

# Winthrop University Social Work



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## Message from the Department Chair

Deana F. Morrow, Ph.D., LPC, LCSW, LISW-CP, ACSW

We in the Winthrop University social work community hold the belief that **excellence matters**. This credo has never been more manifest for us than during this 2013-2014 academic year where we have had meaningful accomplishments on a number of fronts. We partnered with the College of Business in their development of a new graduate level management certificate that will be available next fall to MSW students who wish to supplement their MSW degree with training in business and management. In extending our traditional classroom walls into community-based civic engagement, social work students and faculty participated this spring in the annual

Social Work Legislative Day at the South Carolina Statehouse in Columbia. Faculty and students also partnered with the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless in conducting a middle-of-the-night count of people who are homeless; and, we brought to campus an experiential poverty simulation where students had the opportunity to vicariously experience the challenges of making ends meet with minimal resources. As we conclude the year, I want to thank the professionals who comprise our Community Advisory Committee for their valued expertise in helping us integrate real world practice with social work education. In addition, I join the entire Winthrop community in

saying farewell to our beloved retiring faculty colleagues: Sue Lyman, Ameda Manetta, and Linda Ashley. These colleagues collectively have contributed 40 years of service to Winthrop social work, and we sincerely thank them for their contributions. And finally, congratulations to all of our May graduates. Graduates, we hope you will treasure your time spent at Winthrop, and we trust you will use your social work education in dedicated service to others. In all you do, remember that excellence matters.



# New Graduate Professional Certificate Program in Management

Duane Neff, Ph.D.

The Department of Social Work in partnership with the College of Business Administration and Graduate School at Winthrop University has created a graduate professional certificate program in management. The certificate program will offer an opportunity for MSW students to apply their social work expertise outside the realm of social work practice by tailoring their skills to a specific career goal. Graduate students in both our full-time and part-time programs may complete both their MSW degree and the certificate program during the designated program of study.

The graduate professional certificate program in management will allow students enrolled in the MSW program at Winthrop University the opportunity to gain professional management and business skills suitable for managerial and administrative roles. Through skill-based learning and hands-on application, the curriculum prepares students for management positions by

improving their knowledge and awareness of professional management duties, increasing opportunities for advancement, strengthening necessary communication skills for today's advanced society, and developing a big-picture view of professional management.

The graduate professional certificate program requires the completion of 12 credit hours—three one-credit hour foundation courses in accounting, financing, and computer science (to be taken consecutively) and three three-credit hour courses in organizational behavior, human resource management, and ethics—for a total of six courses. For further information about the graduate professional certificate program in management please contact the Department of Social Work office at 803/323-2168 or e-mail Duane Neff, assistant professor, at [neffd@winthrop.edu](mailto:neffd@winthrop.edu).

## The Department of Social Work congratulates Jamie Comstock Williamson, Ph.D., on her investiture as Winthrop University's 10th President.

To learn more about our new president and this historic event, please visit the [inauguration webpage](#).



**Social Work faculty at  
President Comstock  
Williamson's  
inauguration on  
March 28, 2014.**

*Left: Brent Cagle,  
Wendy Campbell, Duane  
Neff, Kareema Gray, Deana  
Morrow, Cynthia Forrest,  
Linda Ashley, Monique  
Constance-Huggins, and  
Jennifer McDaniel*



# NASW-SC Spring Symposium

Faculty and students from the Department of Social Work presented the following workshops at this year's NASW-SC Spring Symposium:

Brent E. Cagle, Ph.D., LISW-CP, LCSW, and Amy Jamerson, MSW, *I Can't Get No Compassion Satisfaction*

Monique Constance-Huggins, Ph.D., *Don't Forget Me: Addressing Intersectionality in Social Work Practice*

Deana F. Morrow, Ph.D., LPC, LCSW, LISW-CP, ACSW, *The Recovery Model: Empowerment-Based Intervention for People Living with Serious Mental Illness*

Victoria Charles, MSW, LMSW, Sara English, BA, MSW student, and Stacy Wright, BA, MSW student, *Vulnerable to Valuable: All Conversations Matter*

Jennifer Butler, LISW-CP, *Understanding and Treating Self-Harm Behaviors*

## I Can't Get No Compassion Satisfaction

### Brent Cagle, Ph.D.

Brent Cagle, Ph.D., and Amy Jamerson (MSW, '13) presented "I Can't Get No Compassion Satisfaction!" at the Annual Symposium of the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in Columbia on March 4, 2014. Brent and Amy have conducted a series of workshops in the community over the past year and a half focusing on helping practitioners understand and address compassion fatigue. The concept of developing compassion satisfaction as a resilience strategy has been received well by social workers and other helping professionals from a range of disciplines. The project began when Brent advertised for students to work with him on thinking about developing trainings for social workers to practice good self-care and blossomed into Amy developing her MSW capstone project around related ideas, as well as the current workshop format that the two co-lead.

