

Winthrop Social Work E-News

Spring 2012

Issue # 1

*Serving alumni and friends of the
Winthrop University Department of Social Work*

Web Links:

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Message from the Department Chair

Welcome to our inaugural social work newsletter from Winthrop University! Our purpose with this newsletter is to inform social work alumni and friends about news and developments from the Department of Social Work.

I am delighted to share that Winthrop social work students continue to shine at the state level. You will see in the article at the bottom of this page that Katie Zanowski received the BSW Student of the Year award and Wendy Adams received the MSW Student of the Year award at the recent NASW-SC spring symposium.

Three valued social work faculty members were awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this spring: Brent Cagle, P.h.D., Wendy Campbell, P.h.D., and Cynthia Forrest, P.h.D. Cynthia Forrest was also recently named as the new director of the gerontology minor at Winthrop. She will continue as a faculty member in social work while also directing the gerontology minor.

We are grateful to a newly formed

Community Advisory Committee of social work leaders across the Carolinas who provide for us a professional practice perspective as we continually work to integrate social work education with real world practice. Please click here to see the full list of [Community Advisory Committee members](#).

In closing, thank you for taking the time to view our newsletter. We would love to hear from alumni and friends about what you are doing and how you are making a difference in the world. Contact us anytime at socialwork@winthrop.edu.

Sincerely,
Deana F. Morrow



[Deana F. Morrow](#),
PhD, LPC, LCSW,
LISW-CP, ACSW
Department Chair

Click Below to Check out
What's Happening on the State Level



Winthrop Students Earn State Awards

Two social work students won top honors in March from the SC Chapter of NASW. Wendy Adams of Rock Hill was selected as the MSW Student of the Year, while Katherine "Katie" Zanowski of Neptune, N.J., was picked as the BSW Student of the Year.

Adams is a non-traditional student who has distinguished herself as a McNair Scholar. Awarded the Lisa Evans Scholarship from the College of Arts and Sciences twice, she also holds a New Start Scholarship and was an AARP National Women's Foundation Scholarship Award recipient both as an undergraduate and graduate student. Adams has conducted original research on the needs of people who attend suicide survivor groups and formulated recommendations on how to make societal changes. She shared these findings at two conferences and has since expanded on her work and co-presented on bullying and suicidal behaviors at the SC NASW spring symposium.

Zanowski is in Winthrop's Honors Program. This semester she undertook an original research project focused on helping others understand the body image challenges faced by some university students and presented her findings at the Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium. As a volunteer she has advocated

for children who have chronic and terminal illness, worked with hospice patients in nursing homes and tutored at the Emmett Scott Center and Richmond Drive Elementary School. Zanowski is also captain of the Winthrop's Quiz Bowl team, president of the Social Work Club and is a Winthrop Ambassador with the admissions department.



From left to right: Wendy Adams, Sue Lyman, Ameda Manetta, Katie Zanowski

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BSW Program News

The students of the BSW program had a tremendous 2011-2012 academic year. The program saw an increase of students this academic year for a total of 94 BSW students.

The student organizations provided great opportunities for our students to serve both on campus and in the community. The BSW Social Work Club obtained donations and hosted a movie night for the Children's Attention Home (CAH), had a Bingo event with the Adult Daycare Center, put together a phenomenal cultural event about cyber-bullying, and helped the MSW Student Association with a bake sale for a Place for Hope.

The Winthrop Chapter of NABSW (National Association of Black Social Workers) was recognized at their national

conference in Atlanta for their new membership in the organization. NABSW activities this year included two cultural events, two Easter egg hunts with local children, bake sales, a gas card fund raiser for CAH, and a food drive for a local food pantry.

We are very proud of the work that our BSW students are doing both in the classroom and in the community. Our goal is to prepare BSW students for beginning generalist social work practice, ensuring that each and every one follows the established core social work values of service, social justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence.

[Kareema Gray, BSW Program Director](#)

MSW Program News

The MSW program is thriving as we prepare to start our seventh year. The program offers an empowerment practice concentration and three distinct options for completing the degree. Building on a very strong start in 2006 the program has grown steadily and now has close to 100 students across the three program options. The two-year 60-hour option is designed for students who can devote their energy to full-time study. The three-year 60-hour weekend program is a part-time option designed for students who have professional or personal obligations that prevent them from devoting their time to full-time study but still want to earn their graduate degree, and the advanced-standing program is a 39-hour full-time option offered for those students who have already earned a BSW.

We are very proud of all that our students accomplish. The MSW student association (WMSA) had a very good year organizing a variety of fundraisers for local agencies and one of the most successful blood drives ever held on campus. WMSA also provides a student voice in the department governance through the student advisory committee and their representatives on the department curriculum and assessment committees.

We congratulate two of this year's graduates for receiving competitive statewide awards; Wendy Adams for receiving the SCNASW MSW Student of the Year Award and BryAnne Jones for being named the Optimist Club Officer of the Year.

[Sue Lyman, MSW Program Director](#)

Center for Social Welfare Research & Assessment

Best social work practices are founded in evidence-based research. Recognizing this as an essential practice principle, the Department of Social Work launched the Center for Social Welfare Research & Assessment (CSWRA) in July 2007. Its mission is to support the practice community by conducting research and other services while also supporting the goals of the department by offering dynamic hands-on learning experiences for social work graduate students.

The CSWRA offers an assortment of services to the community that includes: survey research, data analysis, needs assessments, training, technical

assistance, and program evaluation. Currently, the CSWRA maintains contracts with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - Bureau of Long Term Care and Behavioral Health and the South Carolina Department of Social Services. As a result, the CSWRA team stays extremely busy with approximately 15 various projects at any point in time. In each subsequent newsletter, we will highlight one of those projects; by offering an overview of its focus, the key activities, and most importantly, its stakeholders. We welcome the opportunity to share with you our work in the CSWRA.

[Justine Gradillas, Dir. of Operations](#)

Notes from the Field Office

The Field Office has been extremely busy this spring with our largest classes ever and also with hosting the North Carolina Field Education Consortium Meeting. This semi-annual meeting brings together the field directors from universities and colleges all across North Carolina. The amount of collective wisdom and experience is amazing and the willingness to share information, brainstorm current issues and plan for future field experiences to be the very best they can for all our students was so rejuvenating. The Winthrop team is the only South Carolina school involved and has been included in this group for years. Some of the schools in attendance were UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Charlotte, UNC Greensboro, Appalachian, North Carolina A & T, Meredith and Johnson C. Smith to name just a few.

One of our guest speakers at this meeting was Wanda Reives, asst. director of the North Carolina Child Welfare Education Consortium. It is always interesting to see how each state tackles issues of internships at DSS and how we can interface between the two states. The last day, Dr. Forrest did a presentation called "Flex Your Ethical Muscles in Field" that was very well received by the attendees and generated great discussion about ethical issues that face students in field settings.

This very successful meeting gave us a chance to introduce Winthrop University and our great social work program to many who had never seen our campus and will be sending students to our graduate program in the future.

[Linda Ashley, Dir. Of Field](#)