



# UMSL SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Spring 2016

NEWS FROM BELLERIVE HALL

IN THIS ISSUE

## FOCUS ON: Collaboration

Welcome to the Spring 2016 edition of the newsletter for the UMSL School of Social Work: Focus On Collaboration.

Social work is inherently collaborative by virtue of its mission to facilitate the welfare of communities and the individuals living within them, but that collaborative spirit is sometimes overlooked as we insulate ourselves within our own work. For this reason, we decided to highlight just a few of the many ways the University of Missouri’s School of Social Work is reaching out to our colleagues in other disciplines, other universities, in agencies across the St. Louis region and the state of Missouri.

The School of Social Work has been awarded two training grants in conjunction with other universities. The SBIRT training grant was awarded to UMSL and Saint Louis University; The BHWET training grant was

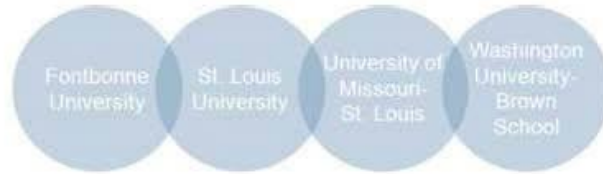
awarded to UMSL and MU. In addition to these training grants, the School engages in collaborative teaching across and between UM campuses. The School is taking part in a UM initiative to share courses across the entire UM system. The School maintains a presence in south central Missouri by offering both its BSW and MSW degrees at Mineral Area College through the Off-Campus Degree Completion Program.

Our field education program is entering its 16<sup>th</sup> year of collaboration with area Social Work programs to educate field instructors in agencies throughout the region. The School continues to make an impact with community partners in agencies all over the area. ✨

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# The St. Louis Field Education Collaborative Celebrates 15 Years

St. Louis Social Work  
Field Education  
Collaborative



When the UM system approved the Master of Social Work degree at UMSL in 2000, the system provided \$40,000 to promote collaboration among the existing social work programs in St. Louis. At that time, this included Washington University and St. Louis University. The deans and directors of these three programs together decided to put that collaboration seed money toward field education and the St. Louis Field Education Collaborative was born.

[READ MORE...](#)

## Collaborative Grants

### SBIRT: Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment

Joe Pickard, PhD, LCSW, associate professor of Social Work, recently received an \$880,000 grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA). Social Work Professor Sharon Johnson is collaborating on the project, as are faculty at St. Louis University. The grant was established to train social work students and faculty in the relatively new screening tool referred to as Screening, Brief Interview, and Referral to Treatment, or SBIRT for short. SBIRT was developed to provide early identification of and intervention to individuals at risk of dangerous alcohol and drug use; many of these individuals would not be assessed as having a full-blown substance disorder but could benefit from intervention nonetheless.

[READ MORE...](#)

**SBIRT consists of 3 components:**

**Screening** involves the assessment for risk of substance abuse using standardized screening tools.

**Brief Intervention** engages a client in a collaborative conversation whereby provider gives feedback and advice.

**Referral to Treatment** links a client deemed in need of additional treatment to appropriate resources.

# Collaborative Grants



## BHWET: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program

The Behavioral Health Workforce Enhancement Training (BHWET) program is a collaborative effort between the Schools of Social Work at UMSL and Mizzou to train master's level social workers across the State of Missouri to work in identified integrated settings with children, adolescents, and emerging adults as the targeted populations. Students who are trainees in the program receive specialized coursework in integrated behavioral health and have field placements in primary care and behavioral health settings where the integrated approach is being implemented.

The collaborative reach of the programs means that the social workers will be trained in both urban and rural areas throughout Missouri. The program facilitates shared learning opportunities through the University System's shared courses initiative. A course in Integrated Health Policy is taught on the UMSL campus and is available online for students who attend Mizzou. Integrated Health Practice is taught on the Mizzou campus and offered to UMSL students online.

Both sites are also working collaboratively with community agencies to strengthen agencies' infrastructure to provide integrated health care. UMSL also has an ongoing collaborative relationship with St. Louis Regional System of Care, an agency that is working to expand behavioral health services for children ages 0-21 in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. This partnership supported a recent training event on the integrated health model tailored for MSW field instructors. Speakers for the event included Dr. Heidi Miller of Family Care Health Centers; Chardial Samuels of The Spot at Jennings High School; and Dawn Prentice of St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute.

