

JUSTICE, PEACE, AND ALL THAT SHIP

Shippensburg University
Department of Social Work & Gerontology Newsletter

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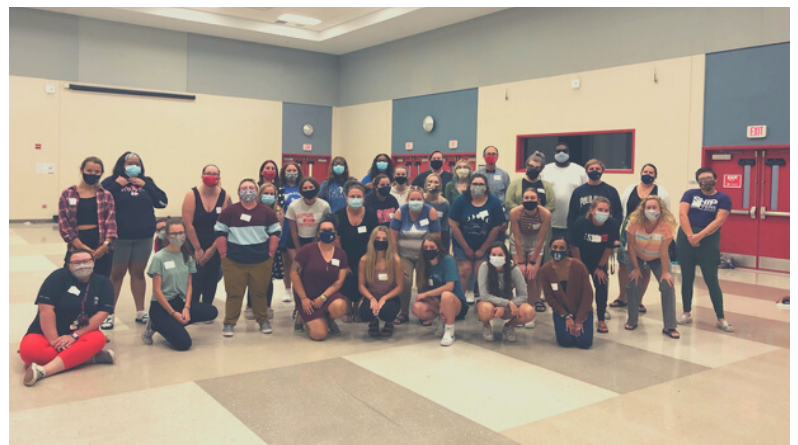
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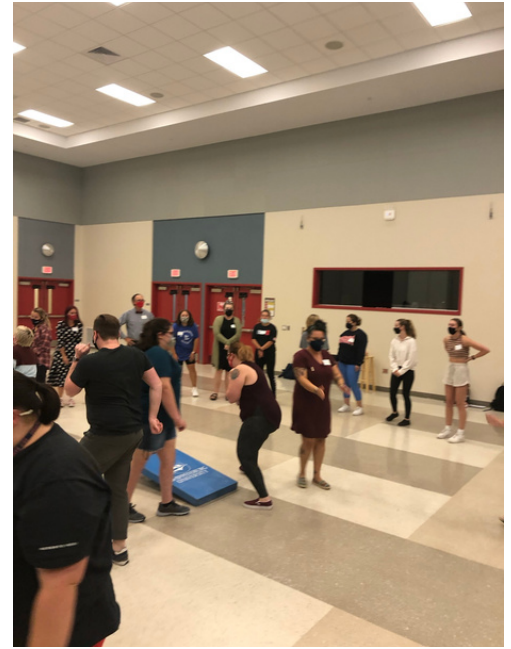
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Shippensburg, PA
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Editor: Sahara McGrath



Social Work Students, Staff, and Faculty

Meet and Greet 2021

At the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester the department hosted a meet and greet for BSW students, MSW students, faculty, and anyone else who wanted to come. Cornhole was set up for anyone to play, as well as complimentary ice cream sandwiches. Thanks to Emily Javitt, Assistant Director for Engagement & Leadership, participants played games to get to know each other.

We started with, 'I Got Mail,' which is an ice breaker game that included some physical activity. This was totally opposite from, 'Don't Touch Me,' where the entire group had to touch something in the middle and go across the circle to a new spot. The catch was we could not bump into anyone, or it would be a penalty on our time. Best time achieved was around 19 seconds which was the record time on campus for this game.

The other two activities were both rope-based activities. One was with a partner and proved frustrating to everyone. The goal was to untangle from your partner and only after three hints did some groups manage to figure it out. The next activity which Dr. Jay deemed, 'Knot or not to Knot' was all about figuring things out as a team. Each group had to come to an agreement if there would be a knot in the rope once pulled apart. In the end each group managed to guess the result. The turnout was great and really showed the impact of being back in-person.

Gerontology Update

This past year has been a busy one for the Gerontology Program. At the start of Covid, many facilities were not allowing interns at all and students had to do their internship at home online. However, it seems as if gerontology internship opportunities are opening back up again. Due to Covid there was some difficulty gaining student interest in the gerontology minor. However, there is good news! Dr. Bourassa states, “it seems as if we are making a comeback! It is very exciting.” It has been an adjustment for everyone and the Gerontology Minor is starting to grow again!

Last fall, GRN 100 became one of the choices in the Critical Reasoning category for the General Education program. This has been a wonderful addition to the gerontology minor. Students can take GRN100 and this satisfies one of their general education requirements. Previously, GRN100 was an elective. We are hoping to see greater student interest in declaring a gerontology minor and/or openness to working with older adults in the future, due to this change.

Since the fall semester, we have had a few interesting gerontology program events. In the fall, these events were held via Zoom. In September 2021, there was a webinar in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association entitled “Effective communication strategies for people with Alzheimer’s/dementia.” In November, we had another webinar presented by the Alzheimer’s Association, and this one was entitled “Healthy living for your brain and body: Tips from the latest research.” Both zoom webinars were well attended. We had students, faculty, and outside community members log in to learn more about Alzheimer’s and dementia.

This spring we had an in-person speaker, Dr. Susan Silberman, from the National Coalition on Aging (NCOA). She spoke about “Research, evaluation, and policy implications for older adults.” Dr. Silberman is the senior director for NCOA’s research and evaluation group. In April, we hosted an in-person presentation by Derek Dunham, VP of Client Services, at Varsity. This company provides the marketing research and needs for products and services utilized by the older population. The company is in Wormleysburg, PA. Mr. Dunham talked to the campus and community about marketing products and services toward older adults.

The program is grateful for all the students who continue to declare a minor in gerontology and who take GRN100 as a course. We hope to keep hosting events for our students, staff, and faculty. Congratulations to all our graduates and thanks for a great school year!

Racial Justice Teach-In

On Tuesday, September 28th, the department participated in its 6th Annual Racial Justice Teach-In. The event this year was once again part of the global SW Helper Anti-Racism Virtual Summit. The Department of Social Work & Gerontology was a sponsor for the event and allowed access to workshops from presenters around the globe. The department then planned post-workshop conversations. Workshops from the event included:

- **Promoting Positive Father Involvement:** Kevin J Brazant MA, BA, FRSA, FHEA (UK) | London Metropolitan University
- **Decolonizing Social Work: The Reparative Nature of Ubuntu Philosophy:** Lauren Reliford, MSW (US) | National Catholic School of Social Service
- **Good Intentions Are Not Enough: Undoing Racism in The Helping Professions:** Tim Wise (US) | Anti-Racist Author
- **Applying An Intersectional Framework to Eating Disorders: Unpacking Racial Trauma In The BIPOC Community:** Javon Garcia, LSW (US) | Howard Brown Health Center
- **Immigrants, Resettlement, And Healthy Societies:** Priya Kharat, Ph.D. (Canada) | University of Calgary
- **Internalized Oppression: Conquering the Master Within:** Arlene Garcia, MSW, Ph.D. (US) | University of the Virgin Islands



Racial Justice Teach-In

SW Helper also coordinated a spring 2022 virtual conference that the department sponsored as well. Workshops included...

Day One

- **The Power of Three Campaign:** Shannon R. Lane, LMSW, PhD and Tanya Rhodes Smith, MSW
- **Silent Voices: The Undocumented Trauma of Mass Incarceration:** Dr. Zaria Davis and Charlotte Garnes
- **The Story of One Woman's Mental Health Journey In Pursuit of a Lifelong Dream:** Cathryn Murray
- **Indigenizing Health Equity: American Indian and Alaska Native Youth Mental Health:** Autumn Asher BlackDeer
- **Grief, Loss, and Suicide Prevention in the Black Community:** Kimberly Carroll, LMSW and Carly King, MSSW, LSW
- **Exploring the Spectrum of Modern Mental Health From a Gen-X Perspective:** Deona Hooper, MSW

Day Two

- **Healthy Social Work: What's Possible?:** Nicole Louis
- **Applying an Intersectional Framework to Eating Disorders: Unpacking Racial Trauma in the BIPOC Community:** Javon Garcia, LSW
- **The Intersection of Service Provider Wellbeing and Equity in Healthcare and Social Services:** Tawanya Herbert
- **Using Group Me to M.O.V.E: Motivate, Organize, Value, and Empower First time Social Work students enrolled in Freshmen Seminar:** Dr. Phyllis E. Gillians, Vivian Shannon-Ramsey, and Dr. Makeba T. Green,
- **Time is Right for Social Work but Is Social Work Ready for this Time?:** Dr. Tiffany Lane and Mildred "Mit" C. Joyner, MSW, LCSW



Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition

We moved! We are now located at the old Episcopal Home at 206 East Burd St. We are enjoying sharing the space with our upstairs neighbors, the Community CARES Family Shelter. We continue to provide student learning opportunities while serving the community. During the past year SCRC has grown in the programming they offer to the community, especially to Shippensburg's youth. We expanded our Leaders-In-Training program to continue during our Summer Learning Program (SLP). Participants learn leadership skills and practice those skills as junior assistants for the SLP. The 2021 SLP was held in-person at the Shippensburg Township Park. Forty unduplicated youth participated over the course of the 7-week program. Environmental justice was the theme and youth read the book Hoot! and the teenagers read The Last Wild. Another addition was an AmeriCorps Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA) Summer Associate. The VISTA focused on increasing Shippensburg families' food security through their work with the SLP. We also received a new grant from the Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Education department. The grant will help to pay for lessons and field trips that will teach the youth in the 2022 SLP about climate change, their water footprint, and environmental justice.



We are excited about another new grant through the Partnership for Better Health to implement The Greyhound Wellness Project. The SCRC and Shippensburg Area School District (SASD) will collaborate to identify and address the mental health needs of students by using a mental health screening tool, a behavioral health referral service, and continuing Grey Matter.

Other activities in schools include the Healthy Decisions group for 7th graders in the middle school, Grey Matter, a six-week prevention program for high school students showing a lack of motivation, sadness, or irritability, and the "be kind." campaign. This year the Shippensburg University Wellness Program spearheaded the "be kind." effort on the Shippensburg University campus. At the middle school and high school, 143 students were nominated by other students "Caught Being Kind." These students received coupons and gift cards to multiple locations around Shippensburg. Lastly, our weekend feeding program, Hound Packs continued to serve food bags to an average of 160 students each week. We also delivered food bags to students that were homeschooled, in a private school, or participating in an online school option.

Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition

To help raise funds for our youth programs, we had three different fundraising events: a Holiday Fundraiser, a Silent Auction, and Partnership for Better Health's Match Madness. These three fundraisers raised over \$12,000 for our youth programming!

SCRC continues to facilitate its Healthy Shippensburg Coalition, a collaborative group of community members, government officials, business owners, and

human service providers that seek to address four priorities identified from the 2019 Shippensburg Community Assessment and Pennsylvania Youth Survey: affordable and quality housing, access to affordable behavioral health services, access to reliable transportation, and access to youth programs and services. The Community Conference Calls that started during the pandemic continue to happen twice a month and have proved to be a substantial resource for service providers and community members.

These are just some of the services that the SCRC provides to the Shippensburg community. If students or community members want to participate and support SCRC, please do not hesitate to contact Sonja Payne, SCRC Coordinator at sp-scrc@shipresources.org or 717-477-1961 or Dr. Liz Fisher, Center Director, at eafisher@ship.edu.



Sonja Payne, SCRC Coordinator



Shippensburg staff and students and First Lady, Colleen Patterson, participate in Be Kind activities at the CUB

Research Club

"Research Club is back in action and thriving this semester! We have been working on a qualitative assessment of community resources for problem gambling in the Shippensburg area, a project originally started by Zoe Williard over the summer. During the Fall Semester, we have spent the majority of our time applying for grants and conferences. We recently presented at the NASW-PA conference and were awarded first place by the judges!

In the Spring we plan to do more interviews to gather more data. Once we have a larger sample size, we hope to travel out of state to present our research at another conference. We currently have an application in for a conference in New Orleans, so please send all of your well wishes our way in hopes we get accepted to that!"

Thank you,
Tyn Ruth, Research Club President

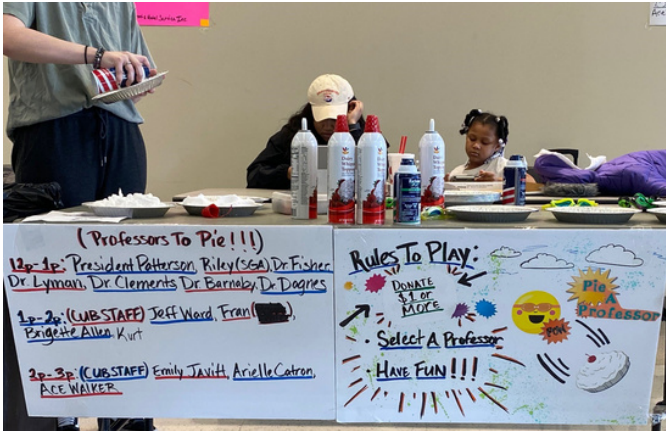
Field Education Update

This year in field there were two big changes. Students may now use our new database Tevera for almost everything field related. Students, if not already enrolled, will be enrolled within Tevera, they will have their student account, and will follow the corresponding processes for the field placement selection (BSW or MSW). Tevera shows current agencies that Shippensburg University has partnered with, it also explains the field application process, and contains all necessary field placement forms. Tevera allows students, faculty liaisons, field instructors, and task supervisors to be able to access field documents in one place. Students have lifetime access to the system for use in documenting their hours and supervision towards licensure.

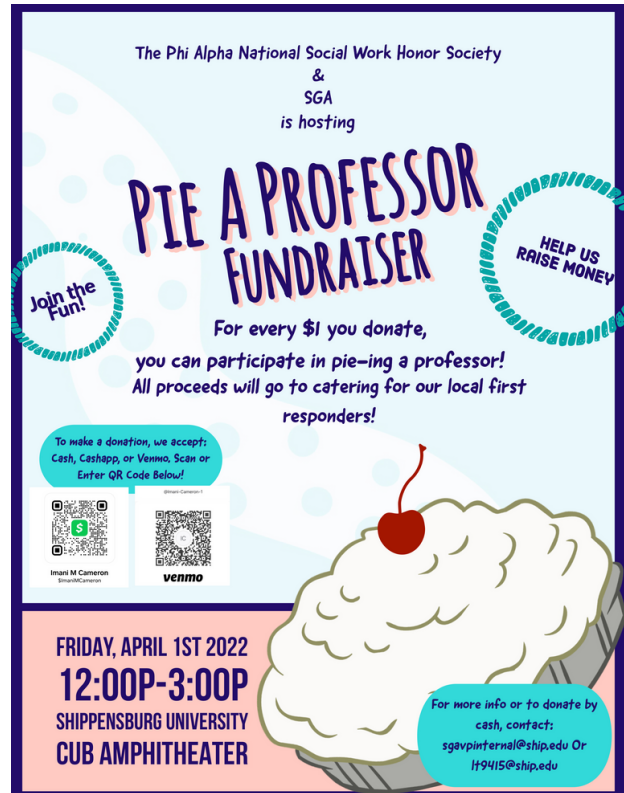
The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) provided flexibility during the pandemic that has continued to help students, particularly related to employment-based field placements. Student field assignments and employment tasks may be the same and counted toward required field hours if the tasks have clear links to the social work competencies, including any competencies added by the program, and their related behaviors. The field instructor and employment supervisor of a student may be the same person. In such cases, supervision time for field education learning must be separate from supervision time for employment.

Phi Alpha

Over the Spring Semester, Phi Alpha held a Pie a Professor fundraiser in partnership with the Student Government Association that was a huge success!! They received \$1,400.00 in donations and will begin distributing funds to local first responders before the Summer.



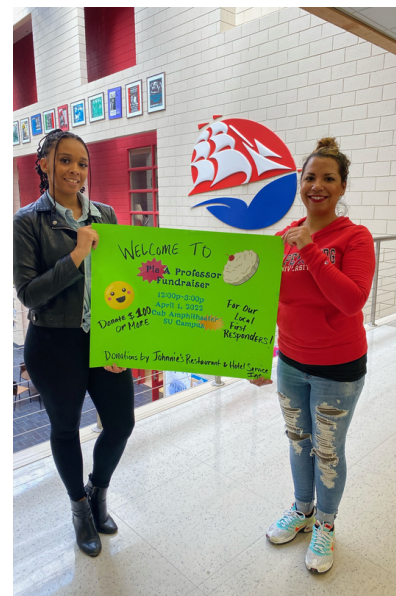
President Patterson, Dr. Lyman, and Dr. Fisher



Katie Rubio &
Imani Cameron



Dr. Clements

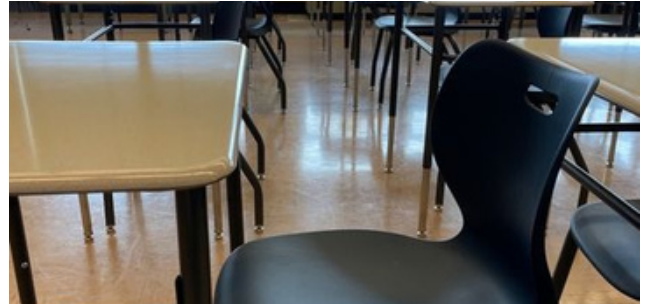


Imani Cameron &
Lyann Terrero-Baez

New Desks!

One of our former students advocated for inclusive seating in our classrooms and we are happy to say that they have arrived, with support from Dr. Nicole Hill, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services. Thank you for your advocacy, Cheyenne Kiley! She shares what motivated her to start this process.

"Throughout my time in the BSW & MSW programs, students are taught the importance of advocacy: advocacy for our clients, advocacy for our communities, advocacy for our profession, and just as important but often overlooked; advocacy for ourselves. In my early years in the department, I saw a need that was going unnoticed - inclusive seating for students.



When you walked into a social work classroom, you are greeted with about 30 school desks with attached seating, arranged in a circular pattern. Something about the circular pattern of our desks always made me feel welcomed. But it wasn't until later in my schooling, that I realized that I was subtly not feeling welcomed. I walked in and I had to decide which desk I was going to be uncomfortable in for the next hour and a half, often leaving bruises on a portion of my thighs from trying to fit my body into a desk not made for me. I ignored this feeling for a year or two until in my MSW program, I observed that I was no longer the only student uncomfortable in these seats. It became a running joke between myself and of my peers who shared a similar body size that we would take turns in class for who would get to sit in the one desk in the room that had a detached chair. However, it got to the point where it wasn't funny and we realized we needed to do something for ourselves - to advocate as we have been taught. I gathered some articles about the importance of inclusive seating, not only for larger bodies but also for individuals with disabilities. I drafted an email to Dr. Fisher, outlining why I believe it would be important for more inclusive seating, especially to foster an environment of inclusivity - something social work prides itself on. Dr. Fisher listened to my concerns and agreed to look into this with the dean. A few months later, I graduated, leaving the department I called home for 5 years. I entered the field without thinking about the chairs again, until one day, Dr. Fisher messaged me a photo of the new seating in the classrooms. I was in shock. I had forgotten about those chairs and classrooms, focused on trying to survive social work in the middle of a global pandemic. But, when I saw those pictures, it was a relief. A relief to know that my advocacy worked, that I was heard, and that people cared. The department, forever shaped, by an email I sent nearly 3 years ago. None of it would have been possible without the support from the professors, who guided me and encouraged me, for my five years in the program. And who will continue to shape the minds of future social workers in the profession. This is what social work is about."

BSW STUDENTS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

Fall 2021

Shippensburg Students for Refugees

Group members: Ali Abdille, Marcus Carter, Lisa Montgomery, Marissa Reidy

Shippensburg Students for Refugees was a social work student project intended to help incoming refugees into Central Pennsylvania. Our group target was to collect donations and give the community some awareness to know that they support the refugees. We were impressed and thankful to the Shippensburg students and faculty for their generosity.

