POWER Conference

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Rick Gaskill
Dr. Gaskill will present the morning keynote address titled *A Neurodevelopmental Perspective for the Treatment of Psychosocial Trauma*. Recent advancements in the understanding of neurological development have produced new insight and understanding to the treatment of survivors of abuse, violence, neglect and other types of trauma. During the address, participants will discuss the basic principles of neurodevelopment and develop interventions strategies that are neurologically informed and developmentally sensitive.

Dr. Rick Gaskill has worked in community mental health for more than 30 years. He currently serves as the Clinical Director and Deputy Director of Sumner Mental Health in Wellington, KS. He is also an adjunct faculty at Wichita State University. In his work with children, Dr. Gaskill has developed numerous programs including child development classes, parenting classes, attachment enhancement treatment groups, therapeutic alternative schools, therapeutic preschools, after school programs, and juvenile offender programs. At WSU, he teaches play therapy classes, child psychopathology and supervises play therapy practicums.

Judy L. Young
Judy Young will present the afternoon keynote address titled, *The Magic of Laughter*. The benefits of laughter have been shown in measured benefits for the workplace. In this address, Judy will teach you the essence of yoga breathing and will help you practice sounds that simulate your own deep robust bell laughter.

Judy Young is rapidly becoming known as the expert on laughter research. She offers a vast array of experiences in training, public speaking, business management, sales and marketing. Young has helped many achieve their goals of increased productivity through her training programs. She has developed and implemented several training programs in communication skills, conducted classroom training and workshops for skills enhancement. Young is a member of the National Speaker’s Association and a Certified CAP Consultant for Prairie View.

REGISTRATION FEE:
$75.00 (includes meals and materials). Student rate available. Please contact Sherry Chapman at 316-978-7213 or sheryl.chapman@wichita.edu.

REGISTER ON-LINE AT:
www.wichita.edu/conferences

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
See POWER Conference brochure or contact Jana Woods at 316-978-69493 or jana.woods@wichita.edu.
Greetings!

This issue of our School of Social Work News highlights the 6th annual POWER Conference coming up on March 6. This conference continues to grow in size and importance and we are so pleased to present a full schedule of speakers, break-out sessions, awards, and refreshments for your enjoyment and edification. As always, POWER is the best continuing education deal in our part of the state, and we are looking forward to connecting with friends, alumni, and students in our upcoming conference. I want to express my thanks to the POWER Conference organizing committee and their Chair, Sherry Chapman, for the hard work and enthusiasm that has already gone into this year’s planning.

I want to call attention, also, to some must-read articles in this issue of the News. Be sure to read Yelando Wilcoxson’s first person account of the presidential inauguration on January 20th. Without a doubt, this was the experience of a lifetime, with tremendous poignancy for the African American community, but also for the entire nation, as we celebrate the momentous occasion of our first African American president. Thanks, Yelando, for sharing this wonderful experience with the School community!

I also want to highlight the upcoming MSW Licensing Exam Preparation workshop on February 28th. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and others in the community to get a head start on preparing for the licensing exam. There will also be a licensing preparation workshop for the LBSW exam, held on March 28th. I want to thank the student organizations and Dr. Curtis Proctor for providing this opportunity for focused preparation. We hope that these workshops can help license candidates to feel prepared and to be successful in this first professional challenge.

Lastly, I want to once again extend my thanks and appreciation to the faculty and staff of the School of Social Work who make my job infinitely easier. We have the best of the best, and our community is justifiably proud of the dedication and achievements of this fine group of professionals. I leave you with a thought for challenging times. A quote from the famous explorer, Jacques Cousteau:

“If we were logical, the future would be bleak, indeed. But we are more than logical. We are human beings, and we have faith, and we have hope, and we can work.”

The world needs us more than ever. Keep up the good work!

---

Greetings! The Spring is off to a busy and wonderful start and the Social Work department has been working to make our program better for our students as well as gaining a greater presence in the community. We wanted to share one great improvement that we hope you will share with others. This year our Social Work 201, Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare course, was approved by the University curriculum committee to gain General Education Introductory Course status. This is significant for us for several reasons. Students who may have been interested in learning about Social Work were not able to use the course as general education and were essentially deterred. Also, those who had taken it as a transfer would not have been able to use it, either. What this approval does for us is provide that status for students who are interested.

Often students do not realize they want to major in social work until they have taken courses in other disciplines and realized they were not for them. Now we are able to recruit people into our field earlier in their educational plan.

This course will also become an option for High School guest students. There are currently no opportunities at the high school level for students to learn about the field of social work. So they are often misguided by stereotypes. We hope to work on changing this and opening the possibilities for young people in the field of Social Work. Please share this information if you work with high school staff/students.