The BHWET program is funded through a 3-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. UMSL faculty associated with the grant includes Dr. Sharon Johnson, Dr. ShaLai Williams, Dr. Joe Pickard, Dr. Baorong Guo, and Professor Patti Rosenthal. Professor Riisa Easley, Project Director for St. Louis Regional Systems of Care, serves as adjunct instructor.



**Integrated Behavioral Health** is defined by the US Department of Health & Human Services as:

- *The care a patient experiences as a result of a team of primary care and behavioral health clinicians, working together with patients and families;*
- *This care may address mental health and substance abuse conditions, health behaviors (including their contribution to chronic medical illnesses), life stressors and crises, stress-related physical symptoms, and ineffective patterns of health care utilization.*

## Collaborative Teaching

### UM System Course Sharing Initiative

The University of Missouri System recently implemented an Intercampus Course Sharing initiative to encourage the sharing of courses amongst the four UM System campuses. The idea in setting up the initiative was to give students at all campuses more options for courses, provide support for faculty who may be on leave, and increase course offerings within academic units.

Shirley Porterfield, associate professor of social work, taught a course in Health Care Policy as a shared course this past fall. 32 students were enrolled in the class, about half coming from UMSL and half from MU. A professor at MU taught the affiliated practice course as a shared course between the two campuses, as

well. Students from the different campuses were able to interact in different ways through the online course. According to Professor Porterfield, one particularly successful aspect of the shared course was the ability of students to ask and respond to questions from classmates, often with real-world examples of the material being presented. Porterfield said the broader student demographic gave more urban students an understanding of more rural issues in social work and vice versa and led to a richer understanding of diverse perspectives and experiences.

Porterfield is teaching the shared course again in the Fall semester of 2016. ✨



Shirley Porterfield,  
Associate Professor of  
Social Work

### Student Advocacy Day in Jefferson City



Nearly 80 MSW and BSW students and their professors traveled to Jefferson City on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> to participate in Empower Missouri's annual Student Advocacy Day. UMSL students were able to put their advocacy and policy skills to practice. Students watched Senate and House floor debate, observed committee hearings, and met with legislators on a variety of social welfare issues.

## Good News | Student Recognition

### Distinguished Student Award

MSW Student **Anna Boston** (pictured right getting the award from Christina Troisi) was selected for the 2016 *Social Work Leaders in Health Care of Metro St. Louis – Distinguished Student Award*. This competition is among Master of Social Work students, either full time or part time, who have a health related focus and are from one of the three MSW programs in St Louis. The Distinguished Student Award consists of a check for \$500 to be used at the student’s discretion, a recognition certificate, and a one year membership in the SWLHC.



*Anna Boston receiving the Distinguished Student Award*

### Students Awarded TEGNA Foundation Grant

As part of their course in Human Service Organizations, **Amy McKinney, Janelle Miller, and Kelly Ragan** applied for and were awarded a grant in the amount of \$3450 from the TEGNA Foundation to renovate apartments for the Center for Women in Transition.

### Wednesday Club Scholarship

In March, BSW student **Crystal Johnson** was awarded the St. Louis Wednesday Club scholarship in the amount of \$1400. Crystal describes the experience in her own words:



*Crystal Johnson*

*Wednesday, March 2 was an amazing afternoon dining in Ladue, MO with the women of the Wednesday Club of St. Louis. The club was founded in 1890 as a means for women to continue their intellectual growth through education, science, literature, arts, and philanthropy.*

*I was invited to attend as their guest of honor and recipient of the Wednesday Scholarship. The club members were very welcoming, celebratory, and inspiring as they cheered me on in my future success. I was afforded an opportunity to speak before the group and expressed my gratitude by vowing to 'pay it forward' in my service.*

### Dealing with the “Open Secret” of Campus Racism

BSW Alum and current MSW student **Robert Elam** co-authored an article that appeared in Time’s Online Money Magazine about how to deal with racism on college campuses. Click headline to read the entire article.



*Robert Elam*

## Good News | Student Recognition

### UMSL Graduate Research Fair

**Anna Hall** presented her research project, "A Systematic Review of Effective Interventions for reducing PTSD Symptoms in Refugees," at the UMSL Graduate Research Fair. Her presentation was awarded second place in the Social Science and Business category.



*Anna Hall with her presentation*



*From left to right: Rachel Hanks, Kathryn Deeken, and Celia McManus. (Not pictured: Matthew Fanning, Crystal Johnson, Kelley Moulton, and Marcus Woodson.)*

### Who's Who Among Students

Seven students from the School of Social Work were recognized at UMSL's annual banquet honoring students for inclusion in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*, an honor organization that dates back to 1934. Students are honored based on leadership, academic abilities, and community service. Honorees from the School of Social Work were Kathryn Deeken, Matthew Fanning, Rachel Hanks, Crystal Johnson, Celia McManus, Kelley Moulton, and Marcus Woodson.

