Social Work Advocacy Day at Missouri’s Capitol

Social Work Advocacy Day 2019 was a huge success! Approximately 90 students represented the School of Social Work in Jefferson City on April 3rd for the annual event sponsored by Empower Missouri, an organization that advocates for the well-being of all Missourians through civic leadership, education and research.

At the Capitol, students engaged with their representatives on a number of issues including bills related to TANF, expanding birth control access, sexual assault, domestic violence, HIV, criminal justice, guns on campus, and more. Students also observed the policy making process in vivo by sitting in on committee hearings and attending a legislative session.
Serving Local Veterans

The Mizzou Council of Student Social Workers (which included School of Social Work Bachelor and Masters students, Alumni and friends) partnered with MU Dietetics Program this spring to serve meals to veterans at Welcome Home in Columbia, MO. Welcome Home is a non-profit organization in Columbia, MO that works to honor veterans and restore lives. They provide transitional and emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, employment assistance, and supportive services to at-risk and homeless veterans.

Undergraduate Students Team-Up at Venture Out

This spring, the entire Bachelor of Social Work cohort participated in activities at Venture Out as part of their Theory and Practice of Social Work Group coursework. Venture Out specializes in group team building by utilizing high ropes and on-the-ground challenge courses. While on the courses, our students engaged with one another in team building activities, and integrated key course concepts including experiential learning and challenge by choice. This yearly activity, led by Professor Rachel Bailey, is an essential learning tool that provides real world application of critical group theory concepts.

Spotlight

Professor Mansoo Yu was the co-recipient of the MU Human Environmental Sciences Department Distinguished Research Award and Dan Hanneken (BSW ’06, MSW ’09) received the Citation of Merit! Congratulations!!!
The Nurturing Program

In March of 2018, Professor Rachel Bailey was awarded the Service-Learning Course Redesign Grant by the Office of the Dean for Research and Graduate Studies for the Social Work Course: Theory and Practice of Social Work Groups. With this grant, Bailey developed the Nurturing Program, a free 5-week learning lab where parents learn more about nurturing, empathy, self-care and building personal power.

This spring semester, Professor Bailey and Bachelor of Social Work students partnered with Boys and Girls Club of Missouri to implement the program and share evidence-based parenting skills with community parents and caregivers. Students were grouped with parents and given the invaluable opportunity to put the theoretical concepts they’d learned in the classroom into action. Students also engaged in screening and selection protocol, development of group goals and activities, processing questions, and formative evaluation of their own efficacy. A total of 16 parents and caregivers were reached through the group, with 12 completing.

Faculty Accomplishments

Center on Criminal and Juvenile Justice Priorities

Dr. Kelli Canda & Dr. Clark Peters recently co-founded the Center on Criminal and Juvenile Justice Priorities on the MU Campus. The Center, which aims to reform criminal justice and violence prevention, will bring together a diverse group of researchers, community stakeholders and students dedicated to criminal justice policy.

Through interdisciplinary research efforts, the center hopes to tackle issues such as violence prevention, mental health, substance use and juvenile justice. Currently, the Center’s work includes the Boone County Violence Prevention Project, a research effort to enhance knowledge and skills about the impacts of trauma exposure on young people in elementary school facing disciplinary action. This project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Read more at:
http://ssw.missouri.edu/MU_CCJJustice.html

Positive Benefits to Eating Meals as a Family

Dr. Virginia Ramseyer Winter, Assistant Professor and Director of the MU Center for Body Image Research and Policy, gained national attention this spring for her research surrounding body image. She analyzed data from more than 12,000 students in more than 300 schools across the county and found that children were more likely to have a positive body image if they regularly ate breakfast with a parent.

“Children and adolescents are under a lot of pressure from social media and pop culture when it comes to physical appearance. Having a healthy relationship with food from eating breakfast and spending meal time with family might have a significant impact on well-being," said Ramseyer Winter.

Dr. Ginny Ramseyer Winter and her collaborator, Fang Wang from the College of Engineering, were also the recipients of a University of Missouri Information Technology Committee award for their project, Sex Ed VR: Development of a Virtual Reality Sex and Body Image Education Program for SHAPE.

Read more at: https://nbsubscribe.missouri.edu/news-releases/2019/0321-mu-study-finds-eating-breakfast-with-parents-is-associated-with-positive-body-image-for-teenagers/

The Family Access Center of Excellence

Dr. Aaron Thompson & Dr. Clark Peters continue their work with the Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE) of Boone County. Dr. Thompson is the principal investigator and evaluation consultant, and Dr. Peters is a co-investigator and legal consultant.

