

INTERDEPENDENT

CSWE grants full accreditation

Vicki Root, D.Ed., MSW, Director of Messiah College Social Work Program

On January 29, 2007 I received the good news that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Commission on Accreditation granted accreditation to our program for the full four-year cycle. This was what we were waiting for! All the hard work and dedication of the faculty, students, community, and administration paid off, as this marked the first time the social work program at Messiah College was independently accredited. It was very affirming to hear from CSWE that our program and curriculum were strong, the self-study was well written, and that they were not requiring progress reports during the four years until the next accreditation review. A celebration was held on March 14 to honor and publicly thank all those who contributed to this accomplishment.

On to other news! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Community Advisory Committee, a group who met for the first time in 2002 to serve as a support to the program and provide expertise and guidance as we developed curriculum, program policy, and navigated the accreditation process. This group meets once per semester, and involves dedicated practitioners and educators who are committed to social work education and Messiah College. They have been extremely helpful and willing to give time and energy to help the program become more successful. Members of the committee have served as reviewers of various documents such as the formal admission application, student professional performance review guidelines, and assessment tools. Members met with CSWE site visitors during both site visits, and served on the admissions sub-committee to review student



Vicki Root (right), professor and director of the social work program, talks with Emily (Schini) Cotton '07 about her internship during the spring semester.

applications for formal admission. In addition, they have consulted on curriculum issues and provided input on course sequencing and content from a professional perspective.

The members of the Community Advisory Committee are:

- Katie Binder, MSW** — alumni of the Messiah College Social Work Program; Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries
- Joyce Eby, MSW** — Lutheran Homecare Services
- Peter Fidgett, MSW, HSV** — Capital Area Intermediate Unit
- Marlene Fuller, MSW** — Cumberland County Children and Youth
- Darla Henry, PhD, MSW** — Family Design Resources
- Beth Herbster, MSW** — Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

All the hard work and dedication of the faculty, students, community, and administration paid off, as this marked the first time the social work program at Messiah College was independently accredited.

"CSWE" continued on page 5

Letter from the field placement coordinator

Charles Seitz, Ph.D., M.S.W., LCSW



Charles Seitz (left), assistant professor of social work and coordinator of field placements, visits with David Hietala, director of the Harrisburg Institute.

Hello to everyone receiving this installment of the social work newsletter. Another successful year has passed for both the social work program and the field component. It is exciting to think that in the seven years I have been at Messiah we have moved from not having a field program for seniors to having a fully accredited program where

students spend their last semester in a wide variety of placement settings and working with multiple client populations. Along the way, a field placement handbook has been put together to guide students through the field component of the program, and new placement opportunities have been developed. Presently, 15 seniors are finishing up their field experiences in settings ranging from foster care to hospice, working on issues from mental health to health insurance. This year there was a new twist added to the mix as we experimented with having two students complete placements outside of the greater Harrisburg area. One student is serving within an agency setting in Philadelphia and another student is in Pittsburgh. Once the semester is completed we will evaluate the experience and determine specific criteria and policies for future students wanting to find a placement in other areas. These new opportunities for students to experience social work in other areas is exciting for the program since students already have the opportunity to spend

a semester during their third year at the Philadelphia campus and/or abroad. With the accreditation process behind us we are now able to explore new ideas and opportunities for students completing their field experiences at Messiah. We are even exploring possibilities for future students to complete their senior placement in an international setting.

As the program grows we will continue to identify additional sources in the surrounding communities where social work students can complete their field experiences. If you have any suggestions on how to continue to develop the field component or if you would like to be a field supervisor, please feel free to contact me either by phone (717) 796-1800, ext. 3240, e-mail cseitz@messiah.edu, or just stop by Boyer 366.

Peace and strength,

Charles Seitz

Field placement experiences

Matthew Shaffer '09, United Methodist Home for Children

Working with the United Methodist Home for Children has been a great but very trying experience for me. When I first started I never could have imagined how it was going to work out. My supervisor put me with a house of girls that range in age from 14 to 18, and I was pretty nervous about it. I did not know how I, a 22-year-old guy from a farm town, would be able to relate to girls who are coming from an urban setting with diverse ethnic backgrounds. After working there for an entire semester and applying the things I have learned in class, I started to feel more comfortable. I realized how important this experience really is for me and the girls. The personal growth, spiritual stretching, and educational application in the field will help me in my future career.