At the end of our project, we collected four large boxes of donations full of tooth paste, toothbrushes, hand sanitizers, face masks, gloves, winter hats, toilet paper, tissues papers, towels, teddy bears, winter jackets, and other available items.



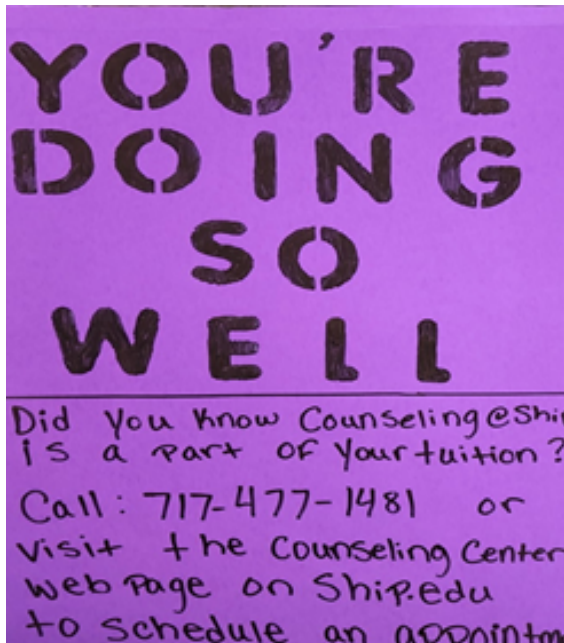
(left to right) Marcus Carter, Ali Abdille, Lisa Montgomery, and Marissa Reidy



Destigmatizing Mental Health

Group members: Tyn Ruth, Lizzie Nee, Brooke Bingham, Erika Lopez-Martinez, and Taylor Kuntz

The goal of our group was to facilitate two mindfulness sessions for students on campus in addition to hanging posters around campus with positive affirmations and campus resources on them. We did these activities in hopes that we could improve mental health of students on campus and open up more dialogue surrounding those of us struggling with negative mental health. Overall, we were able to facilitate one session on zoom and one session in person. In addition, we hung up 40 posters all over campus! Thank you to everyone that helped make this possible, with extra thanks to SWO for poster supply funding, Dr. Sato for helping us facilitate the mindfulness sessions, and for everyone who participated in the sessions!



BSW STUDENTS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

Fall 2021

Inclusion Project

Group Members: Katie Rubio, Imani Cameron, Saige Keyes, Daneeca Brown, Lexi Pascucci

The goal of our project was to create a piece of art depicting social inclusion and diversity. We wanted a painting that created an emotional reaction or response when looking at it. Throughout this process, we have gained help from many different people including Kaitlyn Durff, Chloe Covell, and Clairanne Chairs, who have aided us in this process, as well as Dean Hill and her assistant Crissy Diehl. With their help, and our teamwork and patience, we were able to complete the project. This gave us the ability to successfully complete our task of creating meaningful art to impact change. I am glad that our team worked together and never gave up. I hope in the future, with more time, we can give Shippen Hall the liveliness it deserves by creating a safe and inclusive space for everyone.



(left to right) Daneeca Brown, Saige Keyes, Katie Rubio, Lexi Pascucci, and Imani Cameron



The finished artwork hanging on the 3rd floor of Shippen Hall



(left to right) Shamar Jenkins, Jami Burkett, Adriana Baxter, and Edith Odubo



See a Need, Meet a Need

Group members: Adriana Baxter, Shamar Jenkins, Edith Odubo, and Jami Burkett

Our goal was to create 15 care packages filled with canned food and toiletries and donate them to South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) in Chambersburg to help enrich the lives of families who are in need. We were able to reach and go beyond our initial goal. With the help and donations from professors, students, churches, coaches, family, and friends; See a Need, Meet the Need was able to make 16 care packages, as well as donate left over materials that would not fit in the care packages.

BSW STUDENTS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS Fall 2021

Boys and Girls Club Project

Group Members: Jennifer Harfst, Sophie Karnis, Olivia Orndorff, Katie Kollars, Regan Craig

The goal of our project was to supply low-income families with non-perishable goods to assist during the pandemic. We worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Shippensburg and Chambersburg and were able to connect with the three elementary schools in the Shippensburg school district. During this project we were able to collect a total of 575 items to donate. We were also able to create 115 individual care kits and reach every member of the Boys and Girls Clubs at the Shippensburg Intermediate School, Nancy Grayson, and James Burd. It was a pleasure to be able to give back to our community and work with a great organization.



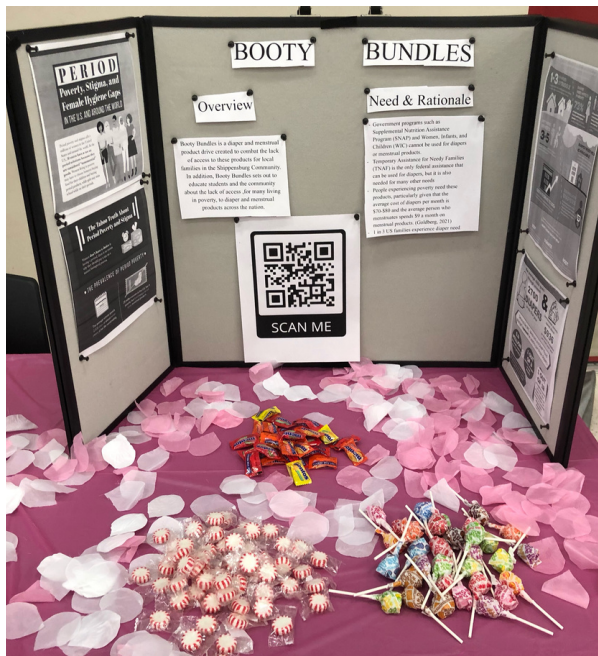
BSW STUDENTS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

Spring 2022

Booty Bundles

Our group wanted to educate the Shippensburg community on the lack of assistance and access to diapers and menstrual products. Obtaining these items is especially hard for many living in poverty as there are no government assistance programs to purchase them. This is not only an issue that occurs in the Shippensburg community, but a concern across the country. We raised funds through a GoFundMe which was promoted with a QR code on our flyers, participating in a produce drive at a church, and tabling activities at the CUB and by partnering with the PAGE Center on campus. On March 16, 2022, in honor of Women's History Month the PAGE center held an International Women's Day fair that we participated in. All funds and donations at the end of the project were given to Shippensburg Produce and Outreach (SPO) Booty Bundles program. As of April 18, 2022, we have exceeded our goal of \$300 and currently raised \$311 and collected 3 boxes full of products.

Group Members: Angela Boeren, Destiny Wade, Tida Jammeh



Immigration & Refugee Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Group Members & Roles:

- Rachel Hastie - Chairperson & Community Liaison
- Roz Dealy - Publicist
- Jisauri Toribio Ventur - Evaluator
- Mandi Zawadzki - Historian

The Immigration and Refugee Association has teamed up to raise money for immigrants and refugees from our chosen organization, **Catholic Charities and Immigration and Refugee Association** located in Harrisburg, PA. After attending and tabling for APB's Ship's Got Talent, our group raised **\$241.82**. With this, we have also managed to collect diapers, masks, household items, and cash. This total also includes Venmo and CashApp, used for convenience and an increased chance of a donation.

Throughout the event we approached students, faculty, and parents asking for donations as well as educating others on the surrounding social issue our group is working with. We used skills such as **organization, active listening, and communication** to raise money for those in need.

We have also educated the Social Work Department with flyers and posters advertising our event. This has helped us as a group to be able to work outside the campus and learn hands-on how to work with organizations and communities. We have also managed to educate others in the Social Work Department on immigration and how it affects the community we live in by sharing statistics from our group's research and presentation. To ensure feedback, we gave out candy at the event to anyone who took our 3 question survey.

A group of four students are sitting at a table with a sign that reads 'IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE ASSOCIATION'. They are in a room with other people and tables in the background.

Harrisburg Degree Completion Program

BSW STUDENTS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS



Bethesda Mission Women and Children's Shelter: Helping the Homeless

Students created a group called Helping the Homeless 2022 to benefit the Bethesda Mission Women and Children's Shelter. A collection drive was held with the primary focus on collecting paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels, trash bags, etc. The collection drive lasted two weeks from April 2nd-16th, and there were boxes at eight local locations. The group also created a Facebook page to spread awareness about the drive, and to educate the public about the challenges and dangers faced by those who are homeless. The drive was a great success with over 700 items collected: 626 paper products, 162 miscellaneous items (food, clothing, toys), and a \$50 cash donation.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Soup Kitchen

Students partnered with St. Francis of Assisi Parish Soup Kitchen in Harrisburg to conduct a collection drive for the Parish's wish list. The group wanted to spread awareness of the prevalence of poverty and homelessness in the Harrisburg area. Eight donation boxes, along with flyers, were placed at different locations throughout the Harrisburg, Lebanon, and Shippensburg areas. A press release was written and sent to ABC27 news, which conducted an interview with the group's chairperson to bolster education and awareness about the project. The group exceeded their original goal and ended the project by collecting a total of 2,543 items, with 338 items collected consisting of cleaning supplies/food preparation with the soup kitchen, and 80 people viewed the story posted on the Instagram page showing the awareness of poverty and homelessness in the Harrisburg area. Group members: Imani Bethea, Jessica Jones, Frances Rimby, Ally Murr



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Founded 1901 · Harrisburg, PA

Wish List Drive

GIVE A LITTLE. HELP A LOT

26.2 % of Harrisburg population suffers with poverty

- Bleach, Dish detergent
- Brillo pads, dish sponges
- Hand sanitizer
- Gloves, masks
- Deodorant, toothpaste
- Toothbrush, shampoo

- Takeout food containers
- Bottled water (16 or 20 oz)
- Juice boxes (apple, fruit punch)
- Non-perishable food items
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Plastic grocery bags

Donation drop off locations:

Youth Advocate Programs, 2007 N 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17102

YWCA, 1101 Market St, Harrisburg, PA 17103

Premier Learning Center, 1700 State St, Harrisburg, PA 17103

Premier Arts and Science Charter School, 500 N 17th St, Harrisburg, Pa 17103

Ronald McDonald House, 745 W Governor Rd, Hershey, PA 17033

Shippen Hall at Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Dr, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Everything will be given to the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Soup Kitchen to be distributed in the Harrisburg area.



