Tenth Anniversary Edition  November 2012

UM School of Social Work turns TEN this year!

Welcome back, students.
Veteran MSW students returned to campus this fall for another semester of integrated practice. Joining them are a new cohort of 25 students who have already accomplished great things in their first semester. Second year and part-time students are nearing their finale in the program with portfolios on the horizon and the search for new career opportunities just beginning.

The beautiful, late summer made for perfect conditions to practice self-care when not racing to make the semester’s deadlines. Whether on the water or in the tavern, Missoula has much to offer in its transition from summer to fall - so much, in fact, that the American Institute for Economic Research named Missoula as one of top twenty college destinations in the country. Our town holds rank with schools like Syracuse University, Iowa State, and Oregon State. Missoula scores high for offering creative professions, an abundance of entrepreneurship, positive academic environment and good quality of life measures. In short, we live in a great place to live, study, work, and play.

Come celebrate with us!
University of Montana Master of Social work students, alumni, faculty and supporters will gather to celebrate the tenth birthday of the program on Friday, November 30, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Burns Street Bistro, 1500 Burns Street.

The MSW program will honor its decade-long accreditation with the Counsel of Social Work Education and its reputation for developing highly skilled helping professionals who serve as clinicians, policy workers, and community-level workers throughout Montana and beyond. The program boasts 230 graduates, many of whom will be on site for a good dose of nostalgia and catch-up. The celebration will feature food by the Bistro Boys, live music, and opportunities for reflection and connection with others.

For more information about the event contact:
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We have a new website!

The School of Social Work is looking sleek with a new, streamlined website. The new site, developed by CHPBS IT Director, Ashish Regmi and IT Specialist Austin Smith is easier to navigate and so much prettier. Thank you, Ashish and Austin! We want to know about your user experience. Send your feedback to cyndi.stary@umontana.edu or to austin.smith@mso.umt.edu.

Student Updates

Amie Thurber, director for the National Coalition Building Institute Missoula, adjunct assistant professor of social work, and MSW student presented a thought provoking lecture and discussion on November 1st titled “What Can Northern Ireland Teach Us About Repairing Relationships Between Montana’s Indigenous and Settler Communities?”

Thurber spent five weeks studying in Northern Ireland, a country with a history of violent conflict and a wealth of knowledge in the area of conflict resolution. According to Thurber, though distinct in significant ways, Northern Ireland and Montana share compelling parallels. Her presentation will examine these two contexts side by side and explore new possibilities for understanding and intervening in conflict in context of the history between Montana’s indigenous and settler communities.

MSW student, Kate Hahn, BSW student Ashley Egan, and professor Catherine O’Day partnered with the Missoula County Detention Center to start Project C.A.R.E., (Crisis intervention, Assessment, Referral to resources and Education) in August, 2011. The program was a pilot project funded by a $20,000 Montana Mental Health Settlement Trust grant that helped assess the risk of inmate suicide and provided them with coping strategies during crisis. Project C.A.R.E. also worked to educate detention- center staff members in effective mental health crisis and prevention strategies. Project C.A.R.E. served more than 70 detainees through counseling and advocacy services. The project was lauded as a success in its duration, thus establishing the need for a full-time social worker at the Missoula County Detention Center.

The ASUM student group, Social Justice Action Network (SJAN) has re-grouped this semester with a new logo and slogan. Thanks to Galen Sontag for your help with the graphics. SJAN has dedicated itself as a clearing house and action-oriented group for any social justice-related causes or organizations that needs assistance. This semester, SJAN has supported Bowl for Kids Sake and Family Promise. With plans to volunteer with Project Homeless Connect as well as advocate for traumatic brain injury prevention legislation in the coming semester.

The meets every other Friday in the basement of Jeanette Rankin Hall room 19, from 12-1 p.m. Come join them for free pizza, to announce your social justice cause, or to volunteer. For more information, contact Morgen Hartford at morgen.hartford@umontana.edu.
Faculty Publications, News, and Awards

Janet Finn
Professor Janet Finn has a new book out. Mining Childhood: Growing up in Butte, 1900-1960 is a tale of the historic mining community from the perspective of the children who lived there. Published by the Montana Historical Society, Mining Childhood was the result of numerous archival and oral histories that document the joys and struggles of Butte’s youngest residents. Janet Finn writes from a place of experience, herself growing up in Butte in the 1960’s and seeing the evolution of underground mining to open pit mining of the Berkley Pit.

“Children of the Hill showcases fascinating research. The voices from the oral histories are engaging and powerful. It’s a great piece of work and a wonderful read.” - Mary Murphy, Montana State University professor of history and author of Mining Cultures: Men, Women, and Leisure in Butte, 1914–41.

Mining Childhood will be released on December 1, 2012, but is available for pre-order at any Fact and Fiction bookseller. Reserve your copy and be ready to stand in line for autographs.

Jim Caringi
Professor Jim Caringi was awarded a $3.2 million grant to create trauma-informed child welfare systems Native Communities. Caringi works collaboratively, and by invitation only, with Tribal Councils and community leaders to identify areas in need of support. In a recent interview with Montana Public Radio, Caringi noted the importance of trauma-informed systems in Indian Country.