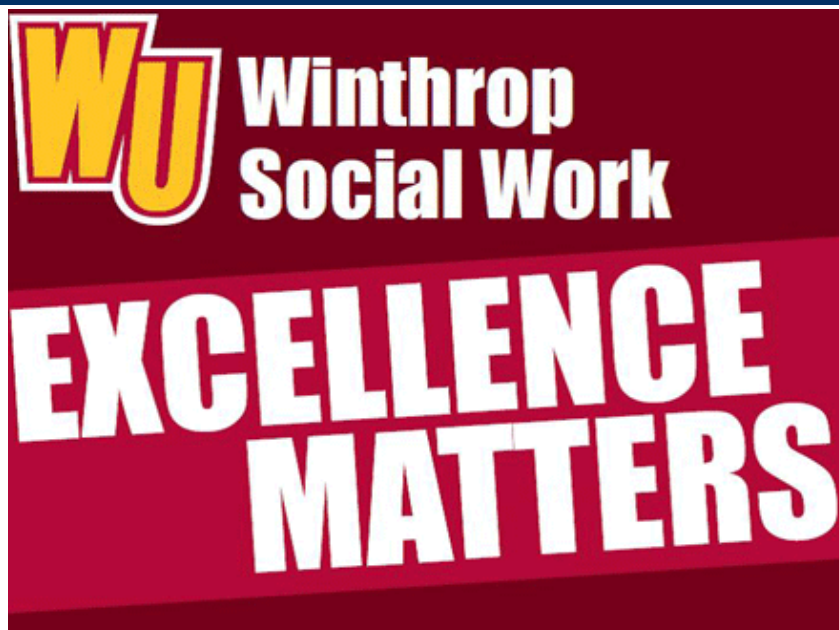


Brent and Amy are known for their down-to-earth approach that infuses many examples and practical information, along with theory. Brent is an associate professor who teaches direct practice and theory courses in the MSW and BSW programs; Amy Jamerson is currently a medical social worker with Hospice and Palliative Care, Charlotte Region, and is working on clinical licensure.

## Congratulations to Our Graduates

BSW students who are graduating this spring were recognized by the department at the conclusion of their capstone presentation on May 5, 2014.

MSW students who are graduating this spring were recognized by the department at special pinning ceremonies held on April 13 and April 23, 2014.



# Student Events

## Point-In-Time Homeless Count

Kareema Gray, Ph.D.

On January 24, 2014, a homeless Point – in – Time (PIT) Count, was conducted across the 46 counties in South Carolina. A Point – in – Time Count is a single day census of people experiencing homelessness. The count was directed by the South Carolina Coalition for the Homeless (SCCH) and implemented by the four regional homeless continuums of care. The basic requirements of a PIT count are to identify everyone who is experiencing homelessness, which includes those who are in temporary housing for people who are homeless (those who are “sheltered”) and those who are not housed and living in places not fit for habitation (cars, campsites, parks, parking garages, etc.).

BSW and MSW students from Winthrop University led by Kareema Gray, Monique Constance-Huggins, and the staff at Pilgrims’ Inn met at 4 a.m. to participate in the PIT count on one of the coldest mornings of the year. They searched for unsheltered homeless individuals within designated locations throughout Rock Hill and York County; they reviewed data collection forms and questions to ask; they

provided incentives to those who were willing to participate in the count; and they offered referral information about shelter and supportive services available.