WELCOME
Saint Francis Community Center
SOUP KITCHEN

For more details, visit 1439 Market St, Harrisburg, Pa 17103, www.stfrancishbg.org, call us at (717) 232-1003 and email cfagan@hbgdiocese.org

BSW STUDENTS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

Spring 2022

Ship Votes

Our project focused on amplifying the effect and reach of a campus organization, ShipVotes, as well as initiating a movement across the Social Work Department to get more social work students to understand their potential impact and register to vote. We have worked with ShipVotes leader, Dr. David Monaghan, to learn the operations behind tabling, becoming trained on how to register students to vote and/or switch their voting address to their four-college years in Shippensburg, and to rally students to become volunteers with voting initiatives. Our group collaborated with the department faculty to create a presentation that offers registration information and demonstrates the importance of student voting engagement as an act of participating in social work. Faculty can now use this presentation when curriculum intersects with voter registration in future semesters, leaving a lasting impact on ShipVotes and the department's student-voter registration rates.



**Social Work Student
Voter Initiative**

**Voting is Social Work
& Social Justice**

**Goal: Get all eligible Social Work Students
registered to vote**

**Scan the QR Code
-or- visit ShipVotes
tabling in the CUB
Tues. & Thur. 10a-2p**

**IT'S YOUR RIGHT
GO VOTE**

ShipVotes tabling
volunteers needed!
Extra Credit may
be available!

Beating Out Hunger SCRC Silent Auction

Benefitted Hound Pack Program & Summer Learning Program

Goal: Educate the public/concert goers about food insecurity in the area

Objective:

- Place statistics about food insecurity on the tables at the auction

Goal: \$1,100

Raised: \$1,250

Event was held on March 12th at the LPAC

Goal: Implement a successful silent auction for SCRC

Objectives:

- Raise \$1,100
- Reach out to 100 businesses
- Receive 40 baskets/donations for auction



Group Members:

Makayla Scofield: Chairperson
ms0097@ship.edu

Shayna Scott: Evaluator
ss6371@ship.edu

Morgan Hechler: Publicist
mh6201@ship.edu

Isabelle Gulgert: Historian
ig7157@ship.edu

Gracie Chronister: Community Liaison
gc8639@ship.edu

Beat Out Hunger

We worked with the Luhrs Performing Arts Center (LPAC) to raise funds for the Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC)'s youth food security programs. We held a silent auction on March 12th, 2022 during a concert at the LPAC with the aspiration of working in harmony to beat out hunger. The group spent multiple weeks reaching out, collecting items, and organizing, leading to the event being an overall success. A total of \$2,040 was raised from the silent auction through items donated by local businesses, organizations, and individuals, and through monetary donations. Wishing to continue education on and resources for youth food insecurity in Shippensburg, group members also created an informational video on the topic of Hound Packs and Summer Learning Program for the SCRC website.

Harrisburg Degree Completion Program

BSW STUDENTS SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS



Dignity & Worth Student Action Project

Family Promise of the Greater Harrisburg Region is an organization that serves homeless families with children by providing resources and temporary housing to help move from homeless to home. The group, Dignity and Worth Student Action Project, partnered with Family Promise with a goal to reach \$400 in monetary donations that would be used to purchase bus passes and other critical items for clients. The group worked at this goal by handing out over 150 flyers, educating the public through their Facebook page, and setting up a GoFundMe page. Their press release reached Fox43 news who interviewed the chairperson of the group and was aired on television. Overall, the group surpassed their initial donation goal of \$400 and raised over \$560 to be donated directly to Family Promise.

Group members: Julia Medina, Stephanie Toledo-Valentin, Kevin Sheppard, Briana Hagler

National Association of Social Workers - PA Legislative Education and Advocacy Day

Students worked with the NASW to organize and participate in LEAD on March 22, 2022. This year, the NASW chose to advocate for SB705 the telehealth bill that gave access for medical providers to provide healthcare services via phone or zoom. The group went to the Capitol on March 10, 2022 to speak with legislators and get a temperature as to where they stood on the bill. On the day of the LEAD event, the group members were in charge of facilitating the meetings with the legislators and the students that were present from their district. The meetings were fifteen minutes on average, and the group members' role was to ensure the meetings stayed on task, started and ended on time, and be prepared to answer questions. After the meetings, the group then attended the LEAD rally where various speakers advocated and shared their experience and information on SB 705.

NASW PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

Lead Day Group Project Committee
Juanita Smith - Chairperson js5486@ship.edu
Amy Rabin - Evaluator ar9778@ship.edu
Jason Diggs - Historian jd5229@ship.edu
Tnika Lewis - Publicist tl6613@ship.edu

March 22, 2022
8AM - 12PM
via ZOOM

NASW LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY DAY

JOIN US
As we advocate for the passing of the comprehensive telehealth bill in Pennsylvania. Telehealth increases accessibility of treatment for those with disabilities, people impacted by mental health, stigma, or those in rural areas. For more information visit <https://www.nasw-pa.org/page/LEAD>

INSINC Update



(left to right) Katie Rubio, Dean
Nicole Hill, Leah Wolfinger

The Institute for Social Inclusion (INSINC) advances and supports activities that promote social inclusion of vulnerable populations such as people with disabilities, people of color, LGBTQ populations, the elderly, children and youth, women, migrant populations, people in poverty, and so on, through research, training, and development of demonstration models.

INSINC defines social inclusion as “the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society—improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity.”

Social inclusion means making all members of society feel important, improving opportunities for participation, embracing diversity, and restructuring systems of oppression and exclusion. This can lead to improved physical and mental health as well as inspire positive change.

This year, INSINC’s focus has been on inclusive wellness. INSINC partnered with other campus organizations and faculty members throughout the year to promote activities such as an adaptive yoga class, a body-positive dance class, and hikes along the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail. All activities are designed to be safe, accessible, and welcoming for all people and all bodies.

INSINC has also been connecting with First-Year Experience classes to discuss topics like diversity and inclusive practices on campus. The aim of these classes is to encourage incoming students to advocate for inclusivity both on and off-campus.

INSINC also announced the inaugural Social Inclusion Award, inviting students to submit projects and art pieces that address the practice of social inclusion at Shippensburg University. Congrats to our 2022 winners!

Art: Saige Keyes, Lexi Pascucci, Daneeca Brown, Imani Cameron, & Katie Rubio (group submission)

Advocacy: Leah Wolfinger

Action: Tina Ziegler

For more information about the award, please visit

<https://www.ship.edu/insinc/social-inclusion-award/>



First Lady Colleen Patterson, Tyn Ruth, and
Katie Rubio

BSW Student Speaks at PA Capitol



Imani Cameron

Imani Cameron or “The Hat Lady,” who is graduating from the BSW program in May, was recently invited to the Capitol to speak about her personal experiences and show support for the PA Opportunity Program. She was given just 24 hours to prepare, but even with such short notice, it proved to be an experience she will never forget.

The PA Opportunity Program will provide much-needed relief to workers and families from the high cost of childcare and household expenses and will provide opportunities to complete a degree, credential, or license that will strengthen their skills and increase income. During the pandemic, many families are facing hardships. They struggled with necessities like keeping food on the shelves and had to work multiple jobs. Cameron describes that this program will support working families and show that they still matter.

Cameron states she is the “Hat Lady” because she proudly wears multiple hats daily. She is a senior majoring in social work at Shippensburg University, the Vice President of Internal Affairs for Student Senate, a part-time worker at Families United Network, but her favorite hat is that of a single mother to an energetic five-year-old. In her own words, “I started college; I have to finish. I was elected as VP; I have to keep my word to my constituents. Life necessities are not cheap or free, I have to work, and I have to be the best role model to my daughter. And with all the aforementioned, do you know, it's still not enough. The roadblocks keep coming, and the hurdles get higher.”

Cameron was ecstatic to discuss a program that can be helpful in the future. For her future, she is going to pursue a Masters of Social Work degree at SU and hopes to work at the State Capitol. She wants to see change occur and show her passion for legislation. She is a huge advocate for housing and urban development and has a bright future of making positive change. Her full speech follows.

Imani Cameron's Full Speech

Good afternoon, all, My name is Imani Cameron, but you can call me "The Hat Lady." While the hats I wear aren't visible, I wear them proudly and daily.

I am a senior majoring in social work at Shippensburg University. I am the Vice President of Internal Affairs. I work a part-time job at Families United Network but my favorite hat is what I wear as a mother, a single mother—a mother to an energetic five-year-old. Yes, five, and boy does she keep me busy.

That's a lot of hats. And many of you may be wondering how one gets all that done daily. And that's a great question. And the honest answer is how can I not. I started college; I have to finish. I was elected as VP; I have to keep my word to my constituents. Life necessities are not cheap or free, I have to work, and I have to be the best role model to my daughter. And with all the aforementioned, do you know it's still not enough. The roadblocks keep coming, and the hurdles get higher.

So, I pose another question. Why? When I chose not to be a victim of my circumstances or society, I faced many challenges. Why are more people not able to go to school while still providing for their families? Better yet, why is there no supports in place to help the working-class people succeed?

The difference a degree can make on a person not just impacts them but their family as well, and supporting the governor's proposal would allow for the working-class people to create intergenerational wealth by supplying opportunities for hard-working families to obtain their degree as well as have relief from the high cost of childcare and other daily life expenses.

