Justice, Peace and All That SHIP

Dr. Deborah Jacobs  
Department Chair

Before I go any further I would like to thank Laura Hoffstetter, our GA for Outreach and Assessment, for her amazing job creating the newsletters these past two years. Her editorial expertise and artistic style has made the newsletters interesting and attractive as our programs have grown and our students have blossomed.

Elizabeth Hornbaker  
MSW Student

The institute for Social Inclusion (INSINC), formally created and approved by Shippensburg University officials on March 17, is dedicated to advancing and supporting activities that promote the social inclusion of vulnerable populations such as people with disabilities, people of color, LGBT populations, the elderly, children and youth, women, migrant populations and people in poverty.

Although INSINC started as an initiative of Dr. Marita Flagler in the Department of Social Work and Gerontology, it is interdisciplinary. The institute is co-directed by Dr. Flagler and Dr. Jennifer Clements, and the members of the steering committee come from various fields such as education, criminal justice, psychology and mathematics.

SU recognizes INSINC as official institute

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Greetings from the Department Chair

Laura is graduating with her MSW this month and is off to new adventures in her Social Work journey. She will be greatly missed. But...She tells me she will be staying in Shippensburg for a while, so we may just need to call on her again in the future as an alumna with talent!

We are saying goodbye to many wonderful social workers as they leave our programs to go out into the world to do good things. Our BSW graduated 30+ students this year and our MSW graduated 27.

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On March 1, 2016, students from the Shippensburg University Social Work and Gerontology Department traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in Advocacy Day on the Hill.

This day served as a learning opportunity and gave the students a first-hand experience of advocacy. The day started with education about H.R. 3712 - Improving Access to Mental Health. This bill was introduced by Senator Debbie Stabenow on October 8, 2015.

H.R. 3712 consists of three major parts. The first part was to increase the reimbursement social workers receive from Medicare from 75% to 85%. This is an attempt to bridge the income gap between Licensed Clinical Social Worker’s and other health care professionals, such as psychologists, who receive full reimbursement.

The second part of this bill was to increase access to mental health care in skilled nursing facilities. This would eliminate the restrictions on these facilities to only employ LCSWs. Instead, LCSWs would become part of the staff in these facilities.

The final part of this bill was to modify behavioral assessment codes, which would allow clients to get their own clinicians.

Overall, this bill is about creating more access to mental health care for individuals on Medicare.

Students found the experience pleasing and were able to bring back new knowledge to their peers and university.

The day consisted of three different sessions. The first was an informational session led by a panel of professionals in the field. The panel included the president of the Council of School Work Education (CSWE), the field organizer for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), a current BSW student, and other professionals.

Students and social workers were provided the chance to talk to men and women in Congress about supporting the bill.

It was great to see the faces behind these larger organizations that students hear and learn about in their courses. The panel spoke on the profession, the bill, and how to advocate.

After this panel discussion, there was a brief Q&A session. Following lunch, everyone gathered to be assigned their student delegate, the person who would lead them through the congressional buildings to speak to certain members of Congress.

The Social Work & Gerontology department’s students spoke to Representative Karen Bass and Representative Tim Murphy.

Representative Bass was already in support of the bill, so the students’ intentions were to thank her for her support, but they ran out of time.

The students also spoke with Representative Tim Murphy; however, students felt that he seemed to pitch his own legislative agenda. He did not agree to support the bill.

This experience was informative, intimidating at times, but overall inspiring to the students and professionals who participated in this event at the capitol.

Kourtney Fisher
BSW Student
Greetings from the Department Chair (cont.)

Continued story from page 1

We know they will make the department and profession proud as they continue on their Social Work path.

While each student is special in his or her own way (I am quoting Barney the big purple dinosaur here from my daughter’s childhood days), there are a few people I would like to recognize and thank. First, our other GAs who will be graduating, Beth Hornbaker and Courtney Kensinger, deserve a huge amount of thanks for their work over the last year (Courtney) or two (Beth).