“These kids that are traumatized act in ways that are problematic. We can understand their behavior, but it causes difficulties for them in school, and it causes difficulties for them in child welfare systems. What we’re finding is that those systems themselves are not trauma informed – through no fault of their own.”... “When we talk about that phenomenon, we find that they absolutely want to know more about it. In the schools, it certainly translated to better outcomes for the kids and I think for the school systems, too. Our hope is that it will do the same thing in child welfare systems.” Grant funding came from the Administration for Children and Families and will be evaluated by the Butler Institute for Children and Families.

Danielle Wozniak
BSW Director, Danielle Wozniak was awarded Educator of the Year by the Missoula Family Violence Council for her work in developing the Personal Empowerment Through Self Awareness (PETSA) program. The online tutorial aimed at sexual violence prevention is a requirement for all students and faculty at the University of Montana. PETSA emerged as a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing the problem of sexual violence at UM and in Missoula. Students, faculty, and staff worked together to create a series of short videos and quizzes intended to educate and inform members of the campus community about sexual violence issues. The program is one component in UM’s efforts to end sexual violence. A $300,000 grant from the Department of Justice will fund future programs on campus.
The National Native Children’s Trauma Center operated out of The University of Montana has received a $2.4 million grant to continue work with Native American youth who experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The grant is a competitive refunding of the center from the Substance Abuse and Mental Services Health Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Though the center is based out of the UM School of Education’s Institute for Educational Research and Service, it provides trainings nationwide on mental health service services that are particularly effective in rural settings and schools. The new award will expand these trainings to include Indian Health Services employees and tribal health departments.

IERS Director Rick van den pol said the grant will provide training for professionals who serve Native youth through the center’s outreach programs and through partnerships with tribes.

“We know that wherever there’s poverty, there’s elevated levels of PTSD symptoms,” van den Pol said. “But unfortunately in Indian Country there’s a real disparity in availability of services. Health care is not well supported and mental health care is also limited.”

Youth experience trauma through direct abuse, but also through the effects of high rates of suicide, substance abuse, loss of loved ones and historical trauma experienced by tribal members on reservations. Childhood symptoms of PTSD include preoccupation (experiencing the trauma over and over), numbing (trying to avoid and ignore the stress) and hyperarousal (always being on edge and ready for fight-or-flight).

Van den Pol said IERS analyzes data related to the participating children’s well-being before and after therapy, and most show reduced PTSD symptoms. Students with depression also exhibited reduced symptoms.

Marilyn Bruiguier Zimmerman is an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes and is the director of the trauma center. She believes the grant also provides a unique opportunity to directly support workers who serve children.

"Counselors, teachers and health care clinic staff can also experience PTSD like symptoms from constantly hearing the trauma histories children," Zimmerman said. "We want to help workers themselves recognize and respond to compassion fatigue that often results from working in such high stress environments."

U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., who wrote a letter in support of the center’s refunding bid, informed van den Pol of the grant.

“Supporting Native American children by getting them the resources they need to treat mental health and end the cycle of abuse will strengthen Indian Country and the rest of Montana for generations to come,” Tester said.

The center received its first funding in 2003 to work in Montana. Based on the success of that project, it received a $2.4 million SAMSHA grant in 2007 to establish the national center. Since that time it has provided services to 3,000 children and 12,500 providers at 46 locations around the country. Services primarily are provided on reservations, but also are available in urban areas with large Native populations. The center is one of five Category II trauma centers in the U.S. and the only one focused on Indian Country.
Mary Olson - Earl Walden Award Recipient

First year student Mary Olson received the Earl Walden Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rural Advocacy. The award, given by the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) recognizes the work of one individual each year for their work in the following areas:

• Directly assisting persons with disabilities living in Rural America
• Exhibiting a steadfast commitment to the improvement and growth of the Independent Living mission and philosophy;
• Demonstrating the ability to bridge gaps and/or build strong partnerships among those concerned with improving and strengthening the Independent Living movement;
• Demonstrating the commitment to improve access to Independent Living by all people eligible;
• Demonstrating a commitment to broaden their own knowledge base and improve their ability to contribute to the cause;
• Demonstrating a commitment to implement new and innovative ideas and/or projects in the Independent Living world; and
• Promoting pride and action in the rural disability community.

Job Opportunities and Upcoming Events

Catherine O’Day has been working with AHEC (Area Health Education Center) and received a grant to provide behavioral health services in rural areas, specifically in rural critical care access hospitals or clinics. We are recruiting unlicensed MSW’s interested in providing mental health services in medical settings in rural MT. We will be hiring a pre-licensed MSW and a post PhD Psychologist for both Glasgow and Deer Lodge hospitals. This is a unique opportunity to gain valuable experience working in rural MT. The position will start in July 2013, if you are interested please contact Catherine O’Day at catherine.oday@umontana.edu or call at 406-243-5755.

The Social Justice Action Network (SJAN) will host a first year/second year MSW get together and informational meeting at the North Side Kettlehouse, 313 N. 1st St. W., on Friday February 8th. Come meet your fellow students and get a sweet new SJAN t-shirt when you sign up to volunteer for a sponsored event.

Links of interest:

Grief & Loss: www.helpwithgrief.org

Geriatrics: www.agingresearch.org

Ryan Gosling Feminist Meme: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFtXG8NYz54