Today's proposals allow Pennsylvanians to know that they still matter. In 2020 when we all experienced unprecedented challenges and some continue to experience the lasting effects of the pandemic today, many hard-working Americans mustered through to work to make sure there was food on the shelves in the grocery stores or worked countless shifts at assisted living facilities taking care of their grandparents and parents. Today I ask you to support the PA opportunity Program because it is time to help our working families; it is time for us to alleviate barriers that prohibit the working-class people from excelling; by doing the following, we are setting Pennsylvanians up for a better tomorrow where stories like mine are not just one in a million but instead an example of what the future can be.

Vision for Excellence Scholarship

The Robert L. Hewitt Vision for Excellence Scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Robert L. Hewitt, who was a professor in the Department of Social Work and Gerontology for 21 years. The scholarship began in 1997. Eligible students apply for the scholarship by writing an essay about what excellence in social work means to them. Applicants must be a senior in the BSW program, have a social work GPA of a 3.0 and an overall GAP of a 2.5 in order to be eligible. The finalists exemplify what excellence in social work means and show promise in the field of social work. Congratulations to this year's winners, Imani Cameron and Lexi Pascucci. To learn more about Imani see past article. Lexi talks about why she applied and her plans moving forward.



Alexandra Pascucci



Imani Cameron

"My name is Lexi Pascucci and I am a senior social work major at Ship. Before social work, I was pursuing a degree in early childhood education, which is why I chose Shippensburg as my undergraduate university. The lab school on campus sold me the second I learned about it. After taking a few classes, I realized I was more interested in helping students one-on-one, rather than focusing on an entire class. I began to explore other options, which is when I found social work!

Dr. Barrick informed me about the Vision for Excellence Scholarship, and I immediately applied. I am one of 7 children in my family and as one would expect, my parents cannot afford to put us all through school. I rely on private student loans, through providers like Discover, which have insanely high interest rates (12.5%). Having said that, any extra money is very helpful to me. I met all the requirements for the scholarship application, so I applied. It has helped me by providing some financial aid so that I could lessen the loan amount for my Spring semester of senior year."

Congratulations to Imani Cameron and Lexi Pascucci!

AAUW Scholarship



Meta Bowman

Congratulations to Meta Bowman for receiving the AAUW Scholarship! The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is an organization that advocates for gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. In addition to researching, writing, and advocating about the need for equity, members of the AAUW reach into communities to create beneficial change. The AAUW Carlisle branch offers a Higher Education Scholarship to assist a woman student from Cumberland County with a monetary scholarship to support them in their attending an institution of higher education. Each year they award at least one scholarship to a woman in higher education and Meta Bowman has been lucky to receive the scholarship for the third time.

This scholarship is incredibly helpful in assisting her as she works towards a Master's degree in Social Work at Shippensburg University. In addition to her studies, she works two jobs (one full-time and one part-time) and has a family with one young child and a step-child in college and another heading there next year. Completing her Master's degree is difficult financially, but with the support of the AAUW it has been feasible. The American Association of University Women embodies one of the main tenets of social work, to focus on enhancing the well-being of a person, with a specific concentration on empowering women. Meta thanks the AAUW Carlisle branch for this generous scholarship, and the faculty at Shippensburg University and Millersville University who have graciously provided references

Elnetta G. Jones Scholarship

The recipient of this award must be a senior and have a 3.0 cumulative GPA or be a member of the ASP Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. In addition, they must possess the qualities of leadership and caring, and must plan to attend a graduate or a professional school within a year after graduation. This scholarship is presented on behalf of the College of Education and Human Services. For the 2022 Academic Year, Nafisah Conix was the recipient of this award.

Nafisah Conix is a junior here at Shippensburg University, majoring in social work. They were nominated by their first year academic advisor Dr. Chad Bennett to receive this scholarship. Nafisah states, "Receiving this scholarship means so much to my family and I. My parents have two children attending college and it can get very expensive." Her future goal is to work with young adults and to be a professional travel social worker. After they graduate with their BSW they plan to further their education by enrolling in graduate school. "I am very grateful for receiving this award."



Nafisah Conix

APSCUF/SU Department Award



Whit Bender

Whit Bender is a Master of Social Work student who will graduate in May 2022 who was recently given the APSCUF/SU Department Award. She found her home at Shippensburg University and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology in 2014. Bender has been working for a non-profit organization for the last 12 years and spent the first five in I/DD services. After earning an undergraduate degree, she spent the subsequent seven working in mental health. Bender is a passionate person who believes in social justice and engages regularly in activist work. She enjoys spending time with her wife and three cats, kayaking, and playing the bass guitar in a band.

She is honored to accept this award and is excited to place it on her application to gain her doctoral degree in social work from Millersville University, while holding out hope that Shippensburg University will change its mind about such an offering. She is humbled to be recognized as the recipient of the APSCUF/SU Department Award as social work has become a life purpose that aligns with her identity and beliefs.

Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE grant)

Congrats to Lexi Pascucci and Zoe Williard for receiving the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Grant in 2021! This program helps to nurture undergraduate student researchers and to provide faculty members with paid student research assistants. By assisting faculty members in their research, students selected for the program learn the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting research in their field. Students chosen earn up to \$750 for 100 hours of work, and can take advantage of free housing on campus. At the end of the summer they present results from their research at a campus event.



Lexi Pascucci



Zoe Willard

Zoe Willard talks about her experience. “With the SURE grant, I was able to do independent research over the summer. Dr. Lyman was my adviser on my research, and we had meetings about once a week. I really enjoyed my experience and was able to research something that matters a lot to me. For my research, I focused on community resources that would benefit a town with a casino and the problems that may arise due to that. I got to interview and speak to community leaders and attend a town hearing for a potential casino coming to Shippensburg. I think that anyone who

has the opportunity to do research through the SURE grant and enjoys research should utilize this program.”

If you are interested in applying for the program or learning more email msrenault@ship.edu



BSW Fall Field Placements

- **Megan Herigan**- Cumberland County Children and Youth Services
- **Jena MacDonald**- Service, Access, Management (SAM)
- **Alideeq Osman**- Catholic Charities of Harrisburg, PA
- **Jocelyn Rainey**- The Salvation Army of Carlisle
- **Olivia Ream**- Residential Home, Health, and Hospice
- **Cateara Reid**- Menno Haven
- **Lynsey Shank**- San Mar Family and Community Services
- **Amanda Sollenberger**- Cumberland County Children and Youth Services
- **Noah Steinfeldt**- Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC)
- **Jasmyn Williams**- Branch Creek Neighbors: United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)



Social Work Fall Class of 2021 and Faculty



BSW Spring Field Placements



Ali Abdille- Catholic Charities: Immigration & Refugee Services
Adrianna Baxter- Franklin County Children & Youth Services
Brooke Bingham- Yellow Breeches Educational Center- Plainfield
Daneeca Brown- Bedford-Somerset Developmental & Behavioral Health Services
Jami Burkett- Menno Haven Rehabilitation Center
Imani Cameron- Families United Network
Emmarose Carothers- Yellow Breeches Educational Center (Frankford)
Madison Carter- YWCA Carlisle
Marcus Carter- Franklin/Fulton Drug & Alcohol
Regan Craig- UCP of Central PA
Madeline Davis- Girls on the Run
Kylee Ford- Laurel Life (Waynesboro Area Sr. High School)
Noreaga Goff- Residential Hospice
Jennifer Harfst- Shippensburg University PAGE Center
Sophie Karnis- Family First Health
Saige Keyes- Sheppard Pratt
Katie Kollars- YWCA Carlisle: Sexual Assault & Rape Crisis Services
Taylor Kuntz- WellSpan York Hospital
Erika Lopez-Martinez- SCRC
Lisa Marie Montgomery- T.W Ponessa & Associates
Lizzie Nee- WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital: Inpatient Services
Edith Odubo- Dauphin County Children & Youth Services
Morgan O'Donnell- Cumberland County Children & Youth Services
Olivia Orndorff- New Story Schools
Lexi Pascucci- The Salvation Army Carlisle Corps.
Marissa Reidy- South Central Community Action Programs (SCCAP)
Kathryn Rubio- Shippensburg University PAGE Center
Tyn Ruth- NASW-PA
Devon Speiser- Menno Haven
Casey Zimmerman- River Rock Academy (Newville Campus)



Fall BSW Senior Research

Student

Research Project

Jena MacDonald

The effect of Covid-19 on the IDD population

.....

Amanda Sollenberger

Impact of Truancy on Educational Experiences and how
Child Welfare Agencies can Intervene

.....

Jasmyn Williams

Methods to Increase Hiring and Retention of Social Service
Staff Working with Individuals with IDD

.....

Alideeq Osman

The mental health of immigrants and its impact on their
employment and job retention.

.....

Megan Herigan

Barriers to Mental Health Services for children involved in
the child welfare system.

.....

Jocelyn Rainey

Agency's willingness and actions to accommodate trans
people who are homeless

.....

Olivia Ream

Effective Responses to Mental Health in Healthcare with Older
Adults for Staff, Families, and Patients During the Pandemic

.....

Noah Steinfeldt

The Relevancy of Non-Discrimination Ordinances

.....

Cateara Reid

Engagement in Long-term Care

.....

Lynsey Shank

Life Skills in Foster Care

.....



Spring BSW Senior Research



Student

Research Project

Lexi Pascucci

Risk Factors that Influence Teen
Pregnancy Rates Across Generations

Noreaga Goff

Expanding education on hospice to
family, friends, and practitioners

Jennifer Harfst

College campus safety strategies

Brooke Bingham

Implementing a comfortable environment for
children with autism spectrum disorder

Regan Craig

Adequate staffing is important for successful
inclusive volunteering for people with
disabilities

Lizzie Nee

Evaluating the most effective intervention to
alleviate inpatient hospital recidivism rates for
adults in rural psychiatric settings with a
secondary focus on how healthcare workers can
better individually assist patients who may be at
higher risk for readmission

Tyn Ruth

Addressing Social Work Student Burnout

Taylor Kuntz

Long-Term Care for Patients

Morgan O'Donnell

Best interventions for adolescents with
problematic sexual behaviors in child welfare.