Beth worked hard on research with faculty and is seeing the fruits of her labors as she presents at a national social work conference with Dr. Flagler this summer. Great work, Beth!

Courtney has worked tirelessly to help both our field coordinators, Dr. Clements, BSW, and Dr. Minnick, MSW, to organize and facilitate the field placement process for all our students from the beginning stage of collecting interest forms to the field retreat to the Senior Orals and the final collection of field evaluations. Courtney has organizational skills that have helped the programs run smoothly, and she also will be missed in our department.

I would like to recognize the three students who won the Robert L. Hewitt Vision for Excellence Scholarship and our departmental APSCUF (the faculty union, Association of PA State College and University Faculty) awards this year. Kendyl Marino, Ashley Quinter, and Ashley Tanner were co-recipients of both the scholarship and awards this year. These seniors were selected by a committee from the Advisory Council from a large applicant pool. Congratulations to each of them for their commitment to social work excellence.

The pages of this newsletter are full of the wonderful work that our students and faculty are involved in. I hope you enjoy catching up on the news. In addition, this edition has a special section on alumni who have been willing to share some insights into what they have been doing since graduation and beyond! If you would like to be part of this ongoing section of the newsletter, be sure to send us your news.

Finally, a word about program developments this year. For the first time we are able to offer MSW classes in Harrisburg to students who are not able to attend the program on the Ship campus. This has been at the request of some of our wonderful BSW cohort graduates who wanted to still be part of the Shippensburg University Department of Social Work and Gerontology while obtaining their MSW degree.

This first set of courses is for advanced standing part-time students only, but we are hopeful that we will have interest from students who would like to see more options in Harrisburg in the near future. Additionally, we are looking to the west and discussing options of providing a cohort in the Blair county area in the future, if things are right for that option.

On the BSW front we have just confirmed that we will be starting another cohort in Harrisburg this fall. We now have so much interest that we have two cohorts running at one time. Needless to say, we are busy, busy but loving that so many people want to be social workers and want to come to Ship.

Congratulations MSW Class of 2016

Nicole Assi
Jason Bacon
Amy Baker
Chelsea Belles
Emmalee Burke
Jessica Clark
Jillian Culler
Jessica Eichelberger
Jori Farrell
Sarah Haney
Katie Hansrote
Brynna Hetrick
Dana Hippensteel
Laura Hoffstetter
Elizabeth Hornbaker
Alexis Kasun
Rebecca Kennedy
Courtney Kensinger
Jennifer Rogers
Stephen Russell
Tasha Shuhart
Lisa Skema
Amanda Stuffle
Cassandra Towsley
Carrie Tressler
Rebecca Voss
Milton Webber
Each morning I walk up to a large green gate, covered with barbed razor wire and wait for a "clank" that signifies the unlocking of the gate, so I can begin my work day.

I walk up the hill and unlock the front door to my office building. I continue inside to my office, unlocking that door as well.

I check my emails to determine how the last sixteen hours have gone in my absence: which residents refused to take their mental health medications, which residents had a melt down, and possibly who was physically restrained due to potential harm towards themselves or to unit staff.

On a good day, I won’t find any emails reporting suicidal ideation or self harm, or any emails documenting medication refusals or significant behavioral issues resulting in a physical restraint.

My daily routine then includes individual sessions and/or groups, treatment plan meetings, and possibly some impromptu activities.

A lot of Social Workers say every day is different in their line of work and juvenile justice is no different and possibly quite an extreme example of that.

I received my BSW from Shippensburg University in 2003 and my MSW in 2006 from Syracuse University.

I am a Licensed Social Worker, employed as a Psychological Services Associate at Loysville Youth Development Center (LYDC) in Loysville, Pennsylvania in rural Perry County.

I provide mental health therapy to adjudicated (the juvenile system’s term for guilty) male youth between the ages of thirteen and twenty-one.

LYDC is a 108-bed, state-run juvenile facility, that provides services to adjudicated males from counties all over the state of Pennsylvania.

