

Winthrop Social Work E-News

Spring 2013

Issue # 3

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

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Message from the Department Chair

Greetings social work alumni and friends! Welcome to our spring newsletter. I am pleased to announce the reaccreditation of our BSW and MSW programs by the Council on Social Work Education. Accreditation for both programs has been extended for a full eight-year cycle through February 2021. Based on the quality of our assessment reporting to CSWE, Winthrop has been invited to instruct an assessment session at the upcoming CSWE national conference in October.

You will see in this newsletter that Winthrop social work has received accolades at the state level with Christina Marko and Sean Robinson receiving the NASW-SC BSW and MSW Student of the Year awards respectively, and Dr. Sue Lyman receiving the NASW-SC Social Worker of the Year award. We are also working

hard to build scholarship funding for students, instituting both the Virginia W. and Elizabeth C. Mortimer Scholarship and the Linda M. Ashley scholarship this year. As we conclude this academic year, I am ever-mindful of those things that make Winthrop social work so special: Eager students, caring faculty and staff, and engaged alumni and friends. Together we are a community of learners and scholars who share a commitment to social work excellence and a vision for making the world safer, more just, and more inclusive.



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

2013 Scholarship Recipients



The Department of Social Work awarded two newly funded scholarships this spring.

MSW students Donine Lucenti (top right) and Michele Lewis (bottom right) both received the Virginia W. and Elizabeth C. Mortimer scholarship for their academic and professional achievements in the areas of affordable housing and emergency services. Both Donine and Michele completed field placements that focused on housing needs. Donine was at [Charlotte Family Housing](#) and Michele was at [The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte](#).

MSW student Stacy Wright (bottom left) received the Linda M. Ashley scholarship for her academic and professional achievements in social work. Stacy completed a field placement with the [City of Rock Hill](#) in Housing & Neighborhood Services.



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Student Awards Event



The Department of Social Work was pleased to present our first annual student awards this spring. Students were recognized for their outstanding academic and field achievements.

Jasmine Morgan (bottom left with Dr. Kareema Gray) received the **BSW Academic Excellence** award. **Sheri Lynch** (bottom center with Dr. Sue Lyman) received the **MSW Academic Excellence** award. **Courtney Hawkins** (bottom right with Jennifer McDaniel) received the **BSW Field Excellence** award. **Jimiko Witherspoon** (left with Dr. Deana Morrow and Linda Ashley) received the **MSW Field Excellence** award.

All of these excellent students graduated this May, and we are very proud of all of their accomplishments both inside and outside of the classroom. What great additions they will be to the social work profession!



Statewide Awards

Dr. Sue Lyman (left) received the **NASW- SC Social Worker of the Year** award. Dr. Lyman has been a faculty member in the Department of Social Work for 15 years where she served as director of the BSW program and is currently the director of the MSW program. She is concerned that students develop themselves as professional social workers so they can bring better services to the clients they will ultimately serve, and models that to students in the way she empowers them to recognize and realize their potential. Dr. Lyman has been very active in NASW-SC serving for six years as an executive member of the Board of Directors. She served for two years as chair of the Student Legislative Day Committee bringing students from all seven social work programs in South Carolina together at the State House to learn about the legislative process and advocate for social justice. Dr. Lyman is also active in her local community serving on the Rock Hill City Commission of Children and Youth for the last 12 years.

Christina Marko (center) was chosen as the **NASW-SC BSW Student of the Year**. She is a member of the Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society. At Winthrop, Christina has served vulnerable populations through her advocacy for people with HIV/AIDS, her advocacy for people with Autism, and in her volunteer work in an assisted living community. She also made presentations on social problems such as “human trafficking” and “religion and battered women.” Christina’s passion to give a voice to vulnerable populations has led her to pursue a professional career in macro social work practice. She has been accepted into the MSW Advanced Standing Program at Winthrop and will start that program upon graduation in May.