Although this placement has helped me in many ways, social work is not about what we as workers can gain from helping others. Social work is about how we can help change the lives of people who really just need some help. Most of the girls that are in the program come from broken families and have issues with trust and inti-

macy; helping them with these issues has become a part of my focus. If I can help them understand that not everyone is against them, and that they can have aspirations for their lives, my job will be complete.

Jamie Harvey '07, York County Children and Youth Services

The mission of York County Children and Youth Services is to ensure the safety and stability of children and their families by offering services and support while helping them create partnerships within the community. I am completing my senior practicum at this agency, and I have found that the mission is demonstrated by the county caseworkers on a daily basis. I had a negative perception of the child welfare system prior to my placement, as do most people. However, I have found that majority of the clients express their appreciation for the involvement of Children and Youth rather than the negative responses I anticipated. Through my internship I have also gained a new appreciation for the agency and recognize a new area that I would consider pursuing for future employment.

Faculty highlights



Vicki Root, full-time faculty

- Presented a workshop at the Association of Baccalaureate Program Directors National Conference in Los Angeles in October 2006
- Presented a paper at the Pennsylvania Adult and Continuing Education Research Conference at Penn State University in February 2007
- Chaired a site team for the PA Department of Education to review a proposed social work program at Valley Forge Christian College in February 2007
- Received a grant to increase the Murray library holdings related to international and global social work practice in January 2007



Charles Seitz, full-time faculty

- Presented “Using Forgiveness as a Therapeutic Tool: A Psychoeducational Group Model” at NACSW conference in October 2006
- Co-authored “Freedom in Christ Ministries: Preliminary Findings from Effectiveness Research” with Fernando Garzon, presented by Garzon at The Society for Christian Psychology Conference in October 2006
- Presented “Clinical Supervision: Responsibilities, Ethical Issues and Strategies for Quality Supervision” at NACSW conference in March 2007
- Conference coordinator and workshop presenter of Third Annual Messiah College Helping Professions Ethics Conference in April 2007
- Consultant with Harrisburg Institute YEI grant
- Board of Directors, New Hope Ministries



Timothy Soisson, adjunct professor

- Graduate of University of Texas School of Social Work MSSW program and is currently a LSW
- Employed with Community Care Behavioral Health (CCBH), a managed care organization that works with the Medical Assistance population
- Primary focus of working with clients from York and Adams Counties who have high recidivism regarding hospital-based or residential settings



Darla Henry, adjunct professor

- Co-founder and co-director of Family Design Resources, Inc.
- Assistant adjunct professor at Widener University, Harrisburg Center, MSW level
- Advisory Committee member at Shippensburg University School of Social Work and Messiah College Department of Sociology and Social Work
- Specialist for Best Practice Policy Training for PA Statewide Adoption Network
- Published peer-reviewed article, “The 3–5–7 Model: Preparing children for permanency” in 2005



Robert Hewitt, adjunct professor

- Presented “Senior Leadership Promoting Hope and Peace: The Power of One . . . +” to the Institute for Retired Persons in April 2007
- Co-presented “The Integrated Helping Assessment Model: The Eye of the Eagle” (spiritually sensitive model for practice) at Christians in Social Work Conference, March 2007
- Co-presented “Professional and Personal Ethics” for Franklin County Head Start staff workshop, February 2007

Empathizers . . . through divine strength

by Katie Binder '04



Social workers wear many hats every day — sometimes several hats at a time. On any given day, we may be teachers, advocates, counselors, collaborators, and cheerleaders. We may find ourselves driving, testifying, counseling, or helping a kid pick out glasses that look cool. But the one thing we as social workers have been uniquely crafted to be is *empathizers*. This is a gift and a calling by God to walk beside those who are carrying burdens and allow them to feel understood and assured that they are not carrying the burden alone.

The greatest challenge I have found is to resist the temptation to take this entire burden upon myself. When I am dealing with the stressors of my own life — graduate school, work, relationships, social time — taking on the stressors of another family can feel like too much weight on my shoulders. When I come to this point, I am forgetting to turn to the One who called me to this work and ministry. I have found that when I am trying to love these youth and families with my own love, my stores of emotional energy quickly deplete.