Our residents are older, younger, intellectually/developmentally delayed, they are white, black, Hispanic, Asian, and Biracial. They are straight, gay, adopted, drug dealers, drug users, they have mental health diagnosis and physical diagnosis. Some youth have a lot of family involvement and some have none.

Many of our youth have experienced or witnessed various forms of trauma. This can include anything from all forms of abuse or neglect, to witnessing killings and deaths, as well as other forms of traumatic experiences.

Our residents typically have trust issues and issues with authority. Making connections with the youth and building relationships is critical to providing treatment and services to them.

Although working in juvenile justice can be difficult at times, the rewards make it worth while. I encourage students interested in juvenile justice to contact Social Workers in facilities to gain additional information.
Athena Aardweg, a graduate of the BSW class of 2005, earned her Master of Social Work and Master of Public Administration in 2007 from the University of Pittsburgh. She worked around the state in a myriad of jobs, including producing an oral history document of people with disabilities, being an information specialist for income-based programs, holding the position of a regional housing coordinator aiming to increase affordable housing options and her current position, which she has been in since September 2015, Executive Director of the Northern Columbia Community & Cultural Center. She is honored and excited to serve the community she grew up in and facilitate Social Work training in this new capacity.

“I find the power of connecting people, groups and communities to be the most rewarding aspect of the profession for me; we are so much more than the limiting stories we tell ourselves. The power of connection and knowing we are not alone is such a powerful part of our journey, no matter how tough or easy it may seem.”

SU alumna practices in Public Law

Katie Schweitzer, a BSW graduate of the class of 2005, attended Boston College for her Master of Social Work. While studying, she worked at an after school program and realized that many of the kids attending this program were in and out of the legal system. “They would ask questions about the law and possible consequences; I never had an answer for them,” Schweitzer said. This lead her to an interest in public law. After graduating with her Masters of Social Work in 2007, she started law school. Katie graduated from Widener University in 2010 and started in the Berks County Public Defender’s Office as an Assistant Public Defender. She now works with indigent individuals facing criminal charges. Katie encourages Social Work graduates to seek employment in public law, because “many Public Defenders’ Offices across Pennsylvania are now hiring individuals with a background in Social Work to assist the attorney’s in finding mitigation, treatment, housing, and mental health services.”

Brown assists South Allison Hill’s strategic plan

Jarvis Brown, a BSW graduate of the class of 2015, recently transitioned into the role as the Community Outreach Coordinator for Tri County Community Action. In his role, he plans to use his vested interest in working with the community to assist with gathering data for the development of South Allison Hill’s next strategic plan. His role in collecting data realizes the importance of discussing the needs directly with the community in order to strive to make it a safe, clean and appealing place to live.

SU alumna practices as Executive Director

Are you practicing Social Work and interested in becoming a field instructor for a BSW or MSW intern? Email Dr. Clements at jaclem@ship.edu or Dr. Minnick at djminnick@ship.edu for more information!
POC students educate Carlisle middle school students

Nathanael Skroban
BSW Student

On March 4, The Builder’s Club, a group from Lumberton Middle School in Carlisle came to Shippensburg University for leadership and team building training. The Builder’s Club focuses on making leaders.

Our Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities group hosted 21 students and two advisors. The groups arrived at 8:30 a.m. and were guided to the Ceddia Union Building (CUB), where the bulk of the activities took place.

The students participated in icebreaker games and then transitioned into team-building initiatives. The initiatives were crafted so that communication was hindered and students would engage in an activity utilizing skills falling outside of natural strengths.

Cadets from ROTC spoke to the students about leadership and the qualities, strengths and skills involved in operating as a team. Through these activities, the students learned practical applications of communication, as well as team-building and leadership skills.

A representative from the admissions office talked to the students about different approaches to paying for college, as well as about the all of the programs that Shippensburg University offers.

Following the speaker, students took a tour of a residence hall room, the recreation center and the library. The group was treated to lunch in Reisner Dining Hall, compliments of the Social Equity Office.

The last activity for the students, which followed lunch, was completing a survey about the day’s activities. The results of the surveys indicated that students learned new content about leadership and teamwork, heightened self-confidence and were interested in attending subsequent events if the opportunities arose.