### Empower Missouri

BSW student **Patty Berger** works as the Director of Advocacy for *Let's Start*, an organization that helps women coming out of prison.

She worked with Empower Missouri this legislative session to get Executive Order 16-04 passed, which Governor Nixon signed into law on April 11<sup>th</sup>. This establishes the Fair Chance Hiring for state employment, which eliminates the question on state employment applications asking whether or not someone has a felony on their record. This is important for people coming out of prison because finding gainful employment is one major obstacle to their success.



*Patty Berger, second from the left, in Jefferson City with Gov. Nixon*

## Good News | Alumni Recognition

### North County Back Pack Program

The Samaritan Lodge #424 presented a check to the North County School "Back Pack" program for \$3000 as part of the Masonic Home, Creating a Partnership. From left, Dan Ward, lodge secretary, Nicole Sprinkles, School Based Social Worker and Caring Communities Program director, **Crystal Ford**, School Based Social Worker and Ryan Hawkins who coordinated the lodge fundraising event. Crystal received her BSW from UMSL in August 2015 and is already out there doing great things!



Crystal Ford, BSW 2015 (second from right)

**Angelita Pritchett** (BSW 2011, MSW 2013) co-authored an article in the October-December edition of the *Journal of Nursing Care Quarterly* entitled "Better Care, Better Quality: Reducing Avoidable Hospitalizations of Nursing Home Residents."

Ms. Pritchett is currently serving as a licensed social worker at NHC Healthcare in Desloge, Missouri. Ms. Pritchett writes, "One of my goals is to make it the industry standard that degreed social workers are in skilled nursing facilities. Right now, not many skilled facilities have degreed social workers. Many facilities have Social Service Designees, who are people that take a one week online course. No previous degrees are needed for this certification, not even a high school diploma. In skilled facilities, the social worker or designee are required to assist short term patients with home health services, connect them with local agencies, provide one on one therapeutic counseling for those suffering from depression or mental illness, run support groups, perform cognitive assessments, be there for the family during their crisis, provide end of life counseling for both patients and families, and develop treatment plans, to just name a few."



Robin Kimberlin, MSW 2012

### UMSL Student Social Services

**Robin Kimberlin**, MSW 2012, continues to be at the forefront in providing social services on a university campus. Robin began UMSL's Office of Student Social Services within the Division of Student Affairs. Over the past two years, Robin has been tirelessly working on all sorts of social service needs for UMSL students, but over the past two years, she has paid particular attention to the issue of homelessness and hunger among our student body. Robin has established a paid practicum for MSW students with the Veteran's Center. She, in conjunction with Residential Life, will oversee a BSW practicum student at UMSL's Mansion Hill student apartments to address issues with students there. Robins' office is also working with Sodexo, the campus food service provider, to establish a Snack Pack program to distribute food to students struggling with hunger issues. During UMSL's Mirth Week (April 27-May 2), Sodexo is soliciting customers to "Add a Dollar" in their Triton Hunger Relief campaign to create funds for a supplemental meal plan for students who need assistance.

## Good News | School of Social Work



Shanta Kyles

**Shanta Kyles**, BSW Academic Advisor, was named UMSL's Employee of the Month for the month of January 2016. She was chosen for the 'Works Well Under Pressure' award.

The award comes at a fitting time since Kyles just celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary working at UM-St. Louis.

**Tivoli Majors** has joined the School of Social Work as the Office Supervisor. Tivoli will be supporting the School as its fiscal officer and HR liaison as well as maintaining the School's web and social media sites.



Tivoli Majors

### We Want to Hear from You

There are several ways to keep up-to-date on what is happening in the School of Social Work.

Our Website: <http://www.umsl.edu/~socialwk/>

On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UMSLSocialWork](http://www.facebook.com/UMSLSocialWork)

Now that you know how to keep up with us, **we want to hear from our alumni and friends!** If you have news to share, please contact Tivoli Majors at [majorst@umsl.edu](mailto:majorst@umsl.edu).

### DONATE to the School of Social Work

If you would like to help the School of Social Work continue to provide quality education to our students, you can find information about donating online at our website or at <http://www.umsl.edu/~socialwk/Donate/>. No amount is too small and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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