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Alumni Spotlights

Leah Krausa serves as Peace Corp Volunteer

Leah Krause, MSW ’18, MU SSW graduate, is currently serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia. Leah and her Zambian counterparts have initiated a new project, titled “Kashima Safe Motherhood Maternal Shelter.”

This project aims to construct a new building for Zambian women to safely give birth and recuperate post-birth. This space is vital as their current maternity clinic cannot meet the needs of their entire catchment area; therefore many home births are happening each month, which often put the mother and child at risk. Leah is working very closely with the clinic and community members to get this maternal shelter built. They are asking for monetary donations to support the building of this new space. Click here for the donation link and detailed information about the project.

Chelsea Hoyer found success through Mizzou Online

Hoyer had a passion for working in the mental health field, and The University of Missouri’s online master of social work program allowed her to expand her role at the local hospital. With no campus visits required, Chelsea was able to graduate after welcoming her first child. Now, Chelsea has the credentials to further improve the lives of residents and patients in her community. Please enjoy this wonderful video that Mizzou Online created featuring Chelsea Hoyer, MSW ’19.
Bryanna “Bree” Hea, MSW ‘19, is serving as the Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator for the Illinois Association for Behavioral Health

In this role, Bree provides technical assistance for Association members, community-based provider agencies, and individuals. She is responsible for coordinating various behavioral health trainings throughout the state and acts as the local point of contact for the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) in Madison, WI. Bree’s area of focus is youth and adult mental health and wellness; she will serve as the primary trainer in this area for the Association. She is a certified instructor for both teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) and Youth Mental Health First Aid. Prior to joining IABH, Bree worked as a prevention specialist, facilitating substance use prevention education programming in Sangamon and Menard county schools. Bree holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Missouri. She recently completed a clinical internship at Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center. During her undergraduate social work education at the University of Illinois Springfield, Bree interned with the Illinois Innocence Project, wrote for the university newspaper, and worked as an internal performance auditor for a foster care agency.

Events

VA Mental Health Summit

In September, SSW Director Dale Fitch moderated a panel of veterans during the VA Mental Health Summit, co-hosted by the University and the Truman VA Medical Center. Their session focused on the challenges and strategies in adjusting to civilian life for veterans returning to college.

SSW Annual Fall Conference

Dr. Melissa Bird was the featured speaker for our Fall Conference. She provided an energetic, challenging, and supportive workshop that focused on helping social workers develop their message to engage in graceful revolution in their work and community. In the afternoon she focused on ethical issues related to reproductive health and reproductive justice.

Dr. Bird’s goal is to awaken trailblazers, revolutionaries, and powerful innovators in the quest for justice. She says, “It is time to rebel against the established belief that we must stay silent when we feel deeply about issues that affect us...I believe in a new brand of advocacy where we humble ourselves to our shortcomings and engage in acts of graceful revolution that bring light to the true reality of people’s lives. I believe that if we engage people in their own spaces, teach them to look at injustices as moments that touch all of us, if we give people the knowledge of the power structure, and the tools to infiltrate its membrane, then change will take place in America. This is the Graceful Revolution.” You can read more about and connect with Dr. Bird here.
Self-Care and Resiliency Week

The School of Social Work kicked off its annual Self-Care and Resiliency Week on September 16th. Events during the week included construction of an all-school collage, yoga, mindful coloring, game night, essential oils, pet night, and a joy-spotting social media campaign. Over 80 students, both online and in seat, participated in the critical skills of self-care and resilience building. There will be events throughout the semester, facilitated by Professors Bailey, Preble, Cary, and Easter. The faculty are committed to making sure students graduate the professional program with a plan for self-care, as social workers are disproportionately affected by mental health problems and career burn out. Read more about self care at the MU SSW here.

Integrated Behavioral Health Clinic (IBHC) celebrates 5-year anniversary

On September 24th, the IBHC celebrated its 5-year anniversary by holding a mindfulness movement and yoga event at the Logboat Brewing Company. All had a wonderful time with fun, food, and friends. IBHC is a student-facilitated integrative behavioral health clinic. The mission of IBHC is to address disparities in the availability of comprehensive, integrative behavioral health care for adults who are uninsured or unable to afford low cost, high quality care. Read more about IBHC here.
SSW Annual Poverty Simulation

This year, the simulation was facilitated by Professors Christine Woods and Tammy Freelin and organized by Lindsay Hickman.

(Above) Professor Yoon, aka Big Dave, always looking to make a deal.

(Above) Professor Woods leading a discussion after the simulation.

(Above) A family trying to figure out how to manage bills with limited resources.

(Above) Not what this family had planned...

Professor Snively helping families manage the complexities of EBT cards.

Professor Peters and his Quick Cash payday loans apparently did not offer favorable terms for this borrower.
Featured Student

Sara Grahn-Nilsson is the HES SSW Ambassador for the ’19-’20 academic year. In addition to her duties with Summer Welcome, Sara was also busy leading a team of high school students in Mizzou’s first ever Financial Planning Academy. This week-long program, developed by Texas Tech University and funded by the Charles Schwab Foundation, was designed to expose high school students to the financial planning profession while also giving them a glimpse of what college life is like. All week long, the students worked in teams of five to analyze a client’s financial situation, assess the client’s goals, and ultimately create a financial plan that fits the client’s needs and lifestyle. As a team advisor, Sara helped to promote teamwork and provided guidance to the students as they created a financial plan and web app to be presented to a panel of judges. Better yet - Sara’s team won! Congratulations, Sara!

