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Message from the Director

By D J Williams, PhD



We are excited to begin 2013 and to share new developments in the ISU Social Work Program with you! The ISU Social Work Program has a rich tradition of collaboration within the community. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of many people in diverse roles who have built our Program over the years. Indeed, we have a strong tradition of educational and professional excellence at our university and within the community.

As we move ahead with a

new year, we will continue to strengthen connections and partnerships within our community, while also conducting cutting-edge research and providing excellent teaching. Our goals are consistent with the overall mission of ISU; that is, we want our work to impact beneficially “the people of Idaho, the nation and the world.”

In this issue of *Snapshots*, we invite you to get to know us better. We begin by introducing (and re-introducing) our talented faculty and staff. Read about our social work experts and the professional interests of each, and please feel free to contact a faculty member(s) who shares knowledge relevant to the services that your agency provides.

We also invite you to take a look at our exciting new teaching philosophy to GO FAR! GO FAR! is based on

our recent program evaluation and is designed to help our students develop stronger skills that will help them become more effective as future social workers. Finally, we wrap up this issue with new details about our Continuing Education training, along with a concluding message from Staci Jensen Hart, our Field Director. We hope you enjoy this issue of *Snapshots*, and we look forward to continued collaboration with you!



www.isu.edu/sociology/socialwork

You can now find us on Facebook:

**Idaho State University-Dept of Sociology,
Social Work, & Criminal Justice**

Introducing (and Re-introducing) Our Outstanding Faculty and Staff

The Social Work Program has undergone some changes over the past year or two, so let us introduce our outstanding current full-time faculty and staff, along with their areas of expertise:



DJ Williams, PhD (Program Director and Assistant Professor) – Dr. Williams' scholarship crosses social work, sociology, leisure sciences, and criminology. He is particularly interested in topics involving forensic social work, sexual diversity, and unconventional leisure experiences. He is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*, and his research has been featured in numerous academic journals and books.

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Staci Jensen-Hart, LCSW (Field Director and Associate Professor) – Professor Jensen-Hart is our recent Program Director and also our current and former Field Director. She is principal investigator on the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare statewide child welfare training contract. Her research interests include play therapy and social work

pedagogy. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, *Reflections*, and *Advances in Social Work*.

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Candace Christensen, PhD (Assistant Professor) – Dr. Christensen recently completed her PhD from the University of Utah. Her scholarly interests are in the areas of feminist and community research methods, theatre-based interventions, sexuality, and sexual violence prevention. Dr. Christensen has published research in the journal *Qualitative Social Work*.

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Jeehoon Kim, PhD (Assistant Professor) – Dr. Kim comes to ISU from the State University of New York at Albany. She has expertise in aging and health issues and policy evaluation. Dr. Kim is also proficient in quantitative research methods and data analysis. Her work has been

published in the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work* and *Community Mental Health Journal*.

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Kimberly Wacaster, LCSW (Title IV-E Scholars Coordinator) – Ms. Wacaster is the Title IV-E Scholars Coordinator. Her work focuses on child welfare issues, and she is active in providing CEU training on topics that focus on social work practice involving families.

Email: wacakimb@isu.edu



Kevin Owens, BA (Office Manager) – Mr. Owens possesses a wide range of skills that help keep us together and make our Program operate efficiently! He is exceptionally proficient at understanding and utilizing technology, including specialized computer software.

Email: owenkevi@isu.edu

Continued Success: We Want our Students to “GO FAR!”

An important goal of education is to help increase students' motivation for continual learning. Our faculty is committed to helping social work students learn research, theory, critical thinking, and ethics that are necessary in order to become successful practitioners. At the same time, scholars in social work and related helping professions know that clinical competence is much more than a simple, mechanistic application of theory and technique. Human dynamics, such as empathy, caring, warmth, sensitivity and authenticity, also are essential to effective social work practice. We want our students to learn and begin to apply both the *science* and the *art* of social work, which leads to the development of a

healthy and skilled professional self. After considering both relevant multidisciplinary scholarship on effective helping and assessing specific needs of our students, we have created a focus, summarized below, to help our students “GO FAR!” in their future careers as social work professionals. While we have strategically designed “GO FAR!” to help develop student training, it also can be applied by professionals at any stage of their careers.

G = Genuine.
Clients respond better to workers who are genuine and authentic.

O = Optimism.
Give at least three positive statements for each criticism

and watch motivation increase!

F = Fun!
Having fun and being professional are not mutually exclusive! There is much room for both!

A = Accountability.
Success depends on professionals being accountable and responsible for their work.

R = Rigor.
Research, theory, and critical thinking are essential for effective social work practice.

We expect increased student success by cultivating this approach within our teaching. We invite you to adopt this approach, too, if you like, and to GO FAR! with us!

GO FAR!

Faculty Research Highlights

Candace Christensen recently published two book reviews in the journal *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*. She recently gave a presentation at the Bannock County Domestic Violence Conference, and she has three research papers in the peer review process.

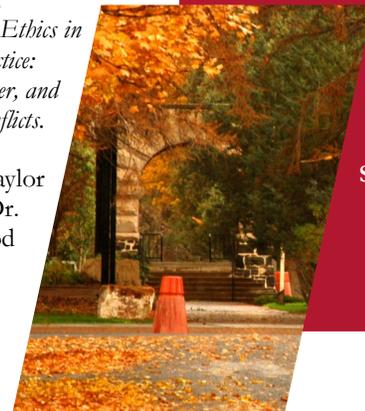
D J Williams had two papers published last summer in a special issue of a criminal justice journal focusing on convict criminology, along with a chapter in *A Reader on Race and Ethnic Relations: Harmonizing Indigenous and Immigrant Voices* (Kendall

Hunt Publishing). In September he consulted with analysts at the FBI National Forensics Laboratory and gave a presentation with Emily Prior (Director of the Center for Positive Sexuality in Los Angeles) at the *Woodhull Sexual Freedom Summit* in Washington, DC.

