

IN HIS SERVICE

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Alumni Spotlight: Welcome Home of Chattanooga

Welcome Home of Chattanooga (WHC) was co-founded by Rachel Smith (Southern SOSW Advisory Board) and Sherry Campbell (MSW '11), who shared the dream of creating a home and community of care where individuals in need of hospice care could have a good quality of life and die with dignity.

This dream was born from years of serving as social workers at Hospice of Chattanooga, where Rachel and Sherry encountered many heartbreaking situations of people facing homelessness or isolation while nearing end of life. Whether living alone in extended-stay motels or camps or in the hospital when admitted to hospice, many men and women lack the family, caregiver, or support system necessary to



Fall 2015

address their holistic needs. For them, the only options available were to remain in the hospital or go to a nursing home.

Rachel and Sherry know that most people need the comfort of a home, especially at the end of life. Since early 2013, Rachel and Sherry have been spreading the word about this important mission and gleaning community support. In November of 2013, Welcome Home of Chattanooga became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and in 2014 it received generous financial support from the Memorial Health Foundation as well as a three-year grant from BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Health Foundation.

After securing a location, many wonderful volunteers from BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee as well as local churches and community members have cleaned, painted, renovated, and decorated the house and transformed it into a lovely home. Following an open house celebration in early March of 2015, the first guests were admitted to Welcome Home. Local hospice providers visit and oversee

the medical care of each guest, while Welcome Home's staff and volunteers offer them 24-hour shelter, family-style care, meals, and love.

This comfort care home is the first of its kind in Chattanooga. Rachel and Sherry are excited that this innovative model is now available for vulnerable adults in need. They are making plans for future internships and field experience for social work and nursing students in nearby colleges and universities. Welcome Home is a place of compassion and belonging, where the sacred natural process of life and death is honored.

For more information about how to donate or volunteer, go to www.welcomhomeofchattanooga.org or "like" Welcome Home of Chattanooga on Facebook.

– Rachel Smith, LMSW
PACE Team Social Worker



SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Power for Mind & Soul

Dean's Message

“Paving the Way for Change,” which was the theme for National Social Work Month in March of 2015, embodies the critical role social workers play across practice areas and settings. From improving relationships within families to making social support systems more effective, from helping individuals rebuild lives as they face mental health challenges, addiction, or family violence to managing social programs and advocating for better social policies around the globe, social workers are the backbone of services for persons facing hardship. I salute all of our current students, faculty, and staff as well as our alumni in their daily efforts to

support others. It is my hope that as you read this issue of *In His Service*, you will see the school's faculty, students, community partners, and alumni passionately putting the “Paving the Way for Change” theme into practice.

While there is a rich array of activities happening in our School, the updates featured in this issue are only a fraction of the many ongoing activities we were able to capture. If you have information you would like us to include in future newsletters, please let us know. It is our intent to highlight the diversity of projects that our students and alumni are involved with in their communities.

If I have not yet met you personally,

I hope to do so soon and, of course, I also welcome hearing from those of you I already know. I invite you to become more involved in our School if you are not already engaged in our activities.

Thank you so much for your contribution to our School; the service our students provide is critically affected by the support we receive from our many community partners.



Field: Family Justice Center

The Family Justice Center (FJC) is an umbrella of services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, with a focus on the safety of the survivors. Within the FJC, victims and survivors find a place to feel safe, be protected, and begin the healing process. Some of the services provided include: immediate counseling, the Police Department, Child Advocacy Center, medical attention, legal help, resources for basic needs, and wellness classes to replenish the soul. One of the important aspects I would like to highlight is helping families develop safety plans in order to ensure security and preparation for the future.

If you can experience an internship with the Family Justice Center, I highly recommend grasping the opportunity.

As a current intern, I have been able to apply so much of what I have been studying about in my classes, which led to many “aha!” moments. In my career, I have been exposed to many clinical practices and settings; however, the FJC gave me exposure to other areas of social

work, such as the legal and political aspects of starting the operations at the Center.

As an intern, I am currently working with victims and survivors of domestic violence. I am able to attend court with them and become a “victim’s assistant,” advocate for the victim, check on his or her well-being, help establish orders of protection, and help provide a safe place. I am also able to help meet needs of victims/survivors by making referrals and being a mediator. There are even times when I make home visits to survivors in order to provide support, services, and safety planning.

When the temporary and permanent facilities are established, internship opportunities will open up for students wishing to practice clinical skills with victims/survivors and families. I strongly encourage other students to go for this opportunity, or at least get their feet wet. There is such a need for immediate counseling to those who are walking through the FJC’s doors. Students who qualify will be able to meet the clients’ needs as well as gain valuable experience in practicing clinical skills. It is a win-win situation for everyone! I highly recommend it!