Finally, On August 12 and 13, three Mizzou students attended the Advisor Thought Leader Summit hosted by Impact Communications and Red Zone Marketing at Rockhurst University in Kansas City. Thanks to the generous financial support provided by Abacus Wealth Partners, Cody Blevins, Noah Brinkman, and Sara Grahn-Nilsson had the opportunity to sit in on this valuable, experiential workshop designed for up and coming professionals. The students were able to meet with many CEOs in the industry while they gained valuable networking skills, and learned how to stand out from the crowd when applying for positions as they seek to advance their careers.

Criminal Justice Minor

The Criminology/Criminal and Juvenile Justice minor celebrates 1 year! The minor was developed by faculty at the Center for Criminal and Juvenile Justice Priorities (CCJJP). In spring 2019, the SSW graduated its first students with the criminal and juvenile justice minor. Currently, over 50 students are enrolled in the minor.

The minor is available for all students, regardless of their major, and a minimum of 18 hours is required. You can read here for a full list of courses and requirements.

Courses aim to have students develop an understanding of the criminal and juvenile justice system and criminal behaviors through a social justice lens. This lens allows students to recognize the impact of the justice system on vulnerable and marginalized populations and offers a critical reflection of the ways in which evidence-based intervention and sensible social policy can reduce criminal justice involvement.
SSW Faculty Across the World

Several SSW faculty traveled the globe for work during summer 2019!

Ireland: Suzanne Cary
Suzanne oversaw a group of students who were participating in the service learning program. Where they worked 40 hours a week with people who have intellectual disabilities. While there, they also attended Pride Fest in Dublin.

Greece: Mansoo Yu
Mansoo went to Greece with his study abroad students where they learned about public health and social services.

Rome, Italy: Kelli Canada
Kelli presented at the International Academy of Law & Mental Health conference on justice-involved veterans.

Taiwan: Hsun-Ta Hsu
Hsun-Ta visited National Taiwan University School of Social Work to discuss a project on homelessness.

Glenside, Pennsylvania: Ashley Givens
Ashley visited Arcadia University to learn more about the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. She is now trained in Inside-Out, which is a model of teaching students who are incarcerated alongside students who are traditional, on-campus students.

Montreal, Canada: Kelli Canada
Kelli presented at the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services on the experiences of formerly incarcerated adults using mental and physical health services.

Basel, Switzerland: Aaron Thompson
Aaron presented this summer at the International School Psychology Association on specifying mediators of classroom social-behavioral interventions.

Aspen, Colorado: Kelli Canada
Kelli went to the Aspen Ideas Festival and met Dr. Ruth.
Congratulations

Margee Stout Receives Lee Henson Award

Congratulations to the School of Social Work's Margee Stout, Executive Assistant, on receiving the 2019 Lee Henson Award. The Lee Henson Award was created in honor of Mizzou's former ADA Coordinator, Lee Henson, who died in 2014 after 20 years of service to the university.

Margee has always been proactive and mindful of issues impacting people with disabilities. Last year, she went above and beyond to make sure there's a universal design restroom in Clark Hall.

Professor Kelli Canada and the IBHC receive the 2019 MU Faculty Engagement Award

Professor Canada's work at the IBHC is making a profound impact on the lives of mid-Missourians. The IBHC stands as testament to the School of Social Work and the University of Missouri fulfilling their land grant mission. Congratulations, Professor Canada and the faculty and students at the IBHC!

Professor Ginny Rameyer Winter's research on 3D body image scanning was the featured article in the June issue of Futurity, which features the latest discoveries by scientists at top research universities in the US, UK, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Congratulations, Ginny! In addition, along with her HES colleague, Antoinette Landor, Professor Ramseyer Winter’s research was featured in Psychology Today, “Why You Need to Talk About Sex With Your Partner,” where they discuss that young women are especially vulnerable when they enter into their first long-term committed relationship. You can read more about their research here.

Adjunct Professor, Dan Hanneken, receives HES Alumni Citation of Merit Award

Dan Hanneken, BSW '06, MSW ’08, received the award for demonstrating career excellence in the field of social work. Hanneken helped found and is the director for the non-profit In2Action in Columbia, MO. The organization provides transitional support and recovery services to people recently released from prison. Adding to the organizations services, The Recovery Support and Reentry Opportunity Center (RSROC) opened in October 2019 and will serve as a one-stop-shop for people being released from jail or prison into Boone County.
Recent Grants, Publications & Presentations

School of Social Work faculty spend time in the field and in the research stacks, with each practice informing the other. Here are some of the faculty’s most recent grant awards and publications.

Grants

**Erin Robinson**
Customized Health Alerts and Consumer-Centered Interfaces for ADRD Patients and Family
Co-Investigator. 9/1/19-8/31/20, $627,779
NIH Admin Supplement

**Hsun-Ta Hsu**
Supplementing a Mobile Application in an Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Intervention for African American Youth Experiencing Homelessness: A Formative Project
7/1/19-6/30/20, $3,000
HES Mangel

**Virginia Ramseyer Winter**
Sex Ed VR: Development of a Virtual Reality Sex and Body Image Education Program for SHAPE
Co-Investigator. 6/1/19-5/31/20, $22,335
MU Information Technology Committee – Interdisciplinary Innovations Fund

Publications & Presentations


**Kathleen Murray Preble** (2019) — “It’s like being an electrician, you’re gonna get shocked”: Differences in the perceived risks of Internet-facilitated and street-based sex work and its impact on exiting. *Victims & Offenders.*


For full citations and further information, see the Recent Publications page of the MU School of Social Work website.