Sioux Valley Community Credit Union, and the first provider of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) here in Siouxland.

On Tuesday, April 23 at 1:00, sophomore, Abby Buckhouse, will present a program on Siouxland’s mobility projects in the Stark student center. Her presentation, Influencing Community Thinking about Poverty Policy and Programs, is based upon her research into social justice, poverty and mobility projects in Siouxland.
Consider and Internship in Chicago

This year, senior Monica Mondragon, pictured above, completed her internship in Chicago. Monica says the placement not only provided her with an eye opening experience, it also challenged her to become a better person and professional.

“I use my learned social work skills in many different departments at West Suburban Medical Center,” she states. “I have worked with young mothers, drug addicts, mental illness, child abuse, domestic violence and end of life conversations. This internship literally offers a wide variety of experiences and provides a wide diversity among the staff and patients! I highly recommend coming to Chicago for next year’s seniors! You won’t regret it!”

While Monica is completing her senior social work internship in Chicago, Monica and Sister Shirley use Skype to communicate every week.

Any junior thinking about participating in the Chicago Semester Spring 2014 should contact Sister Shirley soon.

Social Work Students Study Social Justice in Guatemala

During J-Term three social work students traveled to Guatemala where they volunteered in a center for malnourished children and built a house with a family living in poverty.

Pictured above: Brian McCarthy, left, and Riley Colwell enjoy time with children at a Franciscan Orphanage in Patzun, Guatemala.

Pictured below: Kathy Boman with an administrator at the Malnourished Children’s Center in Antigua, Guatemala. Kathy donated items for the children at the center.
Advising Begins April 15

Advising for Fall Semester 2012 begins Monday, April 15. Please check the schedule carefully and then sign up for an appointment on the list posted on your advisor’s door. Plan your schedule for the whole year so you can check for conflicts and to make sure you schedule all your required courses.

New Seniors: You are required to take two one-hour courses, both taught by Sister Shirley Fineran. **SWRK 14 IS** Community Organization meets at 9:30 on Tuesdays. **SWRK 1 IS** Intro to Field Work, offered at 11:00 on Tuesdays will prepare you for your field internship. Use first semester to complete all your electives and required courses. Check the general schedule for **LIBA 410** which is required for seniors. Also check your Student Handbook for other required courses you might need. **SWRK 375** Practice II, taught by Heather Craig-Oldsen, will be MW from 2:00-3:15.

Electives: **SWRK 325** Mental Health, taught by Sister Shirley Fineran at 12:00 MWF, is a great elective for juniors or seniors. **SWRK 355** Child Welfare and the Law is offered at 1:00 MWF. Taught by Heather Craig-Oldsen, this course is open to juniors and seniors.

**Note:** Students interested in a gerontology minor need to take the hybrid (part online) **PSYC 355** Psychology of Aging, TH, 9:30-10:45 am.

New Juniors: **SWRK 320** Human Behavior in the Social Environment is a required course, 11:00 MWF with Sister Shirley Fineran. **SWRK 340** Research Methods is also required and is offered at 12:30-1:45 T/Th.

Transfer students should also take the first required course, **SWRK 230** History and General Method of Social Work, 10:00 MWF (see below).

New Sophomores: **SWRK 230** is the first required course in the social work sequence. It is offered at 10:00 MWF and taught by Heather Craig-Oldsen. This course includes a volunteer component which will help you assess your suitability for social work.

Sophomores should also take **PSYC 280** Developmental Psych; **BIOL 102** Human Biology; **American History** or **American Government**; **THEO 204** Christian Morality or **PHIL 210** Ethics; and **SOCY 240** Racial, Gender, Ethnic Inequality. See your Student Handbook for specifics.

**One-Hour Courses:** Sister Shirley Fineran will teach **SWRK 97IS** Death and Dying at 2 p.m. on Fridays. **SWRK 107M** Living and Learning Styles will be offered at 2:00 on Tuesdays.

**Complete the fall semester schedule below before your advising session. Arrive prepared!**

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