



GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK ORGANIZATION



MARCH, 2015

VOL 4 ISSUE 1

The Graduate Social Work Organization (GSWO) was formed in 1999 as an organization for students in the Department of Social Work at Valdosta State University. Its purpose is to promote camaraderie and exchange between students at all levels in the program. The GSWO will represent the cohorts at faculty meetings, hold social functions, conduct fundraisers for community projects and engage in other activities that support the student body, faculty and professional social work. All social work students in the program are members of GSWO. There is no fee for membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

<i>March 13</i>	<i>Social Work Day</i>
<i>March 13</i>	<i>Honor Society Induction</i>
<i>April 10</i>	<i>Relay for Life</i>
<i>May 8</i>	<i>Graduate Ceremony</i>

ORDER YOUR GSWO T-SHIRT

Your GSWO is selling the 2014-2015 organization t-shirt. All students, Professors, Field Instructors, Alumni and VSU staff members are welcome to place a t-shirt order. The first order will be placed in February 2015 and a second order will be placed in March 2015 (if enough orders are received). Everyone has the option between a t-shirt or a polo and color choice. The final t-shirt design has been already been chosen. Thank you to all students that voted, the participation was great. For more information on ordering a t-shirt contact a GSWO Officer.



VALDOSTA STATE
UNIVERSITY
GSWO FACULTY ADVISORS:

Face-To-Face Cohort:
Dr. Diane Holliman
dhollim@valdosta.edu

Web-Hybrid Cohort
Dr. Hanae Kanno
hkanno@valdosta.edu



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THE 2014 – 2015 FACE TO FACE OFFICERS

Geri Pepin, President

My name is Geri Pepin and I am your new President for the GSWO. I am honored to be able to represent the student body of the GSWO. I have previously been involved with the GSWO coordinating events, such as Relay for Life, the Christmas Parade, monthly lunches with the face to face and Webber students as well as advocating for the social work department to better represent the department to the VSU community and the Valdosta/Lowndes County community.

I am originally from Northern Indiana and Michigan and have two wonderful grown children. While raising my children, I was able to advocate on their behalf and involved in many of their educational events, which has helped me advocate for the GSWO Committee. I graduated with a Bachelor in Social Work from Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana.

I hope to move forward with the GSWO to better serve and advocate for the students of the Social Work Department with awareness of the many issues at hand, such as Domestic Violence, Mental Illness, Child Abuse, Lobby Day, Career Day, and extended Parking Hours for students. If you should have any concerns, issues, or even ideas, please email me at grpepin@valdosta.edu

Robyn Dinkins, Vice President

Greetings fellow MSW Students! My name is Robyn Dinkins and I am your 2014-2015 face-to-face GSWO (Graduate Social Work Organization) Vice President. I am married and have 2 adult daughters (ages 18 & 20). I am originally from Northern California, but have lived here in Georgia since 1995. After working many years in the mental health field I reached the point where I could not advance, or even move laterally, without some type of licensure. After considering my options I chose to apply for the MSW program here at VSU because of its broad scope of practice fields, although I will likely return to the mental health field.

I enjoy many artistic hobbies such as quilting as well as various arts and crafts projects, and believe all the world can be set right after a few hours of reading a good book. I look forward to working with all of you to promote the social work values that we are so diligently absorbing and to spread the word about VSU's MSW program. I encourage all of us to support each other and carry the connections we make today into our profession.

Sherry Tierney, Treasurer

I am Sherry Tierney the new treasurer for your GSWO. I am in my concentration year of the program, face to face cohort. My responsibilities include helping with fundraising efforts and monitoring funds we have available for activities. I am welcome to everyone's suggestions!

Brittany Lee, Secretary

I am a first year foundation student in the face to face cohort. New to VSU I am excited to be serving as the GSWO Secretary during the 2014 – 2015 school term. I am originally from Stone Mountain, GA and received my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of West Georgia. I enjoy spending time with my family, reading Sci-Fi novels and attending concerts.



If there are any further questions or concerns regarding these issues or additional concerns, please contact President Geri Pepin (grpepin@valdosta.edu) or Vice President Robyn Dinkins (rndinkins@valdosta.edu)

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WORD OF THE MONTH

Doggedness - having or showing the attitude of a person who wants to do or get something and will not stop trying : stubborn and determined

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Study while others are sleeping; work while others are loafing; prepare while others are playing; and dream while others are wishing.”

–William Arthur Ward



MOTIVATIONAL TIP

Before peeling open a textbook, before turning on your laptops, before popping on your stylish eyeglasses to read the fine print... organize your space. A cluttered desk isn't just a cluttered desk; it's a world of confusion and chaos channeled into your brain. If the space around you is out of order, your thoughts are bound to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RELAY FOR LIFE

BECOME PART OF THE GSWO TEAM BY GOING ON THE: RELAY FOR LIFE OF VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY SITE AND REGISTER AS A TEAM MEMBER.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- DONATE TO PARTICIPATE
- DONATE TO A TEAM (GSWO)
- DONATE TO AN EVENT
- DEDICATE A LUMINARY
- DONATE CASH OR CREDIT CARD

**TO BECOME A TEAM MEMBER GO TO THIS SITE:
RELAYFORLIFE.ORG**

CLICK ON “FIND TEAM” ENTER “GSWO 2015” AND CLICK ON JOIN. SIGNING UP FOR THE TEAM IS \$10. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A T-SHIRT EACH MEMBER MUST RAISE \$100.00.

DATE: APRIL 10, 2015

EVENT TIME: 7 P.M. – 2 A.M.

LOCATION: VSU FRONT LAWN

**TEAM CAPTAIN: GERI PEPIN
GRPEPIN@VALDOSTA.EDU**

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RECOGNITION

Dr. Richard J. Vodde was presented the prestigious Frankie V. Adams Lifetime Achievement Award by the Georgia chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The Frankie V. Adams Lifetime Achievement Award is designed to recognize a social worker who has consistently demonstrated outstanding achievements on behalf of clients and the profession of social work.



What We Have Done



The GSWO participated in the Valdosta Christmas Parade. Our float theme was hooked on Social Work. Thank you to everyone who participated in the parade!



GSWO president, treasurer and members participating in the Autism Walk.



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Thank you,
Social Workers!
March is National Social Work Month



MARCH IS SOCIAL WORK MONTH

The GSWO wants everyone to get involved. Join in our social media campaign on Facebook. Join and Like the VSU GSWO page on Facebook. Hashtag #VSUGSWO during the month of March be entered to win prizes!

“Like,” follow, and contribute to the Valdosta State University GSWO Facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Masters-of-Social-Work-at-Valdosta-State-University/147914838584209>

SOCIAL WORK MONTH EVENTS

Human Rights and Social Justice: The Soul of Social Work

The Department of Social Work is pleased to announce that Mr. Gary Bailey will be on campus, Friday, March 13 speaking on human rights and social justice.

Click the link below for more information

<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/social-work/forms/Dr%20Gary%20Bailey%20Presentation%20Registration.php>



**ANY SUGGESTIONS OR
SUBMISSIONS?**

Contact
Brittany Lee (bdlee@valdosta.edu)



*The Department of Social Work
Accredited by the
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
Thru June 2018*