

BSW NEWS

“Knowledge is power. Empower yourself to empower others”

GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR!

Congratulations to all the new graduates! What a pleasure to see you all completing the semester! I hope you all did very well. For my part, I am very pleased with the results of this semester.

Many of you plan to continue for your MSW degree, you are very special people to us and to this community. Keep in mind that with your BSW or HUS degree, you are now empowered to help others to the best of your ability with the knowledge you have acquired so far. However, also remember that there is much to learn, and what you really have is your foot in the vast ocean of knowledge waiting to be discovered, learned and applied. You must continue learning to make a difference in the lives entrusted to you. Be good and open to new knowledge. Dr. Mejia

Dr. Evans, has been assigned to be the advisor for the BSW Student Association. Keep up the good work.

“A student who tries something and fails is better than a student who does nothing and succeeds.” Yes, education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. The students don’t know it yet, but all teachers do: all the teacher wants is to light the fire and see it burning.

“Advisory Board Hosts Reception”

On Friday evening, March 31st, the FGCU Social Work Advisory Board hosted a Reception in the Student Union Building. The invited groups included the Social Work faculty, Field Placement supervisors, all MSW students, and BSW students scheduled to graduate this May.

The event’s purpose was to provide a relaxed forum for conversation and networking. BSW students could find out the inside scoop from the MSW students on the particulars of the MSW Program. MSW students could network with Advisory Board members re: job opportunities. All parties enjoyed a relaxing opportunity to socialize and make connections.

On that Friday evening, a number of Advisory Board members and Faculty attended the Reception. They enjoyed the refreshments, the music and mostly the informal conversations. The only missing ingredient was students! No MSW students attended and only one BSW student attended. Not sure why the no-show, but I am confident that we will try again next year!

Bob Soter, President Advisory Board

Good bye to Kathleen Hill! Rest in Peace!

It is hard to say good bye, and more so when that good bye is meant to be eternal. We are not used to dealing with eternity, we are framed in time and space. There is so much to say about Kathy, yet we just want to say that she will be missed. You were a social worker eager to learn and serve.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Field Placement: Students are currently completing their interviews for field education placement in Fall 2006. After meeting with the BSW Field Coordinator, students are expected to conduct agency interviews. After the interviews, the student selects the agency where he/she wants to do their placement and notifies each agency. The confirmation of placement form is completed by the student and field instructor and is brought to the field seminar class in the Fall or if you prefer, you can drop it off at the BSW Field Coordinator's office in Room 145 of Academic Building #3.

This semester (Spring 2006), we have 9 Human Service students and 5 BSW students who are completing their internships and will be graduating on April 29th. All of the students have done a great job at their agencies. Congratulations to our graduates!

Field Education Orientation: On March 21st, there was a BSW Field Education Orientation session. Pizza and sodas were provided. There were about 18 students present. A few were unable to attend. The orientation session was from 4-6 p.m. The issues covered were: 1. Required prerequisites; 2. Placement process and forms; 3. Role and requirements of Field Instructor; 4. Role of Field Education Coordinator; and 5. BSW Field Manual. There was lots of discussion. Students made appointments for individual interviews and to discuss their choices of field placement opportunities.

BSW Field Education Manual: I am pleased to inform students and field instructors that the BSW Field Education Manual is available on line. No longer do students and field instructors need to keep track of CDs. The website is: <http://cps.fgcu.edu/sw/bswfield/orientation.html>. H.Heckes

"Reflections on Practice IV: Community Organization and Development"

I have just completed instructing my first BSW course at FGCU and have many positive emotions. The 13 students in this class met once per week on Tuesday from 8:00 to 9:15 am, and worked on one of two teams on outside projects related to the course content: The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and Harvest for Humanity.

The final course assignment was to write and submit a brief analysis of what they learned as observers of macro social work in action (their External Class Assignment) and how it did or did not strengthen their own ethical principles and standards. As a first-time Adjunct Faculty Instructor, I was thrilled with the maturity and insights demonstrated in this and other assignments. OK, 8:00 a.m. might not be a college student's favorite start time for a Macro Social Work course, but that did not dampen our ability to learn.

Using the External Class Assignments based in Immokalee gave a tangible, real time, live example of many principles and theories of Macro Social Work, which otherwise may be somewhat dry and remote. And we managed to find multiple applications of the NASW Code of Ethics in these two projects. "Hats off" to the 13 students who braved an 8:00 am start time to study and experience Macro Social Work in Immokalee.

Mr. Bob Soter, Adjunct Faculty

Food for thought

"Let early education be a sort of amusement; you will then be better able to find out the natural bend." Plato

"You cannot put the same shoe on every foot." Publius Syrus