Our POC group found this experience to be very positive and enjoyable.
New leadership is elected for SWO

Tori Garber
BSW Student

New Social Work Organization (SWO) officers were elected during the Spring 2016 semester. The new officers are: President, Natalie Scherfel; Vice President, Pri-cylla Derosier; Secretary, Brittany Sanzo; Treasurer, Paige Bankhead-Lewis.

SWO provided the following volunteer opportunities: King’s Kettle, Katie’s Place, tutoring students from Chambersburg LIU, the Monthly Clean Sweep, and the Children’s Fair.

Students from SWO attended Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. This was a great opportunity for the students to advocate for themselves and others in the Social Work field.

SWO’s main goal is to show the students different ways they can help in Shippensburg University and the community, as well as create connections.

SWO encourages undergraduate students to attend meetings, volunteer with events and become a part of SWO. For any questions, email Dr. Liz Fisher at eafish@ship.edu

Social Work department celebrates MSW graduates

On April 28, seniors in their final semester of the BSW program presented their field placement research at Shippensburg University.

Senior presentations took place in the Tuscarora Room, where poster presentations were available to view and oral presentations were given throughout the day.

After an introduction from Dr. Deborah Jacobs, senior presentations began. Thirty seniors presented their research and internship experience to family, faculty and other supporters who attended senior presentations.

In addition to presentations, the Robert L. Hewitt Vision for Excellence in Social Work scholarship was co-awarded to Kendyl Marino, Ashley Quinter and Ashley Tanner for exemplifying professional commitment, leadership ability and financial need.

Congratulations, class of 2016!
Best of luck in your future endeavors!

Senior presentations complete degree for undergraduate students

The MSW class of 2016 celebrated their successes at the MSW reception held for the graduates prior to graduate commencement.

The reception consisted of food, pictures, memories and thoughtful words from Dr. Deborah Jacobs, the Social Work & Gerontology department chair, and Jessica Clark, the student representative for the MSW class of 2016.

During her speech, Jessica talked about the many hats worn, such as a student, intern, professional and parent. With the enthusiasm of taking off the hat as a student, Jessica gave a thoughtful speech which inspired many in attendance.

Following the reception, MSW students attended the graduate commencement held in the H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center.

Congratulations, MSW graduates! We look forward to hearing your success stories.
Dr. Jen Clements
- Co-director of the Institute for Social Inclusion
- Will present at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting in Atlanta, GA in November. The title of the presentation is “Strategies for Integrating Group-Work Content in Social Work Education”
- Will be a guest editor for a special issue of “Social Work with Groups: A journal of Community and Clinical Practice”

Dr. Liz Fisher
- Presented at new student orientation: “Inspire Your Future: Giving Back to Your Community”
- Facilitated a panel discussion for Carlisle Chamber of Commerce Women for Women Event

Dr. Marita Flagler
- Founder and co-director of the Institute for Social Inclusion
- Was elected as Vice-Chair of the Cumberland/Perry Counties MH/IDD Board
- Co-presented seven presentations in Pennsylvania and one presentation in Washington, D. C. on Social Work ethics, inclusion of people with IDD, and inclusive friendships

Dr. Jayleen Galarza
- Will be the co-chair for American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT) National Conferences
- Co-hosted “Social Work It,” a Social Work Radio Show on the Shippensburg University radio station, WSYC

Dr. Deborah Jacobs
- Was appointed to the board of directors of Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties
- Spoke about the MSW program on the Social Work Radio Show, “Social Work It” on February 11

Dr. Dorlisa Minnick
- Was appointed co-chair of the Community Organization and Social Work Administration track for the 2016 Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education
I graduated from Shippensburg University with a BSW in May of 2015, and as the end of my senior year approached, I found myself wanting to gain experience before entering graduate school.

The VISTA position became available and I saw it as an amazing opportunity to gain experience in the field.

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) was founded in 1965 as a national service program to fight poverty in America. Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a project at a nonprofit organization or public agency.