Sean Robinson (right) received the **NASW-SC MSW Student of the Year** award. Sean is a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society. He served the department as the MSW student representative for the assessment committee and president of the MSW student association. As president, Sean organized and recruited students to volunteer for the York county “Point in Time Count” that identifies and records the number of homeless individuals in our area. Sean has had internship experiences working with vulnerable populations in the areas of HIV/AIDS and homelessness. His volunteer work also includes service to the Children’s Attention Home in Rock Hill, an agency serving abused, abandoned and neglected children. Sean’s goal upon graduation is to work in housing case management with the homeless population. To read more, please visit the [NASW- SC website](#) and check out their latest newsletter too.



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Field Spotlight

It is our pleasure to highlight two long-standing field instructors who have mentored many students across the years.

Cheryl K. Rance, LMSW has worked in outpatient clinics providing individual and group therapeutic services; emergency hospitalizations; jail transition services and California's Welfare-to-Work program. Cheryl is a phenomenal social worker who after working for some years for the City of Charlotte, managed to create a whole new department and job for herself! Most recently, she worked as a neighborhood resource unit director at the [City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business](#)



[Services](#) - Vision Charlotte Initiative. Through this work our students have seen firsthand how a community assesses and prepares to help areas of its city that need a helping hand, allowing them to develop in a healthier, safer way. Students worked on youth programs, community engagement and empowerment programs, energy grants, and beautify Charlotte initiatives to just name a few. They attended city council meetings, planning meetings and worked hand and hand with neighborhood leaders and community members. Cheryl is a consummate teacher who believes in hands-on learning. Unfortunately she is moving to Minnesota in a few weeks. We will certainly miss her engagement with Winthrop!

Deb Lewis, LBSW has been a part of the Winthrop family of field instructors for more years than she cares to claim! If you mention the field of aging in our tri-county area everyone knows Deb. She has a certificate in gerontology and completed the End-of-Life Care Across Disciplines program at Winthrop University. She is an ombudsman for the elderly, a caregiver advocate and the regional program coordinator for the [Family Caregiver Support program at the Catawba Area](#)



[Agency on Aging](#). She knows everyone who is anyone in the field of geriatrics and is well known at the state level for her advocacy and the strength of her voice in the care of the elderly and for caregivers in general. She implements the National Caregiver Support program and provides information, counseling, education and community awareness on this and many other subjects, including dementia. Deb is always willing to partner with other agencies for a good cause and is the "go to" person for too many people and organizations to mention. A long time Rock Hill resident, she is also one of our own graduates!!!

[Linda Ashley, director of field & continuing education](#)

Thank you to **all** of our field agencies and instructors for a wonderful year! It is through these great partnerships where students gain real life experience and grow into great practitioners. **We simply couldn't do it without you!**

If you haven't had the pleasure of having a Winthrop student in field, please contact Linda Ashley at ashleyl@winthrop.edu to

CSWRA

Center for Social Welfare Research & Assessment

After seven years of providing research, assessment and technical assistance services to the Division of Community Long Term Care Services of the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) the Center has been asked to expand its work to include carrying out consumer and experience satisfaction surveys for four Community Options DDSN waiver programs and for the Medicaid Targeted Case Management waiver program. These efforts will include surveying statewide samples of participants or their caregivers, analyzing data and preparing a survey report that DHHS will use to report back to the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Those involved with the DDSN Community Options programs include people living with head and spinal cord injuries, children with pervasive developmental disorders, people with intellectual and related disabilities living in the community and people who have a diagnosis of intellectual disability or related disabilities such as autism. There are four dimensions to these surveys. First is to determine participant perceptions about their experience with services provided by the waiver program. Second is to determine the level of the participants' satisfaction with the program services and the people paid to help them. Third will explore the participants' perceptions of their safety and welfare, and finally a plan will be developed addressing the need for technical assistance, quality assurance and contract monitoring.

To carry out this expansion, the Center will be recruiting an additional staff project coordinator to join Tori Charles (MSW '10) and Tommy Edwards (MSW '11) who are working on current DHHS projects. The Center will also recruit an additional five graduate research assistants to join the ten who are currently working on Center research projects. The graduate research assistants will be conducting telephone surveys with a random selection of those involved in each waiver program.