Imani Cameron

Different Ways to Implement Implicit Bias
Training into Child Welfare Agencies to
Decrease the Numbers of BIPOC Children in
Foster Care.

Madison Carter

CIT's in Law Enforcement.

Olivia Orndorff

The best learning materials and methods to help
students with autism



Spring BSW Senior Research



Student

Research Project

Casey Zimmerman

Social Skills Class Curriculum within Alternative Education

Katie Kollars

Language Access in Counseling Services

Sophie Karnis

What is the most effective way to make sure health care staff are educated enough to understand the needs of the LGBTQ population

Marcus Carter

How to best address apprehension regarding harm reduction strategies regarding overdose deaths in rural America

Kylee Ford

Implementing a trauma-sensitive learning environment

Marissa Reidy

Effective ways to Educate Young Adults on Consuming Unhealthy Food and Drinks

Lisa Marie Montgomery

Disparities in Mental Health Services

Madeline Davis

Recruiting BIPOC Coaches

Devon Speiser

Intimacy and Aging

Erika Lopez Martinez

The implementation of social services for older adults in rural communities

Adriana Baxter

Overworked and Underpaid Caseworkers in the Child Welfare System

Katie Rubio

Substance Use Disorders Within LGBTQ+ College Students



Spring BSW Senior Research



Student

Research Project

Jami Burket

The importance of certified social workers in nursing home settings

Ali Abdille

Impact of Language Barriers to the Immigrants and Refugees

Emmarose Carothers

Supporting Students Within the Alternative School Setting

Saige Keyes

Managing Somatic Needs through ACT

Daneeca Brown

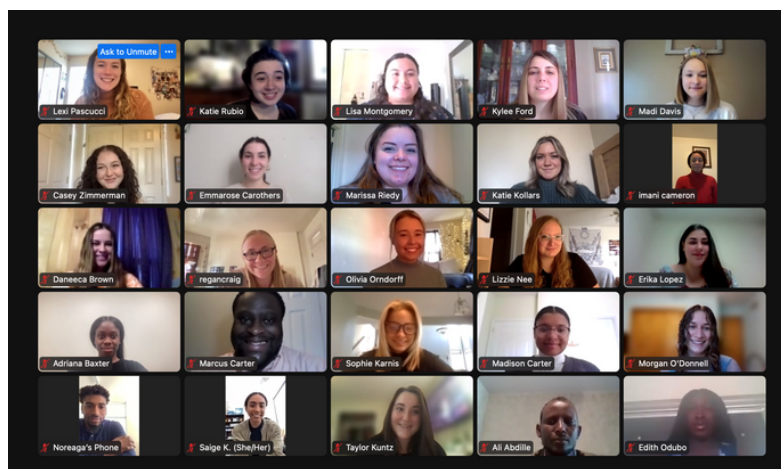
Methods of Intervention to Reduce Risks of Abuse for the ID/A Population.

Edith Odubo

The Issue of Employee/Caseworker Retention

Shamar Jenkins

Reducing Recidivism & How to Build Stronger Relationships with Clients



Letter from a BSW Student

Dear Future BSW Graduate, “Where do I go from here? How do I know if I am going in the right direction? What makes me different from every other social worker?”

Do these questions sound familiar? I am assuming they should as I was just recently in your shoes asking myself the same questions. Nervous about your choices: did I choose the right major, minor, internship, focus, etc.? Nervous about your future: where will I be; will I truly make a difference; what makes me different from those that came before me or are graduating with me? Trust me, these are all relevant questions that every single social worker goes through at some point in life, especially when preparing to take the next step after graduation. So, although you may not know me, please let me answer some of these trying questions for you.

“Where do I go from here?” This is one of the hardest questions to answer while trying to graduate; but the answer is simple. Anywhere and everywhere. You are graduating! If you want to continue your education, start researching and applying! If you want to go straight into the workforce, do it! Dig deep and find what is in your heart, and I promise you, you will absolutely find your way to where you are meant to be in time.

“How do I know if I am going in the right direction?” From personal experience, you will be able to feel it deep down if you are moving in the right direction. Set goals for yourself; however, do not be afraid to make adjustments to these goals as you go. When I first started at Shippensburg University, I planned on becoming a teacher! I enjoyed the classes and working with children, but I could feel that it was not where I was meant to end up. I was then introduced to the BSW program and decided that I wanted to give it a try as I have always wanted to help those in need. I never imagined myself as a social worker, but I have been loving every minute of it since graduation!

“What makes me different from everyone else?” This is the scariest, yet easiest answer that I can provide to you. The answer is simple: because you are you. No one else has gone through the obstacles that you have overcome throughout your life. No one else has had the same victories that you have had. No one else has walked in your shoes, felt the emotions that you have felt, or lived the life that you have lived every day. You are the reason you are different, and you are the reason that you will make positive influences throughout this world during the most vital times.

I never imagined the life that I am living. Growing up, I was in decent health and was always very active and intelligent. I was the valedictorian of my class, which is the only reason that I was able to go to college as my family background did not allow for it. (continued next page...)

Throughout my college education, I was hit with a severe illness that changed my entire life. I am now a proud individual with a physical disability who has utilized accommodations and assistive technology throughout my daily life. Although I never imagined this life for me, I would not change it for the world.

Additionally, I am now a proud, advocating social worker who helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with more understanding than I would have originally had prior to my new challenges. While there, I am able to help provide them with meaningful activities, lessons, community outings, and more so that they are able to live out the inclusive lives that they deserve. I began as an intern my last semester of my senior year, and quickly was hired as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) throughout the semester. Upon graduating, I was offered the position of Program Coordinator at the same location, and have been offered the chance to learn other various roles within the agency to continue furthering my education, career, and opportunities to create meaningful change throughout the world. Honestly, the steps that feel so small are the easiest steps to take and can often lift you toward new opportunities that you would not have imagined for yourself.

In conclusion, do not allow these questions to haunt or terrify you. Do not lose sleep over the things you do not know for sure yet; trust me, the homework will help you lose enough sleep on its own. Just remember, you can make the change that you want to make in this world. You can and will go in the right direction and help so many people if you are willing to seek opportunities and reach for your goals! Every single step you take this semester and after graduation will lead you into becoming the social worker that you are meant to be. Additionally, as it is something I always have to remind myself, you have time to figure these things out. You are still young and learning; do not rush yourself and always remember to live in the moment as that is the only way you will become the person you are meant to be! Finally, a single line that I feel every social worker should strive to live by, and I hope if you take anything from this if you have read this far, is this: "Always strive to be better than the person you were yesterday, as that is the only person you should be competing with and comparing yourself to!"

Sincerely, Jasmyn Williams Shippensburg University Social Work Graduate of 2021





MSW Field Placements-Generalist Year



Benji Abel- Shippensburg University PAGE Center
Elias Cabrera- Hilltop Academy
Marleana Carterbelles- Diakon Youth Services: Weekend Alternative Program
Ted Chylack- Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition
Jessica Erickson- The Shafer Center
Erin Eshelman- Messiah Lifeways
Audrey Fisher- Alzheimer's Association of Greater PA: Harrisburg Chapter
Jean Goodnack- Perry County Children & Youth Services
Kelsy Guyer- Excel Youth Program
Samantha Haskell- Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties
Todd Johnson- Merakey: Stevens Center A.C.T
Katie Kade- Daystar Center for Spiritual Recovery
Deborah Kearns- Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
Kasi Martinez- Hamilton Health Center
Beth McCreary- Shippensburg University Head Start Program
Megan Simmons- Franklin County Children & Youth Services
Alicia Smith- Shippensburg University Head Start Program
Bridgette Wentz- WellSpan Philhaven- Therapeutic After School Program
christina zeigler- Shippensburg University PAGE Center



MSW Field Placements-Specialist Year

Amanda Acri- Shippensburg Area School District
Emilee Bakner- Family Centered Services LLC
Katie Becker- Franklin/Fulton Drug & Alcohol Program
Whitney Bender- Merakey: STAR Center
Mary Braasch- Hilltop Academy
Michelle Brode- Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties
Gwen Burns- Sun Point Wellness Center
Abigail Bush- YWCA of Greater Harrisburg
Emilee Carbaugh-Egolf- Brook Lane Health Services
Allie Chapman- Gettysburg Area School District
Marissa Cikovic- Chambersburg Area School District
Amber Cornell- Tuscarora School District
Ed Curtis- New Visions Inc.
Michelle Diaz- Hoffman Homes for Youth Inc.
Zack Elsasser- Alternative Behavior Consultants (ABC)
Debra Failor- Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR)
Cortnney Faulkner- Elevated Mental Health Services
Mike Fox- Shippensburg University PAGE Center
Minnie Goshorn- Franklin County Children & Youth Services
Alex Hackney- Adams County Children & Youth Services
Shiloh Hagerty- Diakon Family Life Services
Laura Hans- Brook Lane Health Services
Emily Hogan- Chambersburg Area School District
Abby Howard- Pennsylvania Counseling Services
Kati Irwin- Center for Hope & Healing
Ashley Kerr- Brook Lane Health Services
Olivia Krokonko- Gaudenzia Common Ground
Erika Lane- Paramount Senior Living
Jodie LaRue- Laurel Life