I felt that the VISTA program and its goals aligned really well with my Social Work degree and the type of work I was interested in.

I am also a part of a unique cohort called Pennsylvania Campus Compact (PACC). We are a group of about 25 VISTA members who specifically work through colleges and universities across PA. We are a great support system for each other and PACC provides several professional development opportunities such as retreats, webinars, and chances to network.

I currently work with two community non-profit organizations, the Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC) and Shippensburg Produce and Outreach (SPO). I help to build capacity and sustainability within the organizations by building programs and help with projects that support the missions of both groups.

I also manage the volunteers for both SPO and the SCRC which has allowed me to work with students, faculty and community members. This work experience has not only taught me many valuable skills about professionalism and the field in general, but also allowed me to directly apply the knowledge I have learned in the classroom to my position.

In addition to gaining professional work experience, there are many other benefits that come along with being a VISTA. One benefit is earning an educational credit that can be used toward paying off student loans or paying for your next educational opportunity such as a graduate degree.

There is also housing, a living stipend, and health care benefits provided. In the fall I will be attending graduate school and I have also secured an assistantship.

When all is said and done, I feel being a VISTA has impacted my future very positively and I know the skills I have developed during this year will further translate into my work at the graduate level.

I feel more prepared and ready to step into my new role once my term comes to a close.

If you are interested in giving back and truly having an impact on the community, this could be a position for you! If anyone has questions feel free to contact Christina via email at vista@ship.edu!
Phi Alpha grows to create busy semester

Kourtney Fisher
BSW Student

The Shippensburg Head Start program and the Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC) recently identified the need for diapers for low income families in the area.

This problem is not only local, but currently a national problem. One in three families in the nation struggle to afford diapers, because diapers are an expense that is not covered by government aide, such as WIC or SNAP (Office of Head Start, 2016).

A group of Social Work students enrolled in Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities worked to combat this shortage by collecting diapers and reviewing models of other diapers banks.

The Social Work students collected diapers of any size, brand or age to help build a plentiful supply to kick off a diaper bank.

The collection boxes were located in the dining halls on Shippensburg University campus, at the Chambersburg and Waynesboro YMCAs and at local churches. The boxes were out for collection until Friday, April 22.

Students worked to create a model for how the SCRC could implement the diaper bank.

The proposed model was presented to the SCRC board on April 28. The SCRC is a collaborative, community-university effort to provide quality social services and youth programs that are accessible, safe and recognize the dignity and worth of each person. Its goal is to help community members reach their full potential.

On April 5th, 2016, the students went on their first round of diaper pick up from the community collection centers. The students were pleasantly surprised with the results. To date, the diaper drive has collected 959 diapers, coming very close to the students’ goal of 1,000 diapers. With about three weeks still to go, the students are very hopeful of reaching and even exceeding their goal. In addition to this tremendous progress, the group has established many new partnerships in the community.

One of the students from the group took time to speak at church services on Sunday April, 3rd 2016, and could not have asked for a better reaction. The church members were excited and ready to support this drive, even after it leaves the hands of the student group.

For more information, contact the SCRC Graduate Assistant at swk-scrc@ship.edu or Dr. Liz Fisher at eafish@ship.edu.

POC group succeeds with diaper drive

Kourtney Fisher
BSW Student

Phi Alpha has been very busy this semester helping the community and campus! We proudly initiated five new members, Tia Garrison, Cheyenne Port, Katlyn Michaels, Emily Wagner, and Kourtney Fisher, into our organization and we look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish.

In addition, Phi Alpha held a clothing drive for Katie’s Place of Shippensburg. In total, we were able to collect over 11 large, overflowing garbage bags with the help of our fellow classmates and professors.

We also co-sponsored an event with the Gerontology minor, which had a great turn out. The speaker gave a presentation about the rates of suicide and depression among older adults.

During the last week of classes, we held a pizza party, as well as presented honor cords to our graduating members.