Dr. Valerie Radu
Family Justice Center

– Heather Flowers, MSW
Family Justice Center Intern

May 2015 Graduates



Marina Acosta
BSW



Krystle Cartagena
BSW



Lindsey Creer
BSW



Khaneisha Harewood
BSW



Jessica Hill
BSW



Nicole Humphrey
MSW- International



Saskia Hurlston
BSW



Jacqueline Jackson
MSW- Child & Family



Nikkie L. Jackson
BSW



Mathiada Louis
MSW- Trauma



Adris Mata
BSW



Jonathan Mendez
BSW



Natalie Mevs
BSW



Yadiel Munoz
BSW



Mischka Scott
BSW



Antonio Simpson
BSW



Danielle Stephen
BSW

Advisory Board

The School of Social Work Advisory Board formed in 2011 in response to the development of the university's MSW program. The purpose of the Advisory Board, per the bylaws, is to assist the School of Social Work (SOSW), including the dean, administrators, faculty members, staff, and students, to fulfill its mission by ensuring development of a social work program that is not only consistent with community needs and goals, but also high in professional quality.

The objectives of the Advisory Board include: networking within board members' own organizations and communities in support of the SOSW's mission, providing expert advice and consultation in support of the SOSW's strategic priorities, and serving as an active advocate for social and economic justice, issues of diversity, and cultural competency.

The Advisory Board provides guidance in planning and evaluating activities related to the SOSW curriculum input as well as evaluation. Moreover, the board serves as a

resource to students through guest lectures, field placement, and quality employment opportunities for graduates. The Advisory Board also assists the faculty and staff of the SOSW in ongoing efforts to continuously increase the quality and positive impact of SOSW programs, both within the program and in the community. Additionally, it facilitates partnerships and positive interactions between the social work practice community and the SOSW, and it provides ongoing input into program accreditation endeavors.

The Advisory Board is currently composed of 21 social work professionals from the community, ranging from health care social work to school social work to private practice. The board meets twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. Recent meetings have focused on supporting the SOSW Field Placement program to generate potential new field placement partner agencies, as well as conducting a focus group to evaluate program strengths, weaknesses, sustainabili-

ty, threats, and opportunities. The Advisory Board enjoys a very productive working relationship with the School of Social Work.



– Rhonda Edwards, LCSW, ACSW, OSW-C
Clinical Social Worker
Center for Cancer Support
CHI Memorial

Small Communities With Great Visions

As part of my PhD study, I am focusing on the way psychoanalytic principles are used in social change. My exploration has led me to the study of intentional communities, which are defined in general terms as groups of unrelated people who freely decide to live together based on values that are most often not widely accepted by mainstream society.

The Christians of the first century lived in small communities that promoted cooperation and sharing of resources (Acts 2:44), and even after that, Christians established intentional communities to support each other and live according to the gospel. From Europe, persecuted groups of Christians who broke off from the mainstream Christianity immigrated to the New World

and established successful intentional communities along the new frontiers. Among them were the Shakers, the Hutterites, the Amish, and the Bruderhof Brotherhood.

Intentional communities are engaged in the process of adapting “unconscious forces of society into rational, or controlled, forms of community structures” (Enslow, 2009). These communities, like the reformed movements of the 16th and 17th centuries in Europe, challenge the dominant and repressive society/religion and fight for freedom to practice their ideas/beliefs and to explore what has been forgotten or marginalized. By doing this, they become real laboratories for social/spiritual experimentation, where ideas such as collective living, sharing, and living in

harmony with nature are practiced.

The world of intentional communities is also a world of dreams that are seeking actualization (Miller, 1999). Most intentional communities dream of a better world. These dreams have been called “utopian” and deemed impossible by mainstream society. However, there is no change without dreaming. We must “have a dream” before we can transform our world.

During the summer of 2015, I have been collecting data and working on my dissertation on intentional communities that are active and successful in Western Europe. Stay tuned for more on this topic!

– Corneliu Rusu, professor

MSW Updates

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Student Coalition was able to end the academic year strong by engaging in a meaningful community outreach opportunity with Welcome Home of Chattanooga. As part of this outreach, Coalition officers and MSW students got their hands dirty doing yard work and garden preparation for the local nonprofit, which is dedicated to providing a home for homeless individuals in need of hospice care. The activity was wonderfully meaningful for all involved. Students enjoyed the opportunity to assist the new organization, and Welcome Home director Sherry Campbell said that the students “did a lot of very hard work but were laughing and joking the whole time. It was a great blessing to

have them with us, and we are so grateful.” After the outreach, Dean Wilder opened her home for a wonderful end-of-the-year picnic and party, where the students and officers enjoyed good food and fellowship. The afternoon provided a valuable way to unwind from the year’s commitments and to enjoy the company of friends.