[Ronald Green, executive director](#)

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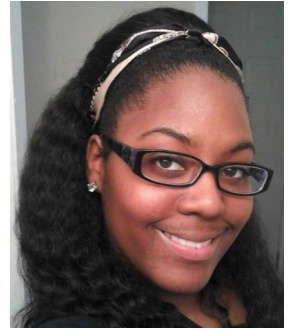
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My Winthrop Experience: Ashley Garrick, BSW '11

Ashley Garrick is currently enrolled in the MSW Advanced Standing Program at the University of Michigan and is expected to graduate this August. As an undergraduate student at Winthrop, Ashley was very involved on campus. She completed a double major in psychology and social work, was a McNair Scholar, volunteered in the community, and completed an internship at Pilgrims' Inn serving families experiencing poverty and homelessness. Since going to Michigan, Ashley has continued to be very active. She writes for the office of field instruction newsletter, is the Central Student Government Presidential candidate for the Defend Affirmative Action Party, participates in a coalition organizing a national march for a new immigrant and civil rights movement in Washington, D.C., and tutors children as a volunteer with an after-school program. In describing her graduate school experience Ashley writes "I have definitely grown as a professional and future leader, and I attribute much of my success to my Winthrop undergraduate experiences that are a strong foundation that I constantly rely on." She further explains that her Winthrop experience has "prepared me to be able to balance heavy workloads, create priorities for myself, know my capabilities and options, and also make time for self-care." Ashley adds "Among the many great things that I value from my professors and colleagues at Winthrop, I will forever be grateful to have learned 'good, better, best' from Dr. Sue Lyman, 'you are always on an interview' from Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood and 'career-long learning' from Jennifer McDaniel." These key phrases have helped push Ashley to learn and grow as much as possible in graduate school. Ashley shares "I do not know exactly where I will be in five years but wherever I start, I will hit the ground running thanks to my Winthrop experiences making me strong, self-aware, determined, confident, able, and willing."



Nikita R. Albany, MSW '10: Nikita is currently living in Pittsburgh, Penn., and is the regional director for the western region of Pennsylvania Mentor. Pennsylvania Mentor is part of The Mentor Network, a national organization providing mental health and foster care services to children and adolescents. She is responsible for overseeing 18 group homes and approximately 150 staff members.

If you are an alumna of the Department of Social Work and would like to give us an update on your work to be included in the newsletter, please e-mail Jennifer McDaniel at mcdanieljc@winthrop.edu.

My Winthrop Experience: Sheri Lynch, MSW '13

Nationally syndicated radio personality Sheri Lynch, co-host of "[The Bob and Sheri Show](#)," has enjoyed immense success in radio, as a two-time author and as a motivational speaker. But two years ago Sheri decided it was the perfect time to add another accomplishment to her resume – Winthrop graduate. After speaking with a friend in the social work field, Sheri attended a Winthrop Graduate School Open House event and realized that the Master of Social Work program was exactly what she was looking for. "My friend suggested Winthrop because its social work program is tremendously regarded," said Sheri. The Charlotte, N.C., resident discovered she was eligible for in-state tuition through Winthrop's [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#), and that sealed the deal. During her time at Winthrop Sheri acknowledges that she has changed. "I began this personal, transformational journey, and I can honestly say that I'm not the same person I was two years ago. I came here as a vessel just waiting to be filled. This journey has been a gift," Sheri added. One aspect of her journey that is particularly important to her is the example that she has set for her two young daughters. "I wanted to show them that it's never too late to go back to school no matter how old or how successful you are. You can do whatever you set your mind to," said Sheri. "For me, I wanted to have control over my future," Sheri said of her decision to return to college. "I wanted options for my life. Instead of worrying about my future, I got up, took the reins and did what I could to make my own luck, and you can't put a price on that type of transformational journey." When she receives her degree this May, Sheri will have the MSW credentials for which she worked so hard. For now, she plans to continue co-hosting "The Bob and Sheri Show" and continue her work with [World Vision](#). If you'd like to read more about Sheri's experience, please visit the [My Winthrop Experience website](#).



Alumni Update