Jeehoon Kim shared her findings from two separate research projects at the *65th Gerontological Society of America Meeting* in San Diego in November. Dr. Kim's research on work experience patterns of baby boomers in Korea has been funded by

the Metlife Mature Market Institute.

Staci Jensen-Hart recently reviewed a CEU course by the National Association of Christian Social Workers, titled *Ethics in Social Work Practice: Evangelism, Prayer, and Other Value Conflicts*. The course was developed at Baylor University by Dr. David Sherwood and is designed for national online availability.



Swanson Arch,
ISU Campus,
Pocatello,
Idaho

Message from the Field Director: Rally Cry!

By Staci Jensen-Hart, LCSW

I am excited to return to the position of Field Director, and I look forward to collaborating more directly with our outstanding field instructors and partner agencies. Since leaving the role of Field Director over two years ago, I have noticed a concerning trend as recession woes have impacted agency funding, and MSW programs have increased their presence in the southeast Idaho community. It is becoming more difficult to find experienced, licensed social workers who are able to find time to supervise bachelor level students in field agencies. Thus, I issue forth a “rally cry” to our community social workers and former students who now qualify to be field instructors (LSW + 2 years of experience): We need you to help us continue providing excellent baccalaureate social work education! The baccalaureate level of social work education is foundational for student professional development. As you know, students at this level need quality field education in order to become effective professionals. Furthermore, quality field education is a key ingredient for success in advanced-standing (1 year) MSW programs.

Our ISU Social Work Program needs both junior and senior placements as described below:

Junior Practicum I is completed as a course assignment in conjunction with the class *Practice with Individuals and Families* (SOWK 3372). Students are expected to complete 60 hours of in-agency work, where they are exposed to direct practice with individuals and families.

Junior Practicum II is completed as a course assignment in conjunction with *Group Work* (SOWK 3373). Students are expected to complete 12 hours of in-agency work, preferably over a period of several sessions or weeks. This placement allows students direct exposure to social work practice with groups in order to develop skills of engagement, assessment, intervention, and evaluation. Ideally, the group experience will be an educational, treatment, or therapy form of group.

Senior Field Practicum (SOWK 4476/4477) requires students to complete 400 hours of in-agency work that addresses specific multi-level practice competencies. Students

may complete the 400 hours in one semester (block placement) or over two semesters of 200 hours each (concurrent placement).

The ISU Social Work Program invites you to consider this important opportunity to impact a new generation of social workers, while also fulfilling an ethical responsibility to the social work profession (see NASW Code of Ethics, Ethical Standard 5.01c). Please visit our agency and field instructor page at: <http://www.isu.edu/sociology/socialwork/agency-instructors.shtml> to complete an agency application and field instructor background form. If you are a current field instructor, I encourage you to update your agency profile by clicking on the Intern Placement Tracking System link. Thank you very much for your professional help and support! Together, we will GO FAR! in helping our students develop the practice skills that they need in order to become effective social work professionals!

New this year!

Current ISU Social Work Program field instructors will receive a discount when registering for Outreach in the Community CEU events.

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We're on the web!

[www.isu.edu/sociology/
socialwork](http://www.isu.edu/sociology/socialwork)

You can now find us on Facebook:

**Idaho State University-Dept of Sociology,
Social Work, & Criminal Justice**

The Social Work Program is located within the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Letters. It offers a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) degree program fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting agency.

The mission of the Social Work Program at Idaho State University is to prepare students to work as professionals in entry-level social work generalist practice. It is the program's vision that graduates will work within the social work profession by: 1) contributing to the enhancement of quality of life, 2) empowering individuals, families, groups, and communities, and 3) advancing human rights and social and economic justice. Consistent with the University mission, the Social Work Program strives to develop students who think critically and are able to provide health related and other professional social work services within agencies and programs to the people of Idaho, the nation, and the world.

The Guardian Scholars Program

By Sherri Gaudio, Guardian Scholars Intern

The Guardian Scholars Program is a nationally recognized program designed to assist former foster youth with the transition to college and throughout their college careers in order to provide support and thus increase the likelihood of retention.

The Guardian Scholars Program at ISU is sponsored by the ISU Social Work Program. Guardian Scholars will provide former foster care youth with social connections that include family-style dinners, holiday dinners, birthday cards, and monthly activities to help keep these students engaged

in college life. Trained mentors are assigned to connect with each scholar. The mentors are expected to have a minimum of one face-to-face meeting each month, and they stay in close contact with scholars and help them acclimate to college.

In addition to mentoring and social activities, the Guardian Scholars Program is available to assess specific needs and connect scholars with university resources, including academic counseling, health and counseling services, admission and enrollment services, employment

assistance, career counseling, year-round housing opportunities, and tuition assistance.

Currently, the ISU Guardian Scholars Program has two trained mentors and four active scholars. The first barbecue was recently held with three scholars in attendance. On October 25, 2012, the program hosted a symposium, *Guardian Scholars: Engaging Foster Youth in Higher Education*, which features panels of foster alumni and child welfare professionals.



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For more information

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