We are always working hard to increase the presence of Social Work! We hope your Spring is off to a good start. The sunshine and flowers will be coming soon! If you are interested in learning more about general education or promoting the 201 Intro to Social Work course, please contact us at 978-7250. We would be happy to share information or speak with your agency/school.

---

linnea.glenmaye@wichita.edu

natalie.grant@wichita.edu
Field Notes
Sabrina Perez Glatt
Director of Field Practicum

It is placement season for the Fall 2009-Spring 2010 academic year! Our new motto is “Grow a Social Worker, Sow the Field”. Okay, it sounded funnier in my head. Seriously, we have been interviewing our current social work students for Fall placements. In March, Courtney will begin contacting some of our great field educators, to consider students for the next academic year. We could not do this without you!

Again, I turned to the jar of candy valentine hearts on my desk as a tool for inspiration and self-affirmation. Of course this was only partially effective. The phrases u-r awesome, too cool, hero, you rule, or LOL only provided a sugary false hope. However, reflecting on the message of President Obama in his inaugural address, “…we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord” (2009), I did find inspiration.

As I began to look over the files of MSW applications, reply to the e-mails concerning final projects, and commence the semester’s work on University and Department Committees, optimism was between the lines and in the context of the dialogue. The university is a hopeful place. Being open to possibilities is what education brings, a hope for a better future. As I review applications for admissions to the MSW program, I am hopeful. As I answer e-mails of students I have faith their projects will be excellent.

In final musing, I had a thought…If those candy hearts are to inspire, why is “social worker” not printed on them?

Calendar Reminders:
- March 23-27—Practicum Interviews for students accepted into the full-time MSW program
- April 3—New graduate student orientation
- May 11—Colloquium & School Assembly

It is placement season for the Fall 2009-Spring 2010 academic year! Our new motto is “Grow a Social Worker, Sow the Field”.

Looking to the future with hope.

February 2009 is in full swing with Valentine’s Day, Presidents Day and with less than 2 weeks until March. Where is the year going? Time has passed quickly since the U.S. rang in the New Year and Barack Obama was sworn in as our 44th President with a historical and inspirational inaugural day. The message of hope filled Washington, and spread across our Nation and through the World on this day. In the days and weeks that have followed we are fed a daily dose of economic woe. We need some inspiration and hope from that cold day in January of 2009.

As I began to look over the files of MSW applications, reply to the e-mails concerning final projects, and commence the semester’s work on University and Department Committees, optimism was between the lines and in the context of the dialogue. The university is a hopeful place. Being open to possibilities is what education brings, a hope for a better future. As I review applications for admissions to the MSW program, I am hopeful. As I answer e-mails of students I have faith their projects will be excellent.

In final musing, I had a thought…If those candy hearts are to inspire, why is “social worker” not printed on them?

Calendar Reminders:
- March 23-27—Practicum Interviews for students accepted into the full-time MSW program
- April 3—New graduate student orientation
- May 11—Colloquium & School Assembly

Phi Alpha Honor Society
Dr. Tim Lause - BSW Faculty Sponsor
Dr. Brien Bolin - MSW Faculty Sponsor

Applications for undergraduate and graduate membership in Phi Alpha are due by March 13. Phi Alpha is a national academic honors society in social work and both BSW and MSW applications are posted next to 537 Lindquist. Completed applications must be accompanied by a student transcript and a check or money order payable to Phi Alpha.

BSW requirements are:
- You have officially declared Social Work as your major
- You have achieved a Junior or Senior rank (60+ credit hours)
- You have earned at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all University course work (“B” average)
- You have completed at least 12 credit hours of required social work courses (including 201, 300 & 351)
- Your GPA within Social Work courses is at least a 3.5

MSW requirements are:
- You have completed at least 12 credit hours of required social work courses
- Your GPA within Social Work courses is at least a 3.75
**SOWS — Student Organization of Social Work**

**Germaine Hall, President**

Welcome back! This semester is sure to be an exciting one for all of us...especially for those anticipating graduation in May.

Dr. Curtis Proctor will once again be holding the LBSW exam preparation class which is scheduled for Saturday March 28, 2009 in Lindquist Hall Room 100 from 9:00-4:00. The cost will be $20 for non-members and free for members. Register On-Line.

March 2009 is Social Work Month! Let's all make a goal to make a difference in someone's life during March. We could do this by volunteering, taking extra initiative at practice, making the time for some self care, or by mentoring (to name a few). I hope we can all find a way to inspire and empower others!

