

INTERDEPENDENT

LETTER FROM THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT CHAIR

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Each year when I write the introduction for the social work newsletter it gives me an opportunity to reflect on the department and the commitment of constituents who contribute to educating students. Although I cannot mention and thank everyone, I want to make note of the various people who contribute to our program. First, I want to say thank you to the full time and adjunct faculty who work hard throughout the year to develop student competency. It takes a significant level of commitment and hard work to graduate competent social workers. Additionally, we have a very strong advisory board and the members continue to assist throughout the academic year in so many ways such as providing strong guidance with department decisions, helping with accepted student preview day and reviewing applications to the major. Several Social Work alumni also participate in various activities throughout the year including serving on the advisory board, participating in

an alternate chapel in the fall related to spirituality in social work, and evaluating senior presentations. Parents and other caretakers of our students support the program behind the scenes through being an encouragement and support to students and faculty. Our administrative assistant keeps the department running smoothly and she is the facilitator of the social work department's prayer shawl ministry. Finally, I would like to thank the students who are motivated to becoming professional social workers and in serving others. Many students go above and beyond what is expected in the classroom, and the work that the social work club and students in Phi Alpha do to help the department is greatly appreciated. Additionally, it is always encouraging to observe a strong faith commitment by our students. This year several students volunteered to be department chaplains; they prayed regularly for other students and sent out weekly devotions to encourage spiritual



Dr. Charles Seitz
Social Work Department
Chair

development. As you read through the rest of the newsletter, think about and pray for the large number of individuals who contribute to the education of Messiah's social work students.

Strength and peace,

- Dr. Charles Seitz

2012-2013 SOCIAL WORK PLACEMENTS

Messiah College Social Work students engaged in field experiences in excess of 9650 hours during the 2012-2013 academic year. At least 30 different agencies provided opportunities for students to engage in field placements in micro, mezzo and macro contexts. Residents of the South Central Pennsylvania region have

been greatly impacted by the efforts of our students. Messiah College social work students embody the mission and goals of the department through a commitment to evidence informed practice, service learning at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels, service to community, a respect for diversity and human rights, and the pur-

suit of social and economic justice for all people. Students have been busy and their influence has been large.

- Michelle George,
Field Coordinator



Michelle George
Field Coordinator

PHI ALPHA

Phi Alpha Honor Society consisted of sixteen members this year; seven senior members and nine junior members. For our service in the community requirement, Phi Alpha visited Bethesda Mission's Women's Shelter two times throughout the academic year. We were able to start building relationships with the women and staff at the shelter. Phi Alpha would like to continue visiting Bethesda's

Women's Shelter and build a long lasting relationship with the organization.

Phi Alpha also partnered with WorldWide Book drive this year in order to collect books on Messiah's campus. WorldWide Book drive exists to promote global literacy and reduce global book waste. Phi Alpha was able to collect 113 pounds of books for WorldWide Book Drive.

The majority of Phi Alpha's activities this year were centered on hosting Cookies and Questions events. Cookies and Questions events took place monthly throughout the academic year and averaged about ten students per meeting. Cookies and Questions is great opportunity for under classmen to ask upper classmen about placements, assignments, and classes, as well as foster relationships

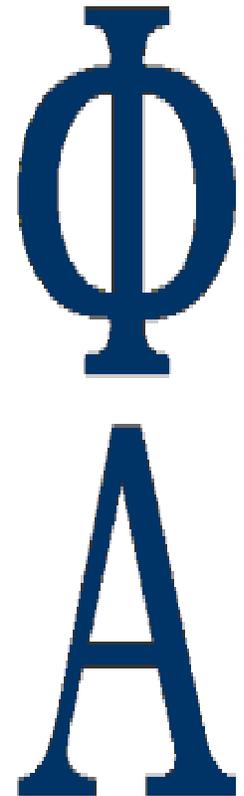


within the social work major.

Phi Alpha is excited to graduate seven members this year! We are also looking forward to welcoming eight new members from the sophomore class into Phi Alpha for the 2013-2014 academic year. Phi Alpha will continue to host Cookies and Question events and engage in service within the

local community next year.