Isaiah 40:30–31 states, “*Even youths grow tired and weary; and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*” This verse reminds me that I must turn to God for the strength and peace to carry on this work to which I have been called. My love is not sufficient, but I can be a tool used by God to love others with God’s love. Even though the profession does not always allow me to open the Bible and share scripture with clients, I have faith that as God uses me to empathize with others in their struggles, they will feel God’s love and comfort through me, and seeds for Christ will be planted in their hearts.

Katie Binder, MSW, graduated from Messiah in 2004, and now is employed with Family Life Services of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Student activities

Phi Alpha

by Bethany Meekins '07

For the academic year of 2006–2007 Phi Alpha has been focused on strengthening the organization's commitment to 1) academic achievement, 2) objectivity and awareness of current developments in the field of social work, and 3) demonstrating dedication to life-long learning and professionalism in and out of the classroom. Messiah's Lambda Psi Chapter has sought to accomplish these goals through a periodic newsletter circulated among social work majors. This newsletter reports on current service activities in the surrounding community, campus efforts such as conferences and educational groups, and current developments in research within the field. The hope is that students will engage in further learning outside the academic classroom as they become aware of such opportunities in their community.

In addition to the goals laid out by the National Phi Alpha Constitution, the Lambda Psi Chapter strives to build a stronger network among students within the major of social work. An activities committee was formed for the purpose of planning activities for the students within the major. These activities serve to create a stronger relationships and cohesion among students of all concentrations and levels within the major. Such activities have included picnics, movie nights, and potluck dinners. Upcoming events include the Induction Ceremony and election of 2007–2008 officers.

Social Work Club

by Sarah Hazlett '09

This year the social work club has been very active despite its small size. During the fall semester we were a part of fair trade week, educating the campus with flyers and posters of what fair trade is and how Messiah participates. We co-sponsored an alternate chapel about fair trade products. We also sponsored an alternate chapel, showing a film about world debt cancellation. In December, most of the members participated in the World AIDS Day event on campus. Mary Clemmer, a senior, hosted a dinner/gathering at her house on campus for everyone in the major. It was a great way to meet new people in the major, and for the juniors and seniors to pass on advice to the first and second year students.

This semester the club is helping with the spring ethics conference at the end of April sponsored by the social work and psychology departments. We are also having a guest speaker from the Jubilee organization come to a meeting to talk about world debt cancellation. The club will be co-facilitating a hunger banquet held in Lottie Nelson Dining Hall. This will allow people to see the differences between the amount and variety of food eaten in third world countries compared to developed nations. Our last club event will be traveling to Washington D.C. for Displace Me, which is through the Invisible Children organization. Thousands of people will be sleeping outside in the streets to advocate for the victims of civil war in Uganda.

Alumni, we would love to hear from you!

Name _____

Grad class _____

New education _____

New job _____

New marriage _____

New baby _____

New home address, e-mail, or phone number

Please fill out this information and send it back to:

Social Work Program, Messiah College, P.O. Box 3057,
One College Avenue, Grantham, PA 17027

Or, e-mail the same information to
socialwork@messiah.edu.

Events and conferences

On April 27, 2007, the social work program, in conjunction with the psychology department and PhilHaven Behavioral Healthcare Services, held its Third Annual Ethics Conference. Titled "Spiritual Neutrality in Marital and Family Counseling: Ethical Questions when processing Spiritual Issues with Married Couples," the keynote speaker was Dr. Frederick A. DiBlasio, LCSW-C. Also included were case presentations, group interaction, a theatrical illustration, and a panel discussion. Join us next year on April 25, 2008 and receive three SW continuing education credits.

Resources for current students

You can find graduate school catalogues and recent publications from social work organizations in the resource room, located on Boyer third floor. Get information and inspiration about your future plans! Also, visit Messiah's social work homepage at www.messiah.edu/departments/socio/programs/social_work.html to find the student handbook, applicable forms (type right on them!) and other online resources.