### Quotes from BSW students about their experience:

*“This project did work to open my eyes to the places in my own community where homeless individuals and their families live; many of these places I pass by or go to weekly and it never would’ve crossed my mind that there would be anyone living there.”*

*“This project helped me to realize the strength and resiliency that people experiencing homelessness must have.”*

*“This experience was an eye opener for me, to be exposed to this information about homeless people made me more appreciative of having the basic essentials for survival that I once took for granted.”*

Photos from PIT Count 2014



## American Sign Language Club

Wendy Campbell, Ph.D. & Katie Parenti, BSW student

A new student organization has been formed at Winthrop University under the leadership of Katie Parenti, a junior social work major. Katie knows American Sign Language (ASL) and founded the club to encourage more interaction between deaf and hearing students on campus. The club provides a forum for students to learn and communicate using ASL as well as learn about the deaf community and culture.

The club has hosted several events, including a campuswide cultural event, and has been active in encouraging students on campus to appreciate, respect, and reach out to others who use ASL. The club also routinely participates in Silent Dinner events in the Rock Hill community. A number of

social work students have joined the group and consider it to be extremely helpful in learning about diversity and ability awareness on campus.

Katie Parenti has taken her activism a step further in her efforts to initiate an ASL class at Winthrop University. Along with faculty adviser Wendy Campbell, Katie has met with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Karen Kedrowski and presented a formal plan for an ASL class at Winthrop. Katie hopes that the creation of the ASL class will help in bridging gaps between the deaf and hearing communities. For more information, contact the ASL Club at [aslclub@winthrop.edu](mailto:aslclub@winthrop.edu)



# Using Poverty Simulation to Stimulate Critical Thinking about Poverty

Monique Constance-Huggins, Ph.D.

Poverty remains one of the most daunting social problems in the U.S. Social workers have the responsibility to help those in poverty to improve their well-being. Despite this, many social work students lack a deep understanding of the realities of poverty. A lack of understanding of poverty can lead to flawed assumptions about its nature and causes, thereby leading to ineffective practice with this population.

To address this gap in knowledge and to stimulate critical thinking about poverty, the Department of Social Work hosted a Poverty Simulation in February 2014. This is a one hour experiential learning modality in which participants are assigned the roles of different families in poverty. Throughout the simulation, participants seek to meet the basic needs of their families. The assumption is that participation in the simulation will help students to begin to

understand what it might be like to be a part of a low-income family.

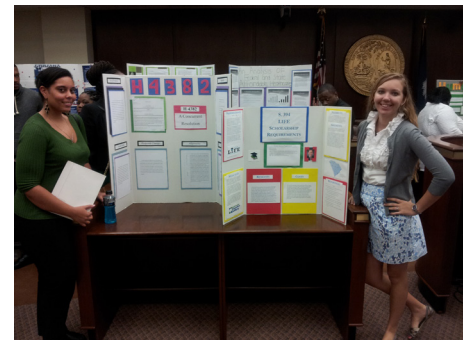
About 80 students and faculty from Departments of Social Work and Human Nutrition participated in the event. Based on students' reflection of the activity, the simulation appears to be an effective pedagogical tool. One student shared "I have the utmost respect for the drive and internal strength individuals living in poverty possess: if I had to do it for a month, I would surely fail." Another one stated "I now understand why one's entire day is filled with worry, stress, and the present moment." These statements signal the need for the Department of Social Work to continue to provide opportunities within our curriculum that enhance students' competency in working with those living in poverty.

## Legislative Day Kareema Gray, Ph.D.

On Wednesday April 9, 2014 social work students from across the state of South Carolina descended upon the city of Columbia to participate in Legislative Day. This is a day set aside annually by the South Carolina chapter of NASW and the South Carolina Legislature to honor and acknowledge the work of social work professionals, and to introduce social work students to the legislative process.

Winthrop was represented by approximately 35 BSW and MSW students (*pictured below*) who were accompanied by Kareema Gray, Monique Constance-Huggins and Duane Neff. MSW student Diane Phillips presented to the participants information on criminal domestic violence policy in South Carolina. BSW students Cherese Guy and Lauren Goodwin (*pictured top right*); Brittany Alford, Michael Bowen, and Zapporia Belk

(*pictured middle right*); Brenna Thomason and Rosalie Wells (*pictured bottom right*) all participated in the poster presentations of current or pending South Carolina legislation.



