

# Department of Social Work Field Newsletter

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**As always, Thank You to each and every Field Instructor and Task Supervisor, for helping to educate social work students.**

**Field education is signature pedagogy in social work. Without each and every one of you, our field program could not produce much-needed good, solid social workers.**

**• THANK YOU!!**

## New Faculty

Our department is lucky to have such a dedicated and compassionate faculty. We are even luckier to gain new faculty members who are excited to be a part of the university and community. New faculty members this year include Dr. Portia Adams, Dr. Paul DuongTran, and Professor Melissa Ketner.

Dr. Portia Adams is our new Director for the Bachelor of Social Work Program. She is also an Associate Professor here at Indiana State University, and she teaches master's level classes. Dr. Adams worked with the Peace Corps in Kenya and was a social worker in New York for thirteen years.

Dr. Adams obtained her doctorate at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Since then she has taught at several schools. She loves to conduct research. Most of her research focuses on African American communities and social services, the latest pertaining to HIV.

## Accreditation and Reaffirmation Process

Our faculty has been working hard on the accreditation process for both the bachelors and the masters programs in social work. Dr. Adams is working on the accreditation for the bachelor's program along with Professor Lugar, while Dr. Impink is working on the accreditation for the master's program.

Dr. Paul DuongTran is our new Chair of the Department of Social Work as of July 2014. He received his undergraduate degree from Portland State University in Oregon, where he also obtained his masters degree in psychology. He then went on to obtain his doctorate degree at the University of Washington in Seattle. While in Washington, Dr. DuongTran worked in community mental health.

Dr. DuongTran says that the field of social work is growing here at Indiana State University and in communities. The department is looking to expand faculty and the number of students in the major has increased. He believes that social work is the field that can bring together skills to create change in individuals and also in society. He wants students to be excited to come here to learn and practice social work.

Dr. Impink said our MSW accreditation documents were turned into the Council on Social Work Education late January. Our review team will arrive on February 25th to meet with faculty and students for two days and we will know more after receiving their report.

Dr. Adams along with

Professor Melissa Ketner originally joined our staff as an adjunct professor, but now she teaches junior and senior courses in practice and field. She serves as a faculty field liaison for students in the field classes and performs site visits for students in internships.

Professor Ketner received her undergraduate degree from Purdue University and her masters degree from IUPUI with a concentration in leadership. She has worked in community mental health, child welfare, schools, and the medical setting. She currently works part time at Regional Hospital as a social worker in the oncology department. There she is involved in support group facilitation for cancer patients and their caregivers and provide brief counseling for patients.

By Ashley Renner

Professor Lugar have created a first draft of the reaffirmation documents, which explain who we are as a social work department and how we are situated in the college and in the community of Terre Haute.



### Undergraduate Field Spotlight

Amee Cox (pictured on the right) is a senior social work student serving her internship at the Vigo County Salvation Army. After Amee graduates she wants to work for a year and eventually pursue her masters degree and start counseling.

Amee wears many hats in her internship. She has learned to work the front desk and do data entry. She has learned to operate the call center and how to perform thorough assessments with clients, along with how to use and operate the computer systems at Salvation Army. Amee has taken such initiative in her internship that she is able to relieve her supervisor.

When asked about how her internship has affected her view of social work, Amee said, "You cannot come in here and not feel compelled to help. When you see how desperate the need is in Terre Haute and the surrounding areas it profoundly affects your desire to serve."

Amee provided a vital service during the holiday season. She and her supervisor worked hard on preparing Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for their

Amee Cox (right) and her supervisor Christine Knight (left) in the food pantry.



clients this year, and they were able to help thousands of families.

*"Social Work Paves The Way For Change"*

### Social Work Month

March is coming up, and we all know that means that it is National Social Work Month. Not only is National Social Work Month coming up, but it will also be the National Association of

Social Worker's 60th anniversary this year.



The theme for 2015's Social Work Month is "Social Work Paves The Way For Change". This theme was chosen to show how the NASW and the social work

profession have worked to bring about a positive change for society and it's individuals. For more information about National Social Work Month, visit the NASW's page for a history poster, an interactive timeline, and much more. <https://www.socialworkers.org/pressroom/swmonth/2015/default.asp>

### Agency Spotlight: Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has been in Terre Haute for 126 years. This agency helps provide food, clothing, rent, and other assistance to families and individuals in need. Salvation Army uses a holistic approach and doubles as a church.

Salvation Army works closely with other agencies in the community to provide services to those in need.

United Way is a major donor to Salvation Army, and the Salvation Army offers vouchers with the Lighthouse Mission. They are also the clearinghouse for Toys for Tots and Kids Christmas with Police during Christmas.