MSW Field Placements-Specialist Year



Alexia Laughlin- Elevated Mental Health Services
Ali Laughman- Shippensburg University PAGE Center
Joey Loffio- Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition
Haley Hager- Hilltop Academy
Sahara McGrath- Shippensburg University PAGE Center
Sierra Snider- Tuscarora School District
Karly Mohr- Hilltop Academy
Shakwana Mosley- HEAL PA (Office of Advocacy & Reform)
Kristina Otte- Hilltop Academy
Kirsten Overholtzer- WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital
Gabrielle Romig- Penn State Dickinson School of Law: Children's Advocacy Clinic
Melissa Rosenberger- Gettysburg Area School District
Michaela Scatena- Winchester Community Mental Health Center
Blaine Shindel- Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition
Brandon Shrawder- YWCA of Greater Harrisburg: Veteran Services
Victoria Slobodian- Shippensburg University PAGE Center
Lindsay Smeigh- Diakon Family Life Services
Ken Smith- Penn State Holy Spirit Medical Center: Behavioral Health Inpatient Unit
Katee Solsky- Shippensburg University Wellness Program
Jennifer Stevens- Diakon Youth Services: Weekend Alternative Program
Madison Uccellini- Laurel Life: Waynesboro Area School District
Kate Washington- Commonwealth Clinical Group
Morgan Welch- Hilltop Academy
Jerome Williams- Franklin County Family Services
Emanuel Wilkerson- Roxbury Treatment Center
Cassie Zaleski- Chambersburg Area School District

Letter from a MSW Student

Dear MSW Graduates,

Well, here we are. We made it through the essays, group projects, presentations, and discussion posts. All the late-night classes are over, and we can finally breathe a sigh of relief. Yet, we are also done with classmate discussions, hearing about everyone's unique internship experiences, and just catching up on life. We were given the opportunity to talk about everyone's passions and goals in life. Everyone was able to relate to similar struggles and offer advice. These are the reasons I looked forward to classes. I wanted to catch up with my peers and know I was not the only one alone in trying to figure out the next steps.

What are the next steps? There is no right answer. We all have different paths in life. Some of us are already working, some are in the process of applying for jobs, and some of us are just focused on graduating. Whatever you are planning to do after May 6th, it will be what is best for your path in life.

If you are nervous about what is going to happen next, just remember how we adapted our education during a pandemic. We have persevered through some of the hardest times, and we should keep that mindset outside of school. Life will keep throwing curveballs at us but as social workers, we know how to hit them out of the park. Here is to the future, whatever that may look like.

- Sahara McGrath, MSW Student



LEAD

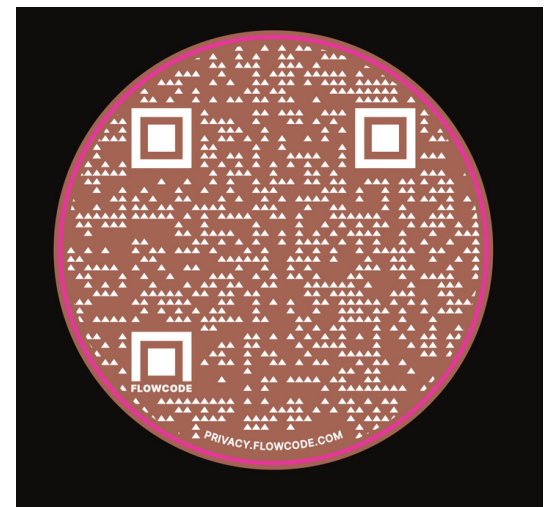
On March 22nd, the Social Work Department participated in the NASW-PA's annual Legislative Education Advocacy Day (LEAD). The virtual event focused on SB705: Telehealth in Pennsylvania. We had two of our BSW students, Tyn Ruth and Leah Wolfinger, give testimonies in advocating for telemedicine. In addition to the formal event offered by NASW-PA, the department hosted its own legislative advocacy related panels and presentations.

Ted Chylack, Benji Abel, and Blaine Shindel discussed the Non-Discrimination Ordinance (NDO) that Shippensburg Township needs. A similar ordinance was passed in the Borough of Shippensburg, but they are working to expand protections throughout the township. This ordinance will prevent discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, familial status, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, source of income. Dr. Jay and Dr. Minnick both opened the meeting by giving a bit of background on the NDO and how this initially started as a Borough NDO which was written in response to a student's experience with housing discrimination related to sexual orientation. They then talked about how they wanted to take their time with this NDO and really make sure that all of the bases were covered and that there was enough community support to move it forward.

Blaine Shindel, SCRC intern and MSW student, talked about community organizing. The goal is to raise support from the community and increase awareness on discrimination at the local level. Essentially, it safeguards our rights and democracy and ensures everyone has equal protection from discrimination under the law. Currently, no such ordinance exists in the township, which means that there are no protections from discrimination regarding housing, employment, financial assistance, educational institutions, or public accommodations.

Ted Chylack talked a bit about Chambersburg's recent NDO repeal. Chylack also discussed diffusion theory and how the effects of their NDO may influence public opinion in other local regions, so we really need to gather the support now so that we have enough people behind this the proposal is ready.

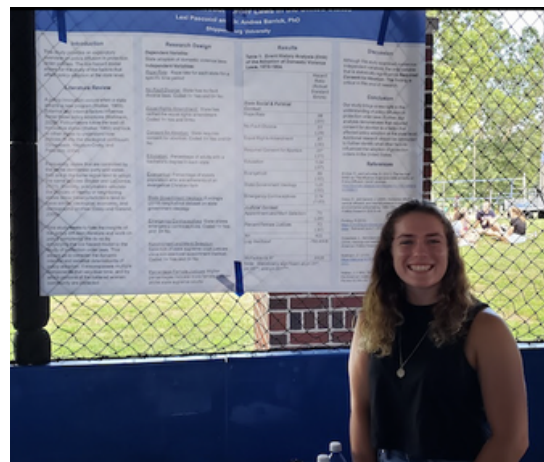
If you would like to offer support in favor of passing this the NDO, scan the QR Code and sign the petition.



NASW-PA Conference

The 2021 NASW-PA Conference was held from October 24th-27th online. The theme was "Social Workers are Essential."

Lexi Passucci shares her experience about presenting at this past year's NASW-Pa Conference



Lexi Passucci

"Throughout the past year, I have been working with Dr. Barrick regularly on research centered around Policy Diffusion in Protection Order Laws across the United States. This is complex, but interesting research. Dr. Barrick has provided me with numerous opportunities to present this research as an undergraduate, including at the NASW-PA Conference.

Presenting at the NASW-PA Conference was nerve wracking, but an amazing experience. All of the undergraduate students who were presenting that day were put into their own zoom room to present their research, and all attendees of the conference jumped in and out of each room. During the breakout rooms on zoom, I had the opportunity to share my research, the process, what I learned during my experience, etc. I spoke with some admirable people, and I will never forget it."

Lexi will also be giving this presentation at the annual Shippensburg University Minds at Work Conference



Faculty Kudos

Dr. Liz Fisher and Dr. Jayleen Galarza, with support from **Dr. Samuel Benbow**, and **Dr. Dorlisa Minnick**, presented their work: 'Integrating Antiracist Education Training With BSW Field Students in Rural Communities', as part of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Field Institute at the Annual Program Meeting.

Dr. Galarza is the winner of the 2022 AASECT DEI Award (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award). Dr. Galarza was honored at the AASECT's 2022 Virtual Conference on June 3rd.

Dr. Jen Clements presented an invited presentation titled "More than Ice Breakers: How to Use Activity in Group Work to Enhance Mutual Aid" at the International Association for Social Work with Groups Virtual International Symposium, June 2021.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Robert L. Hewitt was a Catalyst Center for Non-Profit Management University 2021 Webinar Conference co-presenter in one of 19 expert workshops sharing his years of knowledge, strategies and tactics in leadership, sustainability, compliance and resilience areas of organizational management. Dr. Hewitt's workshop was focused on leadership and resilience in the practice of cultural humility. His workshop entitled "Cultural Humility: Leading by Example" was focused on helping non-profit agencies to grow their mission, increase their impact and to solidify their foundation in the community as it relates to leading in the practice of cultural humility (diversity, equity, and belonging).



Dr. Samuel
Benbow



Dr. Jen Clements



Dr. Liz Fisher



Dr. Jayleen
Galarza



Dr. Dorlisa
Minnick

MSW Program News

If you received your undergraduate degree in social work with us, we invite you to further your education by getting an MSW! If you know people with any undergraduate degree who have experience with and are passionate about working with people in different areas, please spread the word about our MSW program. We are excited to announce several NEW options.

Fully Online Option

We have started a fully online option for the MSW program which has been approved by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). During our first cohort for 2022-2023, we will be offering the fully online option to students who qualify for advanced standing and have chosen to go part-time. Classes start in summer or fall. The fully online option is a very good alternative for our alumni who currently live at a distance from Shippensburg where we offer our in-person program. Classes are taught by the same faculty who teach in the in-person program.

School Social Work Certification

This is a new opportunity for all those who wish to practice in a school setting. In collaboration with the Departments of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership and Special Education, we are offering all the courses that meet the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the certification.

Continued on the next page...



MSW Graduates Spring 2022

MSW Program News, Continued

Behavior Specialist Certificate

In collaboration with the Department of Psychology, our graduating students may now receive a behavior specialist certificate by successfully completing its requirements. Behavior specialists work in organizations and agencies focused on helping children and adult populations with disabilities.

Dual Degree: Master of Social Work and Master of Public Administration

This new dual degree offered by the Shippensburg University School of Social Work and the Shippensburg University Department of Political Sciences allows students to understand the frameworks of social work theory and practice, as well as in general public management theory, techniques and skills. The students need to apply and be admitted to both programs to pursue this joint degree. It is not required that students be admitted to both programs at the same time. Students who complete both programs will earn a Master's of Social Work and a Masters' of Public Administration.