At the close of the school year, MSW Student Coalition President Brittnei Bryan thanked all of the officers who worked tirelessly to make so many projects a reality. From the special Christmas outreach, to the Coalition sweatshirts for all of the students, to the end-of-the-year activities, the team showed ingenuity and commitment to the well-being of their fellow students and our community. Bryan said that she feels

the year’s activities successfully embodied the Coalition’s motto of “Grounded. Growing. Giving.” and she encourages her fellow MSW colleagues to continue grounding themselves in knowledge and self-care, growing in their professional abilities and passion for service to others, and giving to clients and community members alike with the unwavering and encompassing love of Christ.

– Brittnei Bryan, MSW candidate

BSW Updates

Throughout the Winter 2015 semester, the BSW program was busy recruiting, celebrating National Social Work Month in March, preparing for Research Day, embarking on trips to our nation’s capital, and honoring our amazing BSW students with various awards. On March 1, the Spring Social Work Open House event hosted students from Cleveland State Community College, Chattanooga State College, and University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. Additional recruitment events took place on campus and at our local community colleges, and we hope to continue spreading the good word about our academically enriching social work programs that are offered within a faith-based context.

In addition to our off-campus recruitment efforts, our graduate assistants team has worked hard to increase social work awareness on our campus through various events. To celebrate the 2015 National Social Work Month, themed booths were available weekly in the Student Center. Week one focused on mental health. Students were able to learn more about their own well-being and seek ways to do self-care. Week two’s theme focused on

social work with children. Information about this population was provided, and students were able to take a stand for child advocacy through the booth’s activities. Week three’s booth was focused on human rights, and great discussions took place on these important issues. The theme for week four was International Social Work, which helped the students see the extent of social work’s impact on our global community.

In mid-April, during the campus-wide Research Day Event, our BSW juniors who were enrolled in Human Behavior and the Social Environment II presented literature reviews they completed for this course, while our BSW seniors enrolled in the Social Welfare, Issues & Policy (SWIP) course presented a poster exhibition about their experience in Washington, D.C. We are proud of all of our budding researchers!

During the week of March 29-April 2, our BSW seniors traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of their SWIP course. The days spent in our nation’s capital were filled with opportunities for putting what they have learned about policy into action. Students met with senators and shared their legislative proposals. Additional opportunities to learn more about culture

and policy were also part of this memorable trip.

We are very proud of all of our BSW majors. Last school year we were able to honor several for their achievements, and we hope to recognize even more in future years. Below are this year’s award recipients. Congratulations to all!

Ed Lamb Community Service Scholarship:

Brittany Owens

Top Achiever:

Andrew Anobile, Carolita Claus & Mariana Kaplan

Leadership:

Khaneisha Harewood

Social Work Major of the Year:

Jessica Hill

Rene’ Drumm Research:

Brandon Strachan

Excellence in Field:

Marina Acosta & Mischka Scott

Academic Excellence:

Krystle Cartagena & Lindsey Crerar

NASW BSW Student of the Year:

Jessica Hill

– Annette Heck, professor



P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315
423.236.2768

southern.edu/socialwork

 facebook.com/sauschoolofsocialwork
 [@SouthernSOSW](https://twitter.com/SouthernSOSW)

Faculty and Staff:

Evie Nogales-Baker
Cheryl Craven
Tricia Foster
Annette Heck
Lorri Merchant
Magdana Philossaint
Laura Racovita-Szilagy
Comeliu Rusu
Kristie Wilder



MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK

Facilitate Positive Change in People's Lives

Southern Adventist University's Master of Social Work program prepares you for excellent service and leadership in the social work profession.

It works.
Our evidence-based program equips you with effective intervention tools.

It's convenient.
Classes meet all day Sunday, twice a month.

You'll be ready.
Along with gaining hands-on skills and experience in social work practice while you're in school, you'll also benefit from our faith-inspired program with a Christian worldview.

Call or visit online to find out how you can get started.

Master of Social Work
With a multi-disciplinary approach and a variety of concentrations, a master's degree in social work from Southern prepares you to serve a wide variety of people in need.



1.800.SOUTHERN • southern.edu/graduatestudies