# Student Award Ceremony

## Field Excellence Awards



*Kristen Nadeau and  
Jennifer McDaniel*

The Department of Social Work recognizes a BSW and MSW student each year for exemplary achievement in field education, including excellence in the performance of field internship duties and distinction in upholding the high standards of the social work profession. Kristen Nadeau was awarded the BSW Field Excellence Award this year. Kristen completed her internship with Agape Hospice under the supervision of Drema Brice, BSW. Kristen showed great compassion and skill while managing her patient caseload this semester.

Julie Pitt was awarded the MSW Field Excellence Award. Julie completed her advanced internship with Partners Behavioral Health Management under the supervision of Jane Harris, MSW, LCSW. Julie conducted investigation and reporting of fraud, waste, and abuse of the North Carolina Medicaid program. Julie has proven herself to be a leader among her peers with an exceptional ability to practice social work at both micro and macro levels.



*Julie Pitt and Linda  
Ashley*

## Linda M. Ashley Scholarship

The Linda M. Ashley scholarship is a competitive award given to a post-traditional student (age 30 or older) in social work. Criteria for the award also includes a review of the student's stated career interests and his or her academic and professional achievements. There were two Ashley Scholarship recipients this year: Melissa Curtis and Tina Williams. Melissa Curtis is a mother, wife, and full-time BSW student. She is a dean's list student who has been a volunteer at Agape Senior Center and Palmetto Pregnancy Center. She will complete her internship at Children's Attention Home in the fall and will graduate in December.

Tina is also a wife, mother, and full-time MSW student. Tina has worked as an AmeriCorps volunteer, serving the Emmett Scott Recreation Center in Rock Hill. She also implemented the Eat Smart, Move More initiative that incorporates nutrition, fitness, and health choices for youth. Tina will begin working as a Department of Social Services Child Welfare Scholar this fall for her advanced internship.



## Academic Excellence Awards



*Deana Morrow and  
Kareema Gray present  
Mary Stevenson with her  
award.*

The Department of Social Work recognizes a BSW and MSW student each year for exemplary academic achievement, including superiority in academic performance, excellence as an engaged participant within the social work learning community, and distinction in upholding the high standards of the social work profession. This year, Mary Stevenson, was awarded for her academic excellence in the BSW program. Mary completed her internship at RHA Behavioral Health.

Stacy Wright was also awarded for her academic excellence in the MSW program. Stacy currently works as a graduate research assistant for the Center for Social Welfare Research and Assessment and has completed her advanced internship at York County Department of Social Services.



*Deana Morrow and Sue  
Lyman present Stacy  
Wright with her award.*



# Virginia W. and Elizabeth C. Mortimer Scholarship



The Mortimer Scholarship is a competitive scholarship award made to two MSW students who demonstrate a career interest in either affordable housing or emergency services. There were two recipients this year: Tamara Blount (pictured top right) and Shardae Nelson (pictured bottom right). Tamara is a first year part-time MSW student who works in crisis assessment and emergency services at Union County DSS in North Carolina. Her interests are in affordable housing. Tamara aspires to open a nonprofit transitional home for people in need of safe housing. She envisions this facility as providing educational support and skills training to help families gain a helping hand and get back on their feet. Shardae is a first year full-time MSW student who has completed her foundation internship at DaVita Dialysis and is set to begin her advanced internship this fall at Carolinas Medical Center Pineville. In addition to her MSW studies, she also works as a graduate assistant in the MSW Admissions office. Congratulations to Tamara and Shardae, this year's Mortimer Scholarship recipients.

## Winthrop University's Intern of the Year Dedra Darby

MSW student Dedra Darby was named the 2014 Intern of the Year for Winthrop University. Dedra completed her advanced internship with Regency Hospice under the supervision of Kristi Macauley, LMSW. Dedra also works as a graduate research assistant for the Center for Social Welfare Research and Assessment Center.



## Phi Alpha Inductees

The Department of Social Work congratulates this year's inductees to the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Phi Alpha. BSW students may be invited to join Phi Alpha after achieving sophomore status, completing eight hours of social work coursework, and earning a GPA of 3.25 or higher in social work courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. MSW students may be invited to join Phi Alpha after achieving last semester status with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.



