

BSW NEWS

GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR!

This is our first of what we expect to be a two times a semester "Newsletter". I think it is imperative that we have some formal way to communicate besides doing all the e-mailing, telephone conversations, face to face, in-groups we do.

It is my dream that we can develop this "Newsletter" into a vehicle where everybody can participate and take the same information to all of those who are concerned with the education of social workers. The Newsletter will come out in Feb. April, September and November. Dr. Mejia

OUR MISSION

To enhance the students' growth and development as we empower them to help others in need.

OUR VISION

By the year 2008 our Newsletter should be consolidated as the vehicle for BSW students and faculty to voice their learning and quests in the academic journey.

OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to the mission and the values of the profession. Students and faculty collaborate as a team in the search for the immense knowledge available to be used in the betterment of the environment, the individuals, families and communities.

AFFIRMATION

I refuse to be a slanderer. Therefore, whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy about someone, I comment only on these things.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

Your FGCU Social Work Advisory Board is composed of 14 members from throughout the five county region. The Board includes a graduate of the FGCU MSW program, persons serving as adjunct faculty, and representatives from four different counties. A wide variety of agencies and organizations are represented on the Advisory Board, including services to children, mental health services, legal services, services to the homeless, palliative care services, and others.

The Board fulfills several functions — ambassadors in the community, student recruitment volunteers, and scholarship fundraisers. We participate in the recruitment, screening, and hiring of social work faculty and in various aspects of the CSWE accreditation process. In October, 2004 we brought the Honorable Janet Reno, former US Attorney General, to campus — Ms. Reno was the chief speaker at a Board — sponsored scholarship fundraiser which netted over \$3000. Bob Soter, President

BSW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

We want to commend the students who so diligently took it upon themselves to organize the BSW Students' Association. Great work. Kudos to Kelly Ostensen, Jill Brauer, Nicole Thomas, Kristin Medina, Perla Herrera, Belkis Ramirez and Lauren Bieder. They really worked hard, and we all appreciate it. Now, we are waiting for the rest of the students to join in.

ABOUT THE SOCIAL WORK VALUES

We want to always keep in mind the values of the profession. This is a unique profession that proudly voices its origins in the persistent fight against the abuses, neglect and ill treatment of the poor and the indigent.

The profession of Social Work is rooted in a set of core values born out of the heart of our history as a profession. These values are:

Service

Social justice

Dignity and worth of the person

Importance of human relationships

Integrity

Competence

APPLESEEDS

It is in identifying yourself with the hopes, dreams, fears and longings of others that you may understand them and help them. Wilfred A. Peterson

A classroom full of students is like a team. Everyone needs to work together to win the game.

Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body. Seneca

In the garden of learning, the seeds that are planted today will produce tomorrow's harvest.

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education. Maria Montessori

Teaching someone how to think, not what to think, is easier said than done.

Don't waste your eyesight, enjoy nature!

Knowledge is the true organ of sight, not the eyes. Panchatantra

CONSUMERISM, THE ECONOMY AND THE PEOPLE

Because the NASW Code of Ethics calls for commitment to social justice and an ethical responsibility to the broader society,

consumerism is of particular concern to the social worker. We are Committed to the development of people, their communities and their environments from the local to the global level. Consequently, we as social workers are aware of the impact of consumerism and its effects on society. We must do all that we can to educate and empower our clients to withstand the mass messages to buy, buy, buy.

One of the most egregious aspects of consumerism is the exploitation by the consumer nations of the less powerful and developing nations. We all know how the United States in particular exploits the natural resources, oil, forests, fisheries, and labor of developing countries for the sole purpose of stoking the engines of consumerism.

Consider this timely tidbit of information: On Valentine's Day, millions of Americans bought roses and chocolates for their sweethearts, not realizing that their gifts are contaminated by toxic pesticides and the exploitation of labor. We can educate our clients, our communities and ourselves about fair trade, fair wage and organic farming methods. We can vote to stop this exploitation by the way we spend our money.

We can be social workers who advocate against consumerism and for global responsibility. In conclusion, we need to do what we can to be responsible stewards of the earth's resources. It is the only earth we have. We must do what we can, pay more for fair trade/fair labor products, and buy less, to ensure that our consumption is not at the expense of others.

Denise Zoldan, BSW student