FACE is a cross-sector community center of excellence to enhance access to high quality social, emotional, and behavioral health services for families with children (aged 0-19). FACE seeks to achieve this mission by (1) non-conflicted case management, (2) scientifically-based implementation support, and (3) continuous quality improvement and outcomes evaluation.

Dr. Aaron Thompson, in collaboration with Social Work colleague Dr. Clark Peters and colleagues from MU’s College of Education (Drs. Wendy Reinke and Keith Herman) and Department of Psychology (Dr. Kristin Hawley), received a Boone County Children’s Services Board contract to implement the Family Access Center for Excellence (FACE) of Boone County in 2016.

In 2018, FACE tended to a total of 323 referrals and linked 334 families to high-quality services.
Faculty Funding Awards

Dr. Kathleen Preble Receives Grant from the Missouri Collaborative Against Human Trafficking

Dr. Kathleen Preble and her colleague, Professor Andrea Nichols (St. Louis Community College Forest Park), are the recipients of a grant from the Missouri Collaborative Against Human Trafficking to develop a comprehensive statewide resource manual to be utilized by legal and social service agencies to help trafficking victims connect to help; conduct a statewide needs assessment to identify current gaps in services and unmet needs of key players in the fight against human trafficking in Missouri; and develop a strategic plan to address those needs. Congratulations Kathy!

Read more at: http://ssw.missouri.edu/docs/news_events/MCAHT.pdf

Dr. Hsun-Ta Hsu Receives Funding Award from the Missouri Housing Development Commission

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Dr. Hsun-Ta Hsu who has received an award from the Missouri Housing Development Commission to perform a study on case management practices used by shelters across the state in providing services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Results from his study will be used in designing and delivering evidence-based case management models.

Dr. Aaron Thompson is Amongst Team of Researchers Awarded $10 Million to Create National Center for Rural School Mental Health

Researchers and staff at the new center will create an online data and training system to support the mental health needs of students in rural schools throughout Missouri, Virginia and Montana. “Our goal is for this new national center to provide a wealth of information to rural schools across the three states,” said Wendy Reinke, a professor in the MU College of Education and the lead investigator on the grant. “Many rural schools are very small and remote, limiting their access to professional development resources, assessments for identifying youth in need of mental health supports and coaching opportunities. This center will create a framework of support for rural educators in need of those tools.”

Read more at: https://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2019/0227-mu-awarded-10-million-to-create-national-center-for-rural-school-mental-health/
Dr. Givens Receives Grant for Probation and Parole Officer Training

Congratulations to Assistant Professor, Dr. Ashley Givens, on receiving a grant from the Missouri Department of Corrections to provide training to probation and parole officers. The training will focus on helping them better understand mental health signs and symptoms, medications related to mental illnesses, the impact of mental illnesses on behavior, appropriate resources in the community, as well as other basic skills and tools to successfully engage probationers with mental health needs.

Professors Hsun-Ta Hsu and Ninive Sanchez receive Mangel Award

Assistant Professors Dr. Hsun-Ta Hsu and Dr. Ninive Sanchez were awarded one of five $3,000 grants by the Margaret W. Mangel Faculty Research Catalyst Fund for their project titled “Supplementing a Mobile Application in an Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Intervention for African American Youth Experiencing Homelessness: A Formative Project.” These awards are granted annually to faculty of the College of Human Environmental Sciences as a way to assist with research scholarship and creative activity efforts.

Spotlight

Dr. Anne Janku, Associate Research Professor and faculty affiliate in the Center on Criminal and Juvenile Justice Priorities, was featured in the American University blog, Justice Programs Office in honor of National Social Work month.

The blog features Professor Janku’s work with treatment courts and builds off her funded work with the National Drug Court Institute shared in her published study, Understanding and Responding to Racial Differences in Drug Court Outcomes. Congratulations Professor Janku!

Read more at: https://jpo.blogs.american.edu/2019/03/13/a-social-work-professor-serves-the-court/
Congrats to our Spring 2019 Graduates!!!