I would like to urge all of you to plan to attend the Power Conference Friday March 6, 2009 at the WSU Metroplex. The theme this year is “Countering Violence.” A student rate of $40 is available. SOWS will be offering scholarships (please see the SOWS bulletin board on the 5th floor for more information).

Have a great spring semester. I hope to see you at the Power Conference!

---

**SWOGS — Social Work Organization of Graduate Students**

**Crystal Coles, Vice-President**

The Social Work Organization of Graduate Students (SWOGS) is excited to say that, for many of us, we have entered the last semester of graduate school!!! SWOGS will be starting the semester off by sponsoring a LMSW exam review on February 28, 2009 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you are a SWOGS member, the exam review is free. However, if you are not a SWOGS member the cost of the workshop is $20.00, which you can bring with you to the exam review. For those who are interested in the workshop, registration must be completed and submitted by 5:00 pm on February 20, 2009, so get a head start and register online today!

Also, SWOGS will begin the process for the addition of new officers in the next few weeks, so if you are currently a graduate student and have an interest in being an officer for SWOGS for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year, please contact one of the current SWOGS officers for more information.

Coming from a SWOGS member and officer, I wish all of the MSW student’s good luck in the upcoming semester and just want to say hang in there and continue to focus on the light at the end of the tunnel!!!

---

**Student Spotlight**

**Bob Funcheon**

Sunday, December 7 - Saturday, December 13, a series of articles were run in The Wichita Eagle regarding WSU social work undergraduate student, Bob Funcheon and his family’s search for meaning in the war in Iraq. In an article on Dec. 7 titled, “Excerpts from Last Week’s Blog,” there is a short description of the articles.

“On Sunday, we start "For Alex," a seven-part series about a family's search for answers about the Iraq war and whether their son, Sgt. Alex Funcheon - who was killed April 29, 2007, by a roadside bomb - died for nothing.

“The search led them to a meeting with President Bush aboard Air Force One after he dedicated a youth center in Wichita and into the life of a wounded soldier, who survived because Alex’s body had shielded him from the blast inside the Humvee.

“Roy Wenzl met the Funcheon family after he wrote about President Bush’s visit to Wichita June 15, 2007, during which Bush met with the Funcheons - Bob and Karen and their daughter, Gloria. The Funcheons said they wanted to keep their conversation with the president private and politely declined to talk to Wenzl.

“But they also thought their story might benefit other soldiers and their families by underscoring how they wanted the war to be meaningful.

“Over several months, Wenzl spoke with the family and with soldiers who had served in Iraq with Alex.

“He read diary entries of Alex’s sister, the e-mails between Alex and his family, and accompanied Bob to the cemetery for one of his graveside talks with his son.

“They shared intimate details.

“Bob talked about the pain of never getting to meet the man his son eventually became.

“Gloria talked about how her mother retreated to the bathroom every day and turned on the fan thinking no one could hear her sobbing.

“It’s a story we hope resonates with readers as the country continues to debate the war in Iraq.”

The seven-part series can be found in the archives of The Wichita Eagle. The articles are entitled:

- “The Day Alex was Killed ,” Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008
- “Alex’s Family Finds Out There Was a Survivor,” Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008
- “President Bush Agrees to Meet Alex’s Family,” Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008
- “Alex’s Family Meets Bush - President Greets them Aboard Air Force One,” Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008
- “Gloria has Questions for the President,” Friday, Dec. 12, 2008

These articles also be found in newspaper databases from the electronic resources of the library.
My Inauguration Experience

Yelando Wilcoxson

eylando.wilcoxson@wichita.edu

Being able to attend this moment in history was such a privilege and an incredible experience. What I experienced will remain with me for the rest of my life. Here I was standing in the National Mall, among people from all walks of life, to witness a piece of history, the inauguration of our country’s first African American President.

My day started at 3:30am on the morning of January 20, 2009. I arrived at the metro station at 4:25 am, doubled layer with clothes and coats. The station was already packed with masses of people covered with Obama buttons, pins, hats, and flags. Having been raised in New Orleans with large crowds on Mardi Gras Day, I thought I was well prepared for the crowds. In comparison, the crowd I was in, trying to get to the inauguration, was totally different and about ten times the size of the Mardi Gras crowds.

By the time I got to the LaFaunt Station, I was so excited, I didn’t even realize I had lost my extra pair of gloves. I started walking along with the crowd, not knowing exactly where I was headed. I felt like a child depending on an adult to lead me in the right direction. God must have heard my prayers because after 3 hours of being shuffled around and standing still until my feet felt numb, I made it to the mall.

