Matthew Charles, released under First Step Act, Discusses Life Before, During and After Prison

National figure, Matthew Charles, was one of the first individuals released from prison under the First Step Act, programming designed to ensure people are prepared to come home from prison job-ready and have major incentives to pursue the life-changing classes that will help them succeed once released. At this event, Charles was joined by a panel of faculty and people working within the community to discuss incarceration, criminal justice policy, and reform. MU was one of Charles’ stops in his advocacy work with Families Against Mandatory Minimums where he travels the country to share his story. Read more about Charles in this article by the Washington Post.

The event was organized by Professors Kelli Canada & Clark Peters, and sponsored by MU School of Social Work, the Center for Criminal and Juvenile Justice Priorities and Americans for Prosperity-Missouri.
Professor Preble Speaks on Human Trafficking

Professor Kathleen Preble was a featured speaker at the UM System Research Summit in Kansas City where she presented her research on human trafficking. Professor Preble also presented at a workshop sponsored by the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center where she explored the topic of Institutions of Higher Education & Human Trafficking: Response and Preparedness for Faculty and Staff. Most people associate trafficking with the sex trade and involving foreign-born women; however trafficking is known to impact students enrolled and enrolling in higher education. The presentation sought to begin a conversation about the intersection of higher education and human trafficking: what we should know, what we should be thinking about, and how we might begin a comprehensive response on our campuses. Click here to listen to part of the presentation.

The Plug Kickoff Event

The College of Human Environmental Sciences hosted The Plug event in November 2019 in Gwynn Lounge. The Plug is a mixer and networking event to foster relationships and inclusivity for underrepresented students and HES Faculty/Staff. The event was coordinated by Professor Christine Woods, Inclusivity and Diversity Fellow in the College of Human Environmental Sciences.

Professor Ramseyer Winter Speaks on Healthy Eating and Body Image

Ramseyer Winter joined a panel of professionals for an event titled, “In the Pursuit of Health: When ‘Healthy Eating’ & Exercise Cross An Eating Disorder Line”. Also on the panel (pictured left) was an Eating Disorder Dietician, Therapist, Nurse, Educator, and eating disorder survivor from Alsana, an eating disorder recovery center. This event was sponsored by the Center for Body Image Research & Policy and Alsana.

Self-Care Spirit Week

In an ongoing effort to promote self-care and resiliency, the School hosted a self-care spirit week this November. Just for fun, students and faculty wore silly hats, pajamas, mustaches, wacky socks and participated in a trivia night! SSW 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 SSW here.
BSW Field Breakfast

A special time to honor the Field Instructors who have so generously given their time and energies to support our students during their semester practicum. It is also a time to honor our December BSW graduates.

True North Field Instructors and students.

Students Ronnie Rice, Samantha Lovett, with Field Instructor Melissa Stone Rogers, from Boys and Girls Club.

Students listen to a welcome presentation from Professor Woods.

Student Jessica Livingston and staff from Common Ground.

BSW cohort with faculty and field instructors.
Commencement

Congratulations to our December 2019 Bachelor of Social Work Graduates!!

(Pictured left to right) Commencement speaker Mike Alden, Provost Latha Ramchand and Dean Sandy Rikoon.

Faculty Spotlights

Dr. Kelli Canada
Associate Professor & Associate Director of Research

Canada provided expert remarks to the Commission on Civil Rights about people with mental illness in the criminal justice system. She was the only social scientist invited to testify.

Read more here.

Dr. Anne M. Dannerbeck Janku
Associate Research Professor

Janku was recently featured on a podcast by the National Drug Court Resource Center (NDCRC), entitled Color in the Court: Exploring Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Treatment Courts - Part One.

Click here to listen to the Podcast.
Congratulations

Professor Sarah Tlapek Awarded Connecting with Missouri (CWM) Grant

Professor Sarah Tlapek, was awarded a Connecting with Missouri (CWM) grant for her project, “A Participatory Community Engagement Project with 4-H Youth” that runs from January 1, 2020 through December 2020. The Connecting with Missouri project explores a method for the University to engage with youth, promote knowledge exchange, and collaborate on creative solutions to address concerns prioritized by community members. Youth from 4-H clubs across the Southeast region will be encouraged to engage with their communities in collaborative projects that promote social change around issues related to Health (one of the four H’s) via participation in a Regional Energizer event in the Southeast region.

After identifying at least one health or mental health-related issue of concern in their community, youth participants will learn participatory research tools for community assessment to inform their proposed social change projects and will develop measurement strategies for evaluating impact. As follow-up to the regional event, project teams and clubs will be able to apply for mini-grants to support community projects implemented in collaboration with community partners.

Professors Canada & Easter Receive Richard Wallace Faculty Incentive Grant

The grant from the Mizzou Alumni Association will fund the project, “Integrative Behavioral Health Clinic: Tele-mental health services to increase access to care.” Kelli Canada, along with co-Investigator, Danielle Easter, and two current IBHC clinicians, Whitney Baldridge (2nd year, in-person MSW) and Leah Diorio (online MSW student), will begin the project in Spring 2020.

Professor Kathleen Preble selected as a Treva Kintner HES Research Scholar

The College of Human Environmental Sciences recently named the second group of HES Faculty Scholars. Preble was selected for her demonstration of research excellence and plans for research productivity. For the next two years, she will carry the title and receive additional resources to support her work in the area of human trafficking.

Happy Holidays from your friends at the MU SSW