To everyone who has helped shape this wonderful semester, thank you. We look forward to the fall semester!
Research Club presents on 2015-2016 findings

Katlyn Michaels  
BSW Student

This semester, the Undergraduate Social Work Research Club worked on analyzing the data collected by students during the Fall 2015 semester. The project was on priming of BSW students and the effect of said priming on their academic performance. The club hypothesized that those given a test labeled with a research related title would perform more poorly than those given a test with a basic social work skills related title.

Findings showed that students did not perform any differently, but rather that the primed students were more likely to give up on the test.

The Research Club presented their research so far at the INSINC Conference and the Minds@Work Conference. Research Club is always open to new topics and would appreciate any feedback from Social Work students. If interested in joining the Social Work Research Club, email Dr. Lyman at mjlyma@ship.edu or attend a meeting in the Fall!

BSW Field Placements, Spring 2016

Student | Field Agency | Field Instructor
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Jennifer Braun | National Association of Social Workers | Amy Sagen
Christina Brislin | River Rock Academy - Newville | Donna Gano
Ashley Fitzpatrick | Franklin County Jail | Michelle Weller
Mariah Groft | Gettysburg Lutheran Retirement Village | Erin Naylor
Skyler Guest | Army Community Services | Kelly Villalobos
Cassie Hoffman | Cumberland County Area Office on Aging | David Mohr
Jason Hoffman | Gaudenzia Common Ground | Kristine Buss
Lindsay Holleran | Perry County Area Agency on Aging | Amanda Brookhart
Sarah Jablonski | Momentum Services | Mitch Gardner
Kaitlyn Jordan | Roxbury Treatment Center | Allison Flythe
Sarah Kelly | Life Lutheran Care | Heather Lynch
Kelsey Kirby | Messiah Village | Kelli Mills
Elizabeth Kumpf | Franklin County Head Start | Heather Diehl
Julie LaBar | Shippensburg University Head Start | Betsy Bean
Kimberly Locke | YWCA Carlisle - Children's Program | Amy Miller
Erin Longfellow | UCP - Branch Creek Neighbors | Kathleen Seiderer
Kendyl Marino | Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging | Lauren Solares
Nicole McFadden | Pyramid Health | Kathy Beidel
Sarah Neff | Northumberland County Children and Youth | Carla Clark
Amy Percoskie | Thornwald Home | Beth Cebone
Ashley Quinter | Cumberland County Children and Youth | Lori Ruddy
Alicia Rivera | YWCA of the Greater Harrisburg | Pam Morris
Nancy Rudnick | Hoffman Homes for Children | Becky Van der Groef
Danielle Seaks | Franklin County Children and Youth | Trisha Mcllwain
Kinsey Sprecher | Pyramid Health - Waynesboro | Katherine Beidel
Tierra Stallings | Shippensburg University Head Start | Betsy Bean
Amanda Storti | Service Access and Managment, Inc. | Matt Yingling
Ashley Tanner | Women in Need | Bethany Capuano
Kelsey Toth | Franklin County Children and Youth | Dan Myers
Katlyn Williams | River Rock Academy - Shiremanstown | Carron Mabin
Our team name was, “the Social Workers Advocacy Team,” (SWAT) and the project name was “Thinking About Life After HACC”.

The team, consisting of Tia Garrison, Liza-beth Kranzel, Kasi Martinez, Abigail Stanberry, and Candy Dansu, chose to educate the entry-level students at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) about Social Work on March 22.

We believed this was an appropriate time for the event because it was during Social Work Month.

Our group was excited to hold the event at HACC. “Thinking About Life After HACC” was held on the Harrisburg campus at HACC to inform students about the vast opportunities in the Social Work field.

Our goal was to increase the knowledge of students considering a Social Work degree and the benefits that come with it.

Our group was ready, but a little bit nervous during our presentations. The good thing was we had each other's back and we worked as a team.

Another goal for our event was to have at least 10 percent of students sign-up for more information about a higher degree in Social Work. Our presentation was successful, because we met that goal.

Many students came and participated in our briefing. They found it fascinating and asked a lot of questions. Most of them were asking about the admissions process and transferring.