By that time, it felt even colder (which is when I discovered I lost my extra pair of gloves). So here I am standing in a packed crowd at 8:30am, freezing, with 3 more hours to go before the inauguration activities would begin. I had never seen so many men and women with long fur coats and minks to keep them warm. I was almost tempted to ask this little old lady if she would share her coat with me because it looked like it was wrapped around her 3 times! She looked so warm and cozy. Of course I was nowhere near the Capitol steps to see center stage, but I was proud to be there and there were giant screens everywhere to capture the moment.

How do I explain what happened when President Obama came to the podium to take the oath of office? I started thinking about what it must have been like when people witnessed Martin Luther King giving his speech “I Have a Dream.” I began to realize that what I was feeling was what people would read about in history, witnessing a significant change in this country. I became so emotional, along with everyone else, I could barely hear the swearing in. But all of a sudden, the crowd became quiet and the next thing I heard was “so help me God.” At that moment, it felt like we had just experienced a change in America.

Everyone in the crowd started crying, screaming, jumping up and down, holding up their flags, and embracing each other with love. For the first time, not only was I proud to be African American, but now one word, “American.” I felt a true sense of unity among everyone. People seemed to be inspired and hopeful for the future. As long as I live, I will never forget that moment. Attending the inauguration was an amazing experience and if I could, I would do it all over again.
Community Events

Brown Bag Learning: You Bring Your Lunch; We Serve the CEU's

Presentation: The Changing Face of Aging: Changing population, changing policies and the legislative challenges ahead.
Objectives: Learn about the impact of upcoming demographic shifts; Gain knowledge of new programs and policies in the field of aging; Have an understanding of the legislative issues facing the Aging Network.
Presenter: Annette Graham, LSCSW

Wednesday, March 18, 2009
12:00 - 1:30 pm
State Office Building
(230 E William, room 3080)
Plenty of parking caddy-corner South East of the SRS building.

$10.00 at the door
(accept cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover)
Receipts given.

Pre-register by calling Angelica Salas at 337-6795.

Offering 1.5 CEU’s from the WSU School of Social Work

On Dec. 1, 2008, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services announced a freeze on access to the Home and Community-Based Services – Physical Disabilities Waiver program. This program provides in-home support services for low-income people with disabilities from age 16-64. The freeze was implemented as a cost-cutting measure, but the average cost of in-home care through the HCBS – PD Waiver program is half the cost of the alternative, which is institutional care.

Independent Living Resource Center in Wichita, along with centers for independent living throughout the state, is urging state legislators to lift the freeze and sufficiently fund the program to serve all Kansans with disabilities who qualify. Please call, write or e-mail your state legislators to urge them to support legislation to rescind the freeze on new PD Waiver participants and to adequately fund the program in the state budget. For contact information for your legislators, or to learn more, go to www.stopthefreeze.com.

If you know of a community offering that should be included in our newsletter, please contact Trisha at trisha.wenrich@wichita.edu or (316) 978-6518.
Volunteer Opportunities

Put your social work skills to work now!

Compeer mentoring, a program of the Mental Health Association, is seeking qualified volunteers to mentor children and adults in community and school based settings. Supervised group mentoring is also available at a nearby Senior Living apartment complex. Program participants include children diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances, at-risk children and those with an incarcerated parent. Compeer also provides friendship matches for adults receiving mental health services who are referred by their mental health professional.

Volunteers meet with their Compeer friend 1 hour per week. Training and on-going support provided by Compeer staff. Call Compeer today! 685-1821, ext. 326

The Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (WASAC) is in need of volunteers to be victim advocates. WASAC depends upon volunteers from the Wichita community and surrounding areas to provide support to those affected by the crime of sexual assault. Victim advocates provide support to victims of sexual assault and their significant others by responding to crisis calls and calls to the hospital for medical attention and evidence collection.

A victim advocate must be 21 years of age and able to provide their own transportation. Forty (40) hours of training is also required.

After training victim advocates are asked to take a minimum of two 12 hour shifts per month. This will include answering the crisis line and providing hospital support. All crisis calls go through an answering service, so the crisis line can be forwarded to your home.

If you are a compassionate person that wants to make a difference in our community, call the WASAC office at 263-0185 now for an application.

Employment Offerings

Excellent opportunities available in a large and progressive community mental health environment located in Wichita, Kansas. Starting salary increased at the beginning of the year. Come take a look at us!!

Adult and Children’s Case Managers

Full and Part time positions available.

COMCARE has several opportunities for new graduates to provide case management services to people who have mental illness. Several positions available in both adult and children’s services in a variety of clinical settings.