- Rachel Reed, senior Social Work Student



Phi Alpha Graduating Seniors:	Jennifer Blackwell Rhiannon Goshow-Snook Katherine Obenschain Abigail Vander Laan	Alison French Catlin Landis Rachel Reed
Phi Alpha Inductees:	Amanda Beck Cara Lamberson Brenna Mellott	Juliann Gross Sarah Little Kathy Messner
Phi Alpha Officers:	2012-2013	2013-2014
President::	Rachel Reed	Jordan Vanasdale
Vice President:	Caitlin Landis	Kathleen Ferren
Secretary:	Kathleen Ferren	
Treasurer:	Jordan Vanasdale	
Historian:	Rhiannon Goshow-Snook	

PROJECT NIGHT NIGHT

The Social Work department began helping an organization called Project Night Night last semester. Project Night Night provides "night night" packages to about 25,000 homeless children a year. The packages consist of a stuffed animal, blanket, and an age-appropriate children's book in a canvas tote bag. They aim to provide these packages "to every homeless child in the country

who needs one." The organization was started in an attempt to help both the children (and parents) have a good night's sleep - wherever they may be. Project Night Night is located in both San Francisco and Cleveland. They accept donations of the items that fill the bags or individuals/organizations are able to order personalized Project Night Night bags to fill on their own and to drop off at a local

participating shelter.

The Social Work department began this project, but participation is not limited to only this group. We started by sending out an email campus-wide asking for donations to fill the bags that we ordered from Project Night Night. A large response



<http://projectnightnight.org/>

had been met with donations of children's books and stuffed animals. The Social Work department purchased fleece fabric in order to make no-sew blankets for each of the bags. The Social Work Club and other students who work with the Prayer Shawl Ministry spend a few nights a semester making the blankets and assembling the bags. The bags are then labeled according to age and gender

and given as donations to the Bethesda Mission shelter in Harrisburg.

It has been a lot of fun helping with this project and it will have a great impact on the children who receive these Project Night Night bags.

More information on Project Night Night can be found at projectnight-night.org.

- Brenna Mellott, junior Social Work student

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Social Work Prayer Shawl Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds! This year, we have added making "night night" bags to give to children staying at shelters. The bags include a fleece knot-tied blanket (made by us), a book and a stuffed animal. We have also started to knit or crochet premie caps for babies in the NICU at area hospitals. At our Spring 2013 Service Day, we

were an official project on campus, having 45 people join us for a day of prayer and crafting. We had people knitting, crocheting, making knot-tied blankets, decorating "night night" bags, making cards and assembling our "night night" bags, ending with a special blessing over our completed projects. Our group is open to anyone; no skills are required. We operate solely on dona-

tions (monetary or supplies) from the public. If you would like to learn more about our ministry, please contact Donna Zack at dzack@messiah.edu.



- Donna Zack, Administrative Assistant, Department of Social Work

Project Night Night bags made during Service Day 2013

THAILAND

Coming into Messiah and the Social Work program I had my heart set on going to a French speaking country as part of a study abroad program, God clearly had other plans! Somehow Christ grabbed my attention in a way, that all of my plans changed and I soon was on my way to Thailand! I approached this trip with no expectations and little knowledge of the beautiful place I was getting ready to call home. I also never had a clear idea of what international social work looked like. In no

again, because this experience is one that I never could have planned or imagined on my own, and my life will never be the same!

- Kayty Schrimp, junior Social Work Student

time at all, I found myself completely immersed in Thai society, living with a local family communicating with them in a language that I had never even heard before! It also didn't take long to realize that as a part of my internship- I myself was in the position of an international social worker, working with boys stuck in the horrible cycle of Human trafficking and exploitation.

Before going on this trip I never would have considered a future career of international

social work, or even working as a part of such a huge world crisis. However, since returning, it is the only conversation I want to have, and all I desire to do with the rest of my life. I learned countless valuable lessons that will last the rest of my life, one of them was the great reminder that "God's ways are not my ways, his thoughts are higher than my thoughts". I will never question His purposes