Alumni updates

Jill (Bleakley) Duffy '96

- Case Manager at an outpatient rehabilitation facility for people who have physical and cognitive disabilities, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- LSW from Rutgers University in 2000, earned LCSW in 2003

Sarah (Burrows) Castillo '99

- Montgomery County Public Schools, counseling students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, Rockville, Maryland
- MSW from University of Maryland at Baltimore in 2000
- Married 2004

Heather Parsons '00

- Social Worker in the Hillsborough County School System, works at a Title I School (receives federal funding) in Tampa, Florida

Rebekah (Yoder) Tucker '04

- School-based therapist in two elementary schools, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Considering LISW

Sarah Heidke '05

- Caseworker at Children's Choice Specialized Foster Care and Adoption, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Lauren Bram '06

- United Cerebral Palsy, Central PA in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, Service Coordinator and Community Integration Specialist

Rochelle Spagnolo '06

- First child 2006

Rachel Shultz '06

- Planning on attending law school

Kate Beach '06

- Participating in the vocation-forming Fellows Program in Charlottesville, Virginia
- Works at Abundant Life Ministries, a faith-based non-profit community building organization, Charlottesville, Virginia

Joel McIntosh '06

- AmeriCorps*VISTA worker at Cardinal Bevilacqua Community Center, Kensington, Philadelphia
- Organizes and develops programs for community development, advocacy, and youth

"CSWE" continued from page 1

Bob Hewitt, PhD., MSW — Shippensburg University
Department of Social Work and Gerontology

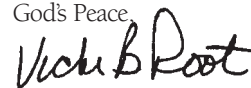
Denise Wendle, MSW — Center for Champions

We are always looking for committed people to fill these important roles. If you are interested in joining this committee, please let us know.

On another note, now that the social work program is accredited and successfully moving forward, I have decided to take the next step on my personal and professional journey. I have accepted a position as associate professor, graduate program coordinator at Salisbury University, beginning in the fall of 2007. While I am sad to leave Messiah College where I have invested a great amount of time and energy into building the social work program, I am excited to begin this new chapter and to have the opportunity to gain experience working with an MSW program and further stretch my administrative and teaching skills. I also want to thank all the alumni, students, educators, community practitioners, and others who have offered support of the program and my time as director. I look forward to hearing about the continued growth of Messiah's social work program, and see some of the grads in my MSW program at Salisbury!

I hope you enjoy the second edition of this newsletter, and do continue to keep us updated on your endeavors.

God's Peace,



Vicki Root



Brenna Blalock '08, Matthew Shaffer '08, and Elyse DeJong '09 are all part of the social work program at Messiah.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

Box 3057
One College Avenue
Grantham, PA 17027

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grantham, PA 17027
Permit No. 3

INTERDEPENDENT

news from the Messiah College
social work program

Class of 2007: Hats off to all seniors, and best wishes!

SENIOR

MARIA CAMPOY

MARY CLEMMER

EMILY COTTON

BRIANNA DAVIDSON

APRIL-DAWN DUNFORD

JAMIE HARVEY

KRISTEN HESS

EMILY HUSBAND

BETHANY MEEKINS

CARRIE NELSON

MICHAEL ORTIZ

SARAH REHNBERG

JOY SANDEL

HOLLYBETH SMITH

PLACEMENT

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg

Harrisburg School District: Foose School

Hospice of the Good Shepherd

YWCA of Carlisle

BAIR Foundation

York County Children and Youth Services

Bethany Children's Home

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg

Family Hospice and Palliative Care

Milton Hershey School

Community Legal Services

Catholic Charities, York Intensive Family Services

United Methodist Home for Children

PLANS AFTER GRADUATION

Accepted to University of Maryland School of Social Work, MSW Program, and George Mason School of Social Work

Accepted to Temple University MSW Program with advanced standing and Bryn Mawr MSW Program

Plans in formation

Accepted to University of Maryland School of Social Work, MSW Program, and Widener School of Law; Job offer at YWCA as Sexual Assault Counselor

Pursuing social work in London, England

Part-time therapist during summer; attending University of Maryland School of Social Work, MSW Program with advanced standing, pursuing International Social Services USA Branch Placement

Considering social work positions in Norfolk, Virginia

Plans in formation

Plans in formation

Attending Dominican University School of Social Work, MSW Program

Assistant Coordinator of Transitional Living at Milton Hershey School

Intern at International Church in Paris, France, to help with social work ministry abroad

Plans in formation

Pursuing social work in London, England