General duties include: Will engage consumers in a working relationship, assess consumer’s personal strengths, resources, desires, needs and barriers related to specific life domains of independent/family living, vocational/educational, social support, leisure/recreational and health. Assist in developing short and long term goals and work with consumer in accomplishing these goals. Collaborate with multidisciplinary treatment team to achieve goals. Teach skills related to goals in a one-to-one setting. Provide assistance in completing applications for benefits and resources. Accompany consumers to appointments as needed. Assist in admissions and discharges, including involuntary hospitalizations. Complete documentation as required and apply policies and procedures of the agency according to specifications. Participate in group supervision and other staff activities related to training and service delivery.

Job Standards for case manager positions include a Bachelor Degree in a Human Services field or two years of post-high school education and equivalent combination of training and experience required. Dependable transportation required with a valid KS driver license.

We are also recruiting for the following positions:

PhD Psychologist/Program Manager
Utilization Review and Compliance Coordinator
After Hours Managers – Sedgwick County
Offender Assessment Program
Substance Abuse Counselors

We offer a competitive salary and a full range of benefits. Visit our website at www.hrepartners.com for detailed job information for these and other COMCARE positions and to apply on-line.

Sedgwick County is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.
Employment Offerings

Case Management and Education
- Assess client emotional and psycho-social needs
- Provide individual and group therapy
- Develop and administer programs which address client needs and promote positive emotional, spiritual, physical and social health and growth
- Refer clients to appropriate agencies
- Maintain accurate client records

Preferred Qualifications
- Fundamental knowledge and skills in social work assessment and intervention
- Knowledge of Community Resources
- Sound interpersonal skills and ability to multi-task and think critically
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing
- Good organizational and planning skills
- Team player and team builder
- Ability to work with individuals from diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds
- Ability to effectively plan and facilitate group presentations.
- Self-starter and ability to implement creative ideas/programs

Required Qualifications
- Minimum level Bachelors in Social Work
- Licensed by the Kansas State Board of Social Work, prefer LMSW or LSCSW
- Two years social work experience working directly with clients
- Ability to speak both Spanish and English a plus
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to meet deadlines and complete projects with success
- Reliable transportation

Additional Responsibilities
- Represent The Treehouse at community events
- Other duties as assigned
- Grant writing specific to job

Contact Renee Croitoru
The Treehouse, A Project of Orthodox Christian Ministries, Inc.
151 N. Volutsia Street
Wichita, KS 67214
316-686-2600
www.wichitatreehouse.com

- Provides intensive services to families at risk of having their children removed.
- Liaison between family, placing agency, treatment staff, court, education personnel, & any other treatment providers.
- Facilitates planning meeting required to focus on discharge of client.

To apply: Email resume to:  ellen.bishop@st-francis.org ; tracy.hervey@st-francis.org

SFCS requires employees to be at least 21 years old and have a HS diploma or GED.

SFCS offers an excellent benefit package & competitive wages.  www.st-francis.org

Youthville has the following positions open:
- Trauma Specialist - Requires BSRB licensure at Master’s level, Wichita
- Chemical Dependency Counselor - Requires AAPS Certification, Wichita
- Outpatient Clinician, Requires BSRS licensure at Master’s level, Wichita
- Treatment Foster Care Specialist - Requires BSRS licensure at Master’s level, Colby/Hays

Applicants can go to www.youthville.org to learn more about these positions and to complete an application.

TFI Family Services has been selected by the State of Kansas to provide reintegration / foster care and adoptive services to children throughout Southeast Kansas (SRS Region 1) and Northeast and North Central Kansas (SRS Region 3). As a result, TFI will be hiring additional case managers, adoption coordinators, aftercare specialists, kinship specialists, family support workers, resource family service workers, supervisors, and managers in its offices throughout these areas.

TFI offers competitive wages, paid health/dental/life insurance, 401(k) employers matched plan, nine paid holidays, annual longevity bonus, overtime pay, flexible work schedules, agency vehicle fleet, state-of-the-art information system and more...

Please visit our website at www.the-farm.org to apply online.

TFI Family Services is an equal opportunity employer.
## Mark Your Calendar!

### Upcoming Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>MSW Licensing Exam Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>BSW Program Applications Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>POWER Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Phi Alpha Honor Society Applications Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16-22</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Brown Bag Learning - Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>BSW Licensing Exam Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>MSW Orientation (for new admissions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Brown Bag Learning - Immigration Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Social Work Career Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MSW Colloquium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phi Alpha Induction Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All School Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Brown Bag Learning - Compassionate Communications: An Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13-19</td>
<td>Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>