

# Phi Alpha Honors Society

## Lambda Psi Chapter

### Unanimous Vote: Revision of Phi Alpha By-Laws

Phi Alpha has voted in the new By-Laws for the Lambda Psi Chapter. These By-Laws explicitly outline the following goals for this organization, in addition to clearly stating expectations for membership;

1. To recognize and promote scholastic achievement in an

undergraduate social work program that is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

2. To improve and further the goals and objectives of social work in the community, state, nation, and world.

3. To recognize professional social workers and others whose service, contributions, and leadership are held in

esteem.

These By-Laws will foster high standards of education and attain excellence of scholarship and distinction of achievement as students of social work.

## Social Work Service Opportunities

### ***Mt Pleasant Hispanic Center***

**WHEN:** Monday-Thursday  
3:00-6:30pm

**WHAT:** 1st-3rd grade, 4-6th grade, and an abstinence program for the teenagers. Involves helping the students with homework, playing games and dinner is provided. On Thursdays, they go to Danzante and have arts & crafts classes, tap dancing, percussion, theater, etc.

**WHY:** This is a great way to gain experience in diversity in terms of population as well as ethnicity

**CONTACT:** Agape Center's Latino and Migrant Issue Coordinator, Paula Ortiz @ [PO1152@messiah.edu](mailto:PO1152@messiah.edu) or x5298

### **Cornell Abraxas**

**WHEN:** Mondays and  
Wednesdays 4:00-7:00pm.

**WHAT:** A program for boys who have been or are in a detention center. Many of the boys are enrolled in behavioral or anger management classes as well.

**WHY:** Working with children that may be struggling with behavioral issues is a great way to challenge and enhance social work skills

**CONTACT:** Agape Center's Tutoring and Literacy Coordinator, Amanda Arbour @ [AA1196@messiah.edu](mailto:AA1196@messiah.edu) or x4083

### **New Hope Ministries**

**WHEN:** Dillsburg youth tutoring team ministers MWF from 3:00-6:00 pm. Elementary tutoring program is Thursdays from 6:30-8:00pm.

**WHAT:** Program is designed for children and youth (grades 1-12) that come from low-income families. They are "at risk" of early substance use, delinquent behavior, dropping out of school and sexual promiscuity

**WHY:** New Hope Ministries provides a wide range of experience through service.

**CONTACT:** Agape Center's Youth Clubs Coordinator, Ashley E. Cole at [AC1235@messiah.edu](mailto:AC1235@messiah.edu), or x5111

# Social Work Battles School Violence

As violence continues to pervade school systems, there is much research that needs to take place regarding violence prevention programs. School social workers have a responsibility to implement effective preventative programs as breaking cycles of violence becomes much more favorable than dealing with its effects. More than ever, evaluations are needed in an effort to bridge gaps between research and grassroots efforts (DeAnda, 1999).

*Common themes among current research point to the following:*

-School social workers must collaborate with teachers, parents, students, administrators, and staff within the school system in order to promote positive changes in school climate (for example, writing violence and weapon policies, DeAnda, 1999)

-Preventative programs need to be tailored to fit the needs of each school (Astor, et al, 2005).

## *Statistics about Violence Among Adolescents:*

-There has been a decrease in school violence and gang activity on school grounds over the last 5 years (Astor et al., 2005)

-Rates of fights on school grounds decreased from 42% in 1993 to 33% in 2001 (Astor et al., 2005)

- Adolescents ages 16-19 have the highest victimization rates in the U.S., followed by 12-15 year olds (National Crime Victimization Survey as cited in DeAnda, 1999).

-Middle school and junior high teachers are more in danger of experiencing violent victimization than teachers in elementary or senior high schools (Astor et al., 2005)

-Male teachers are more likely to be

the victims of seriously violent acts (Astor et al., 2005)

- In 1998, 35 percent of school social workers were physically threatened or attacked by a student or parent

-As of 2001, 78% of school principals said their schools had programs aimed at preventing violence within their school (Kaufman as cited in Astor et al., 2005).

## *Questions to consider:*

-How do we know when a school is considered safe? What types of standards should we set for school violence?

De Anda, D. (1999). Project peace: The evaluation of a skill-based violence prevention program for high school adolescents. *Social Work in Education, 21* (3): 137-149.

Astor, R. A., Meyer, H. A., Benbenishty, R., Marachi, R., & Rosemond, M. (2005). School safety interventions: Best practices and programs. *Children & Schools, 27* (1): 17-32.

## **Campus Events: Reality Check: Do You See What I See?**

The chapel series, Reality Check: Do you See What I See? was designed with a combination of 14 ethnic and cultural experience caucuses formatted to stimulate discussion around issues of race, ethnicity, culture, and reconciliation. It consisted of over 200 students that met on three consecutive Wednesdays (Oct 18, Oct 25, and Nov 1) during the 2006 fall semester. Though this program ran for only a short period of time, the hope is that the effort of reconciliation will be continued as part of Messiah College's response to our Christian faith.

Contact: Jeanelle Austin  
JA1192@Messiah.edu

## **Campus Events: Messiah College Republicans**

Discuss events, issues, and hear guest speakers.

*Upcoming meetings:* Every Thursday from 7-8 PM in Boyer 138.

*Contact:* Jenna VanSant

## **Messiah College Democrats**

Discuss issues and plan events.

"We strive to be a place for open discussion involving a wide range of opinions, and welcome EVERYONE, regardless of your political affiliation, to come be part of it (Sept. 6, 2006 from MC Square Personal Announcement Archives.)"

*Upcoming meetings:* Every Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8:30 PM in Boyer 234

*Contact:* Amanda Arbor