The majority of students who attended our event were non-tradition-al students; however, some were traditional students.

My classmates and I learned that some of the students did not have awareness of the range of opportunities that social work has to offer.

Therefore, we need to continue to create an awareness.

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Our group, comprised of Mariliz Chan, Tori Garber, Caitlin McClaren, Jennifer Stevens and Norma Williams chose to raise awareness about Social Work among the high school students of Harrisburg School District. We worked with Harrisburg School District and the Pathways Program.

Our group had two parts to our event. The first part was Cougar Career Day and the second was classroom presentations in John Harris High School. With the help of John Harris High School, we raised awareness for our event by posting flyers around the school.

John Harris High School hosted their very first Cougar Career Day on March 17. We made a display, had several informational flyers and gave candy!

The student engagement was beyond our expectations. It was an incredible experience to interact with the students, and to gauge their knowledge on the Social Work profession. Most importantly, it was inspiring to be able to raise awareness for a profession that we are all so passionate about. The kids were eager to ask questions about Social Work and seemed to really listen when we answered.

The classroom presentations took place on April 4th. The student involvement was outstanding. They eagerly asked questions and engaged in discussions and activities.

Overall, both events held at John Harris High School were a success. We talked to over 104 students on career day and presented to 32 students in the classrooms.

From working on this project, our group learned how important it is to teach today’s youth about the Social Work field.

After all, Social Work is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, and some of the students we talked with could be future social workers.
The Women’s World Festival was a very successful event that returned to Shippensburg University’s campus after a few years of not being around. The event took place on Tuesday, March 15 in the Ceddia Union Building (CUB) MPR. The event was hosted by Madeline Kwarteng, Alyna O’Connor, Sarah Herman and Kaitlyn Dyer, the Women’s Center and the International Programs Office.

This program was sponsored and funded through the Office of Social Equity and the Commission on Human Understanding.

The Women’s World Festival is a cultural event that strives to educate and highlight the contributions that women have made to society.

The event highlighted different cultural attires from all over the world such as Ghana, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Japan, India and Thailand through a fashion show.

Two women performed a belly dancing session and two SU students read international poems.

Henna was administered to students by our the Saudi Arabian Club on campus! 10,000 Villages also brought along some items that could be purchased at the event.

A portion of the proceeds went towards Equality Now, a non-profit organization that works towards helping women and children. Over 150 people were present, making it a very enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone.

Through this event, our group learned the importance of publicizing for an event and the importance of spreading cultural and gender awareness.

POC group raises funds through a Penny War

The POC project named, “Social Work Month: Forging Solutions out of Challenges” spent the 2016 spring semester educating the community about the Social Work profession and bringing awareness to the Social Work & Gerontology Department at Shippensburg University.

Our group, consisting of Natalie Ormond, Brittany Martin, Morgan Sower and Rachael Cichy, implemented a week of activities about Social Work during National Social Work Month (March). We conducted a penny war fundraiser from February 22 to March 23, named “Pennies for Professors”.

The penny war was successful, with the winner being Dr. Clements’ charity. We are pleased to announce that $116.00 was raised and donated to Please Live!

On Monday, March 21, our group offered a breakfast for the Social Work professors and faculty to say thanks for all that you do for everyone. On Tuesday March 22, we educated Shippensburg University by putting sticky notes all around campus saying, “You’ll need a social worker when…” with different scenarios when one might need a social worker.

On Wednesday March 23, our group hosted a table in the CUB where students wrote some positive and negative stereotypes of social workers. We then educated the students with facts about Social Work to help break the stereotypes. Sweet treats were also offered for those that participated. The turnout was great, with over 30 students and faculty stopping by to visit our table.

On Thursday March 24, we offered an ice cream social to all Social Work students and faculty during the monthly SWO meeting. We also announced the winner of Pennies for Professors and played a game of jeopardy.

We met our goals by educating Shippensburg University about Social Work, bringing awareness about the Social Work profession and giving thanks to the Social Work faculty and students. Our POC group would like to thank all of the students and faculty that participated and helped with our project!