Coverdell Fellows Program

Shippensburg University's Social Work and Gerontology Department is proud to partner with the Peace Corps to offer the Coverdell Fellows Program. The program is a graduate fellowship for returned Peace Corps Volunteers wishing to pursue a Master of Social Work. The Benefits for Coverdell Fellows Program are the following: (a) part-time graduate assistantship: 6 credits per semester tuition waiver (\$6,192 annual for in-state and \$9,288 for out-of-state), (b) graduate assistant salary (up to \$1,670 per semester, totaling \$3,340 annual pay), (c) free graduate housing (waiver of \$3,600 annual cost), (d) \$200 book stipend per term (totaling \$600 per academic year per Fellow), and (e) graduate program application fee (\$45 waived).



Students celebrate at the MSW Graduation Reception

Welcome Kimberly Taylor!



Kimberly Taylor

During Fall of 2021, we welcomed Kimberly Taylor as the new department secretary. Kim is from Shippensburg who had recently decided to take a break from healthcare. For the last 18 years she was a Lead Emergency Room Technician at Carlisle Hospital. She has always loved the Shippensburg University community.

She and her husband have been married for 22 years, she has two beautiful, kind, "all around great" boys. She is also a grandmother to two beautiful granddaughters. Her family is the most important thing in the world. Kim states, "The Social Work Department faculty, staff, and students are so welcoming and they are truly a "family" that have welcomed me in with open arms." Again we would like to welcome Kim Taylor!

Contact Kim at
ktaylor@ship.edu



Kimberly Taylor with her family

Alumni Spotlight

Cecilia Luna graduated from SU with a BSW in 2008 and received her MSW in 2012. She originally started at HACC then transferred to SU for the last years of her undergraduate degree. SU was appealing to her due to the fact that it was close and had an accredited social work program. After graduation, she had no clue what field she saw herself in but was always drawn more towards macro social work.



Cecilia Luna

Cecilia has had a wide array of jobs. She was a foster care/adoption program coordinator for Rejoice! Inc, a medical social worker at Holy Spirit

hospital an, external marketer for Country Meadows, and a social service director at Manor Care. She is currently working for the PA Department of Health, Division of Nursing Care Facilities as a Health Care Facility Quality Examiner. She and four other co-workers do intake for nursing home complaints. They listen and take care of the complaints either via email, virtually, or postal mail. Their department also manages the PA Nurse Aide Registry. This means they investigate any incidents of elder abuse from a nurse aides within a nursing home.

Cecilia is still assisting here at Shippensburg University. Since graduation, she has helped in any way possible. From being an adjunct professor, coming into classes to speak, or if faculty just needs something reviewed, she is always more than willing to pay it forward. She also serves on the department's social work advisory board and gerontology advisory board.

Her advice for students is, "Do not limit yourself." Do not think you have it all figured out before you graduate because you have an endless number of possibilities. Keep adding tools into your toolbox. This means taking classes that may feel unfamiliar, because after graduation, you may find yourself where you did not imagine.

Write the Ship

Write the Ship is Shippensburg University's Undergraduate Academic Journal. The journal, sponsored by the English Department, was founded in order to foster Shippensburg University's community of talented student writers. Every issue presents well-written work by students, on a wide variety of subjects, which demonstrate the abilities and interests of a vibrant university campus. Congratulations to Jay Harnish, Saige Keyes, Lizzie Nee, Zoé Williard, Carlos Barraza-Rodriguez, Madeline Davis, and Tyn Ruth. A few students share about the pieces they submitted.

Quote from Zoe Willard

My name is Zoe Williard and I am a second-semester junior. I chose social work as my major because I think it is the most rewarding profession I could go into. I enjoyed volunteering with different clubs in high school so becoming a social worker just made sense. I love the social work department and all of my professors too.

The piece I wrote was for Dr. Barrick's gender issues class, SWK 420. The paper was a reflection of my gender identity as well as a description of a friend's gender identity (based on an interview with the friend). In my piece, I described how I try to embrace my female gender identity as an adult because as a child, I was exposed to a lot of negative messages regarding women. Feminism has helped me reframe my mindset of women and has helped me learn nontraditional ways of expressing my gender identity.

Quote from Madeline Davis

Hello, I am Madeline Davis. I am a senior social work major. I am currently interning at Girls on the Run. One of my favorite parts of my internship is getting to work with the girls on my team! I really enjoy interacting with other people and getting to know their stories! One of the main reason I chose social work was because of the interaction I get to have with people. I started my college journey as a chemistry major wanting to be a doctor, but I fell in love with being able to work with others on a personal level. Through my social work classes, I was able to learn about sports social work and being able to work with athletes. I wrote my paper on a particular policy that was created after the gymnastics scandal in 2016. The policy helped build upon Safesport and create a voice for athletes who are being abused. I have really found this topic interesting, and I hope you do to!

Write the Ship

Quote from Saige Keyes

Hi, my name is Saige Keyes. My pronouns are she/her and they/them. I am the middle child of three and a Scorpio. I am a non-traditional student here at Shippensburg University in my last semester, obtaining my BSW. There was never any hesitation growing up and wanting to go to school to be a social worker. I think my purpose and ideologies have changed through my own lived experience in higher academia. I hope to aid communities that have been marginalized and work with grassroots organizations. I think social work is shifting, shedding, and undoing its own internalized White Supremacy work. I am as well. Last semester under Dr. Barrick I was able to reflect on my gender identity and what that means to me through an assignment. I feel honored to share a part of it with you.

"It is hard and confusing on multiple layers. I am still an onion peeling back its layers and recognizing that the gender binary sometimes feels anti-Black to me. It is knowing that gender was exclusive to the white race and used to exploit and enslave Black people (Carby, 1989). I am thinking about decolonization and freedom. I am thinking about Ericka Hart, Marsha P. Johnson, Nyuma Waggeh, and Alan Pelaez Lopez."

I chose this section from my essay because it embodies such a major part of my own self-reflection inside and outside the rooms of higher academia. If you are reading this and identify or resonate in any way please feel free to reach out, my email is keyessaige@gmail.com

MSW Celebration Student Speech

Jerome Williams was nominated by peers to provide the annual MSW speech at the MSW Graduation Reception. The text of the speech follows.

Good evening. It is an incredible honor to speak to you today in front of such an esteemed cohort I am grateful to be a part of. The moment we have been tracking on our “countdown” apps on our cellphones and for us who are old school, on our calendars has finally arrived. The day of our graduate commencement and another chapter of our incredible shared journey. Congratulations to every single one of you, please give yourselves a round of applause.

As far as speech making goes, it would behoove of me to address the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics but not without sharing a quote first by Martin Luther King Jr. which should sound familiar. Also, I wanted to thank you as I always wanted to use the word “behoove” in a sentence and you have given me the opportunity to do so.

Martin Luther King Jr. states “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

Indeed, as social workers, we are called to service to challenge social injustice anywhere by promoting social justice everywhere. We provide services competently and act in a manner of integrity, all the while understanding the vehicle of change lies in the importance of the human relationships we build with others. Lastly, we conduct ourselves in such a way that people feel valued and are treated with dignity and worth, and we are intentional in incorporating the beauty of cultural and ethnic differences as these differences add to the work that we do.

Each of you add something to the field of social work. I am in awe to see the rows of my classmates, friends, all the natural support systems, and faculty that give the principle of “Dignity and Worth of a Person” its shape. We all have a beautifully unique story of making it this far and it is in these stories that signify how important our relationships are to one another that allows us to serve others in our shared calling to promote social justice. I am sure we learned to be people of integrity as each monthly report asked us to practice on the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

(continued next page)

MSW Celebration Commencement Speech

Whether you refuse to do micro, are nervous to do mezzo work or macro work, you still were required to follow professional standards in each category. Additionally, the time we spent studying and the time we sacrificed with loved ones helped us to face adversity through leaning on one another and allowed us to come out on the other side of adversity, and with it, gain more competence.

As I close, I want us all to not only see the inherent dignity and worth of a person in others, but I want us to fully be committed to believing in the dignity and worth of our person as well. Not to brag or boost, but we are awesome. In all seriousness, you are here today because of your dedication and love to this field and because of the dedication and love from those that surround you. With that being said, I want to thank the social work department and its faculty for surrounding us with their dedication and love as well as we couldn't have done it without your patience and guidance. And of course, thank you to all our friends and loved ones who continue to stand by us and support us and will continue to do so. I feel confident to speak on behalf of all of us that we couldn't directly impact those we serve without being directly impacted by your support as well.

Thank you.



Jerome Williams

Department Advisory Council

The Social Work Advisory Council (SWAC) meets every Fall and Spring to learn about and give feedback on department information, updates, projects, and concerns. In return the council provides community updates to the faculty and advises the department about their concerns or projects. Much of the discussion this year centered around the current staffing crisis in the community.

Members of the council assist faculty in reviewing Professional Standing applications and participate in the selection of winners of the the Robert L. Hewitt Vision for Excellence in Social Work scholarship award. In November of 2021, committee members and faculty reviewed students' application before selecting students to interview. The recipients chosen this year for the Vision for Excellence scholarship award are Alexandra Pascucci and Imani Cameron who both graduate May 2022.

The council consists of social work professionals and is always on the lookout for new members. If you are interested, please contact Dr.Liz Fisher at eafish@ship.edu or Linda Butts, Council Chair, at labutts@ship.edu.

Linda Butts, MSW.....Shippensburg Head Start Director, Chair

Ashley Bryan.....Licensed Social Worker, Educator & Entrepreneur

Sue Carbaugh, MSW.....Cumberland County IDD.EI Director

Nicole Crisp, MSW.....Cumberland County Children and Youth Services Director

Cecilia Luna, MSW.....Health Facility Quality examiner, PA Dept. of Health

Laura Masgalas, MSW...Community Organizer, PCAR

Robin Moore, MSW.....Social Worker, Bethany Village

Michelle Smith, MSW....Social Worker, Community Service Group

James Telesky, MSW.....Senior Supervisor, Harrisburg Abraxas Student Academy

Becky Van der Groef.....Hoffman Homes, Vice President of Clinical and Residential Programs

Gail Witwer.....Director of Health Promotion, Partnership for Better Health

Sam Benbow.....Faculty and BSW alumni



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