34 Bachelor of Social Work students • 102 Master of Social Work students • 3 Doctoral Social Work students
(47 on-campus & 55 online)
Grants

“Implementing a Comprehensive Data-based Coordinated System of Care for School Districts to Promote Youth Academic Success and Social Emotional Development: A Researcher-Practitioner Partnership”
  Funding Source: United States Department of Education

“Family Access Center for Excellence Renewal”
  Funding Source: Boone County, MO

“Evaluation of a Principal Training Program to Promote Safe and Civil Schools”
  Funding Source: National Institute of Justice

“Evaluation of a Training Program to Promote Effective School Leadership”
  Funding Source: United States Department of Education

“The National Center for Rural School Mental Health (NCRSMH): Enhancing the Capacity of Rural Schools to Identify, Prevent, and Intervene in Youth Mental Health Concerns”
  Funding Source: United States Department of Education

“Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition”
  Funding Source: Boone County, MO

Publications


Presentations


Presentations, conti.

Baker, K., Eddy, C., Thompson, A. M., Herman, K.C., & Reinke W. M. (2019, Feb). Do teacher-student relationships account for discrepancies in observed vs. reported behaviors? Poster presented at the National Association of School Psychologists annual convention, Atlanta, GA.


Grants

“Equipping Probation and Parole Officers’ to Supervise Criminal Justice Involved Individuals with Mental Health Needs”
Funding Source: Missouri Foundation for Health

Publications


Presentations


Grants

“Engaging Social Work Students in Self-Care: A Pilot Cohort Study of Social Work Students’ Development of Self-care Regimens as a Form of Ethical Social Work Practice”
Funding Source: MU Human Environmental Sciences Mangel Catalyst Fund

“Strategic Plan to Address Human Trafficking in Missouri and Metro East St. Louis: Resource Development, Needs Assessment, Innovative Solutions”
Funding Source: Missouri Collaboration Against Human Trafficking

Publications


Presentations


Grants

“Customized Health Alerts and Consumer-Centered Interfaces Using In-Home and Wearable Sensors”
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

“Health Resources and Services Administration Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program”
Funding Source: Health Resources and Services Administration

Presentations


Sarah Tlapek  
**PhD, MSW, MID,**  
*Assistant Professor*

Grants

“Development of a Tailored Financial Capability Intervention for Intimate Partner Violence Survivors”  
**Funding Source:** Research Council

“Evaluation Consultancy for the Community Caring Council’s First Birthday Project”  
**Funding Source:** Department of Social Services, Community Caring Council

Presentations


Hsun-Ta Hsu  
**PhD, MSW,**  
*Assistant Professor*

Grants

“Case Management Analysis and Training for the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care”  
**Funding Source:** Missouri Housing Development Commission

“Supplementing a Mobile Application in an Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Intervention for African American Youth Experiencing Homelessness: A Formative Project”  
**Funding Source:** MU Human Environmental Sciences Mangel Catalyst Fund

Publications

**Book Chapter**


**Article**


Leigh Tenkku Lepper
PhD, MPH Associate Research Professor

Grants
“Alcohol Consumption Behavior and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: A Demonstration from Rural South Africa”
Funding Source: University of Missouri South African Partnership Program

Publications
Peer-Reviewed

Other Articles

Presentations


Grants

“Racial and Ethnic Differences in Correlates of U.S. Adolescent Substance Use: Do Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Matter?”
Funding Source: MU Population, Education, and Health Center Small Grant Program

“Psychology of Alcohol Use and Addiction Training (T32)”
Funding Source: National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Publications


Presentations


Grants

Funding Source: Richard Wallace Faculty Incentive Grant

“Body Image and Sexual Function among Individuals Engaged in “Hook Up” Culture”
Funding Source: MU Human Environmental Sciences Mangel Catalyst Fund

Publications

Drinking and cigarette smoking among teens: Does body image play a role? Children & Youth Services Review.


Presentations


Grants

“Juveniles at Risk: Using a Trauma-informed Care Model with 10-13-year-olds and Their Families to Reduce Violence and Improve Health”
Funding Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

“Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents-Payment Reform”
Funding Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

“Health Resources and Services Administration Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program”
Funding Source: Health Resources and Services Administration

Publications


Presentations


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                             |                                                                                                         | Funding Source: Health Resources and Services Administration |
|                             |                                          | Presentations                                                                                           |
| Anne M. Janku, PhD, LCSW    | Associate Research Professor             | Presentations                                                                                           |
| Dong Pil Yoon, PhD, MSW     | Associate Research Professor             | Presentations                                                                                           |
| Rachel Bailey, MSW, LCSW    | Assistant Clinical Professor             | Presentations                                                                                           |
| Candace Iveson, MSW         | Adjunct Faculty                          | Presentations                                                                                           |