### BSW Students:

Raquel Gibson  
Janna Henry  
Julia Swidzinski  
Brenna Thomason  
Rosalie Wells

### MSW Students:

Jessica Clark  
Sara English  
Jennifer Humke  
Jennifer Koss  
Becky Norman  
Julie Pitt  
Connie Shepard  
Brooke Totherow  
Daphne Waugh  
Stacy Wright  
Dina Young

# Center for Social Welfare Research and Assessment (CSWRA)

## Tori Charles, MSW, LMSW

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) contract with the CSWRA provides a unique employment opportunity for up to 15 graduate students. MSW students are provided diverse learning opportunities while working as graduate research assistants (GRAs). In addition to gaining professional experience, GRAs have the opportunity to work on projects that have a material impact on programs in the Bureau of Long Term Care and Behavioral Health. Our projects center on different aspects of care across the lifespan, with topics such as satisfaction and experience, health and welfare, and personal preparedness for emergencies. We have also started assisting SCDHHS in assessing the training needs of the case managers and nurse consultants who provide care to Community Long Term Care (CLTC) service recipients. The CSWRA offers the opportunity to develop leadership skills and explore areas of interest to students working as GRAs. MSW students working as GRAs can enhance their interpersonal skills through interviewing both over the phone and face to face. Students can enhance their writing skills by researching new projects and completing literature reviews, learn new research skills by doing some basic data analysis using qualitative and quantitative analysis, participate in planning a statewide conference for workers who serve CLTC clients, assist with instrument development, and disseminate project findings.

One of the most exciting and rewarding opportunities that we have to offer GRAs is showcasing the skills that they have

learned and fine-tuned in class, field, and through application in their work at the CSWRA. This past March, two GRAs, Stacy Wright and Sara English, co-presented with Tori Charles at the NASW-SC Spring Symposium on developing community conversations about personal preparedness planning for older adults who are receiving CLTC services. The presentation was titled, “Vulnerable to Valuable: All Conversations Matter,” a play on the “All People Matter” theme for social work month. Both Sara and Stacy took a lead role in developing the presentation materials, designing an activity on Power Point and developing a brochure to encourage community conversations and collaborations about emergency planning. Stacy and Sara did a wonderful job taking what they had learned after working on the project, coupled with the talents and skills that they brought to the presentation.

Another area of dissemination is the Creating Caring Connections Conference that is hosted by the CSWRA each year. Each year, GRAs are selected to help organize and plan this event for CLTC case managers and nurses across the state. Last year, Dedra Darby applied her passion and keen sense for detail to seek out all of the wonderful speakers suggested to present. This year, not only has Dedra lead the way, but she has distinguished herself among the GRAs as a leader and mentor.

**Congratulations to Dedra, Stacy, and Sara!  
You will be missed. Good luck!**

## Farewell to Faculty Retirees

Three social work faculty members will retire at the end of this academic year. These colleagues, collectively, have served the Department of Social Work for 40 years. We are grateful for their service to students, the Department, and the University. Each retiring faculty member is listed in the paragraphs below.

Linda Ashley, LMSW, director of field and continuing education, came to Winthrop in 2006 after having served as the founding director of Catawba Care Coalition in Rock Hill. Linda has been instrumental in developing and scaling the Department's field education program to accommodate the growth of BSW and MSW programming. Under her leadership, the field program has developed contractual relationships with more than 300 field agencies. Linda is known for her networking abilities and she is ever an ambassador for all things Winthrop.

Ameda Manetta, Ph.D., associate professor of social work, has been at Winthrop since 1998. She has taught a variety of

courses, most notably human behavior courses and research courses. Ameda is known for her commitment to promoting student research. She has mentored numerous students in research projects over the years and has co-presented with many students at state and regional conferences.

Sue Lyman, Ph.D., associate professor of social work and MSW program director, has also been at Winthrop since 1998. In addition to her current role as MSW program director, Sue previously served as the BSW program director. Sue has taught a variety of courses, most recently specializing in the graduate level interpersonal helping skills course. Sue has also served as a lead investigator on a DHHS contract project focused on caregivers of individuals with disabilities. Sue is well-known for her strong commitment to teaching, advising, and mentoring students and for finding creative ways to help students navigate academic systems.



# Are you a Winthrop BSW or MSW Alumnus?

We invite you to take our alumni survey. Your information will help us keep up with your professional activities since graduation. Your individual information will not be shared without your permission. Included in the survey is an opportunity to sign up for our alumni email list. We often send information about job opportunities, CEU opportunities, and local events to those subscribed to this list.

Click [here](#) to access the survey, or find it on our webpage under “[News & Events](#)”. Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to hearing from you!



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