MY CHILE CHALLENGE

When I am asked to talk about Chile and my study abroad experience I have a hard time starting my response. I have met so many wonderful people, had a multitude of experiences and learned more than I can express in words. With that said I have one piece of advice for everyone: "wherever you are, be ALL there". It is so easy to get caught up

in work, to-do lists and future plans. What we need to realize is when we focus on tomorrow, we dwell on the "next" and miss the "now". We lose the value of the day we have been given looking forward to, or dreading, the day that we have no control over. Before I left the States I feared leaving behind the known for the unknown, and the mere

idea of 6 months in Chile was daunting. Now that I am half way through my semester I wish that I had more time. My semester is far from perfect or easy, everyday is a challenge. The cultural and language differences make simple tasks difficult, but they also teach humility. I have seen the world from multiple perspectives, learned to listen and observe, and

speak in my weakness. I have grown from my confusion and feelings of loneliness and stress and become stronger in Christ. God is the same no matter where you are in the world or in your life. He doesn't change in a different hemisphere, country, city or culture. God remains the same and he remains with you. This has been the truth that keeps me

grounded everyday. God has given me each and every moment, and it is my challenge to value and use each one to its fullest, even when I lack the vocabulary, the energy or the faith to do so. I know that I have been blessed, and I also know that God understands and loves me and my Spanglish.

- Dani Bausher, junior Social Work Student



THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE



When I started at Messiah I never thought that I would end up going to Philadelphia and falling in love with the city. Growing up in a small town with little experience in a large city I began to feel less and less prepared to have a future in social work. To begin gaining experience working with diverse groups of people I studied at the Messiah College Philadelphia Campus in the fall of 2012. I

fell in love with the city, the Temple students, and the residents of Northern Philadelphia. While I was there I had an opportunity to work with five through fifteen year olds at an after school tutoring program in the projects of North Philadelphia. I became passionate about the children living in the inner city and the kinds of issues and dangers they live with on a daily basis. I also became interested in the inner city school sys-

tem. Because of that experience, I am looking for a Senior Placement working with children through Medical Social Work or School Social Work in North Philadelphia. I had many great experiences while in Philadelphia and I have decided to attend Graduate school in Philadelphia and hopefully make Philadelphia my home after graduation.

- Kaity Zook, junior Social Work Student

ODDS TO EMPOWER

Imagining my future in another world and time gave me hope as a young girl who was faced with battling against the odds. My heart for social work was birthed out of my experiences with the foster care system. My experiences with the foster care system inspired me to want to become a social worker. All of my siblings, including myself, were placed in homes and separated from our biological family. I lived in one home

but moved to various neighborhoods such as urban cities and suburban areas throughout my childhood. Frequently moving from one place to another several times a year caused me to learn how to adapt and embrace change quickly.

The dynamics of my childhood prepared me to begin the social work program at Messiah College. I knew that the combination of service-learning and the

academic diversity of their program would give me opportunities to develop a strong skill set to advocate for others. As a social worker, I choose to use my life experiences, not as a crutch, but as an empowering tool to enhance the well-being of others.



- Lillian Smith, senior Social Work Student

Senior Class 2013

Jennifer Blackwell



Masonic Village
Hospice Department

Rebecca Carson



New Hope Ministries
Dover, PA

Madeline Engle



Messiah Village
Enhanced Living

Alison French



Harrisburg School District
Downey and Ben Franklin Schools

Rachael Frisch



Hershey Medical Center

Rhiannon

Goshow-Snook



Center for Independent
Living of Central Pennsylvania

Caitlin Landis



Bethany Christian Services'
Safe Families for Children Division

Jennifer Lee



United Methodist Home for Children
Residential Care

Kelly Martin



Philhaven
York

Sarah Mitchell



Dauphin County Children & Youth

Katherine Obenschain



Church World Services

Rachel Reed



Dauphin County Prison Treatment Department

Daniqwa Riddick



Holy Spirit Hospital

Hayley Roberts



Holy Spirit Hospital
The Birthplace

Lillian Smith



Church World Services

Connor Toews



Milton Hershey School

Abigail Vander Laan



Alder Health Services
HIV/AIDS Support Services



**MESSIAH
COLLEGE**

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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INTERDEPENDANT

NEWS FROM THE MESSIAH COLLEGE

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

WHAT SOCIAL WORKERS DO

Counsel the distressed
Empower the victim
Feed the hungry
Protect the children
Defend the vulnerable
Challenge discrimination
Defy convention
Inform the government
Shelter the homeless
Advance social justice
Make a difference
Change the world