Director of Social Services, Christine Knight, is very passionate about her work, especially about the hygiene pantry and the program

Pathway to Hope. The hygiene pantry is an area where the Salvation Army is always in need. Christine Knight said, "It breaks your heart when a client asks for hygiene products and we don't have them." The Pathway to Hope Program helps clients by connecting them with caseworkers they develop action plans in order to reach their individualized goals.





Written by BSW Senior  
Max Holmes

## Graduate Student Field Spotlight

CJ Bartlett is a student in our department's master's program. She is currently in the second year of the program and is focused in a health concentration. She plans to stay in the health field after she graduates and wants to work in a hospital or with hospice; she also wants to work in a rural community.

CJ is currently completing her internship at Riley Children's Hospital, and she has been there since August. Last semester she worked in the hematology and oncology departments and worked with the parents and the children. This semester she is working in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) working with families.

Her duties this semester consist of meeting with patient families, performing psychosocial assessments, and helping connect families



MSW Student CJ Bartlett

to any available resources. The families she works with

are primarily in crisis because having a child in the NICU is usually not expected.

CJ noted that she has learned a lot from her internship at Riley. She stated that it is real hands on experience where you can apply what you have been studying, and the roles she performs are a lot more broad than she expected. CJ notes, "My experience working here has made me more appreciative of my health, my support system, and my knowledge of resources available."

## Important Dates

### Field Evaluation Dates:

Midterm Field Evaluations will be due the week of March the 2nd.

Final Field Evaluations will be due the week of April the 27th.

On Thursday March 5th, there will be a Conference from 8:30 to 4:30 at the Landsbaum Center for Health Education entitled Treating Eating Disorders in the Outpatient Setting.

There is a Field Instructor and Task Supervisor meeting from 12-1 pm in Classroom the same day at Landsbaum. Registration is required for each event.

Bachelor of Social Work Applications are due March 23rd. Please submit them to Dr. Portia Adams BSW Program Director NB Room #423.

## Systems Theory

To serve our clients competently and effectively, social workers must seek to understand the clients we work with and also gain an understanding of our clients' environments. Social workers should also have a broad knowledge base which includes the knowledge of the social work theories.

Systems theory is one social work theory which helps a social worker to better understand their clients' environments. The social

worker can use systems theory to better understand the way that a client's environment may affect the client's behavior. When working on the micro, mezzo, or macro levels, the social worker should consider all systems that the client is a part of. Every individual or group is a part of various systems. Some examples of systems include families, schools, work, organizations, neighborhoods, and communities. The many

different systems interact with one another.

By understanding the different systems that affect a client's life, the social worker will be better able know which intervention will be most effective to empower the client to improve their quality of life and general well-being.

## Social Work Word Search

Y U I N T E G R I T Y S U I Y  
 N T A R S U J A N S M E I A Q  
 F U I V E U Q E A C H R F G A  
 U L R L S S M P W I C V I E R  
 B N S T A T P C A H F I A E C  
 F P I X I I R E E T J C S C Q  
 E C P M Q P T S C E Z E Y T O  
 E W M N P F L N N T G E R Q E  
 K O H F H S U X E L A Z N H K  
 C Y T I N G I D T D A Q G Y B  
 E V E R M I Q Y E D I I H I G  
 E L A Z V K Q X P W V F C A C  
 R S Z Q F Z O W M R H P N O Y  
 Y E K O L G V Q O J X M X O S  
 E D I A Y N K O C N P U Q P C

Commitment  
 Competence  
 Confidentiality  
 Dignity  
 Ethics  
 Integrity  
 Justice  
 Respect  
 Service  
 Social

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## Social Worker Roles in Films

It may not seem like it, but there are multiple movies that have social worker roles in them. These can range anywhere from an animated Disney movie, a family classic, and even an Oscar-winning movie.

The most recent and the most notable social work role in film is *Precious*. This movie was about a young girl named Precious who was abused by her mother and became pregnant by her



father twice. Mariah Carey plays the role of Precious's social worker, Ms. Weiss. In the end Ms. Weiss refuses to help Precious's mother get custody of her, and Precious is able to start a new life.

Another movie where a social worker is present is the Disney animated movie *Lilo & Stitch*. Former CIA agent turned social worker, Cobra Bubbles, is assigned to a case involving an older sister taking care of her younger sister after their parents died. Bubbles is tasked to watch over the family when it is revealed that certain unforeseen circumstances have been caused by a pesky pet alien. Although this movie is unrealistic, it shows that social workers care.

Then there is the classic

movie *Free Willy*. A troubled 12-year old boy, Jesse was caught stealing food and vandalizing a theme park. Jesse's social worker Dwight Mercer played a pivotal role in the plot of the movie. He found Jesse a foster family and arranged for him to work at the park cleaning up his graffiti, where he met and befriended the orca named Willy.

Social workers play a vital role in everyday life. It is wonderful that social workers are being portrayed in the media as people who desire to help. This is how the world needs to view social workers as individuals and as a profession.

By Ashley Renner