



The Social Worker

National Social Work Month 2015

From the desk of Dr. Miah

Students are the heart and soul of an academic department and it is more so for the social work discipline because you bring your deep commitment, compassion, and humanity to the learning experience. In this process, you also embrace deeper values and ethics of the profession and develop stronger commitment for human rights and social justice. Student leaders are the torchbearers of the values and ethics of the profession; the VSU GSWO, in particular, provides leadership for the students in the department and advances their causes to make their learning experience participatory and far more enriching. In that spirit VSU Department of Social Work student organization, GSWO, is launching a Newsletter that aims at reaching out to faculty, staff, current students, alums, and community members and attempting to bring them ever closer to each other and the department. I very proudly support their efforts and congratulate them on this novel venture.



Social workers will celebrate National Social Work Month in March 2015. At that time, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) will also begin an eight month celebration of its 60th anniversary which will end in October, the month NASW was founded in 1955. The theme “Social Work Paves the Way for Change” was selected to convey what NASW and the social work profession have done over the past six decades to bring about positive changes in society and for individuals.

The **City of Valdosta and Valdosta State** joins in this celebration. On Friday, March 13th at 11 am, Mayor John Gayle will declare it Social Work Day. This will be followed by the induction of the Alpha Delta Mu Social Work Honor Society and lunch just prior to a presentation by Mr. Gary Bailey, an international influence in the world of Social Work.

Mr. Gary Bailey to present at VSU

On Friday March 13th, Mr. Gary Bailey is coming to Valdosta State University. Mr. Bailey’s presentation will explore the intersection of human rights and social justice and the role of social workers in promoting equity and fairness, the global agenda for social work and social development as well as the role that social workers must play in reshaping the image of the profession. Lunch is \$15, CEUs & Lunch is \$65. Register online!



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Special points of interest:

Concentration Practicum Applications Due
Mr. Gary Bailey at VSU
National Social Work Month
Dr. Vodde honored
GSWO T-shirts for sale

Dr. Richard Vodde Honored

Dr. Richard J. Vodde, a professor in Valdosta State University's Department of Social Work, was recently presented the prestigious Frankie V. Adams Lifetime Achievement Award by the Georgia chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). He received a similar award in March from the organization's South Georgia unit. The Frankie V. Adams Lifetime Achievement Award is designed to recognize a social worker who has consistently demonstrated outstanding



He is pictured with his wife, Anna Vodde; Megan Black and Nicole Wasdin, Department of Social Work students; and Dr. Hanae Kanno, an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work.

achievements on behalf of clients and the profession of social work.

Vodde joined the VSU family in 1994 as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. He was the first faculty member hired for a proposed Master of Social Work program that the university planned to start in September of 1995.

~Jessica Pope,
Communications Specialist

#VSUGSWO

Get into the swing of spring and show off your Social Worker Spirit! Take pictures of you and what you love to do related to Social Work. Post it on our Facebook page with the #VSUGSWO. Each posting gets you a drawing entry. ~Only 1 per day~ At the end of the month we will be drawing for gift cards and other goodies!
<https://www.facebook.com/vsugsw>

*Snap it!
Post it!
Win It!
March 2015*

We need your events!

If you have an event going on with your agency or in your area please email us so we can put it in the newsletter. Do you want your Agency to be featured? Do you know a fellow student that should be featured? All articles and information are due by the 3rd Monday of the month prior to the newsletter coming out. Email your information to vsugswonewsletter@gmail.com All articles received will be reviewed for content, please include contact information in case we have any questions and need to reach you.

Departmental Notes...

Concentration Students should have their Field Placement Applications returned to Ms. Cooley or Ms. Dorminey already. Foundation Students should have their Field Placement Applications in to Ms. Cooley or Ms. Dorminey by mid-March!

GSWO Shirts For Sale

Finally! The votes are in and counted and the GSWO is gathering orders (and money). The t-shirts, in ash gray, feature a dynamic graphic on the back with the VSU logo on the front. There are also black golf shirts with VSU embroidered on the front. You may pay for your shirts with cash (please have correct change) or check to any of the GSWO officers.

T-shirt Prices: Small-XL \$12, 2XL-\$13, 3XL-\$14

Golf Shirt Prices: Small-XL-\$20, 2XL-\$22, 3XL-\$23

Alpha Delta Mu Honor Society Inductions

On Friday, March 13th the Epsilon Delta Chapter of the Alpha Delta Mu National Social Work Honor Society will hold their induction ceremony in the Cypress Room of University Center prior to the presentation by Mr. Gary Bailey.

The Faculty and Staff of the School of Social Work are proud to announce the Alpha Delta Mu Class of 2015:

Ms. Grace Brooks Mr. Todd Causby
Ms. Caitlin Connolly Ms. Robyn Dinkins
Ms. Yolanda Fripp Ms. Kelsey Griggs
 Ms. Taylor Gail Hageman

Ms. Elizabeth Hanson
Ms. Megan McDaniel
Ms. Abigail Smith
Ms. Sherry Tierney
Ms. Natasha Wall

Ms. Jasmine Jones
Ms. Lisa Medberry
Ms. Jennifer Smith
Mr. Zachary Townsend
Ms. Nicole Wasdin

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.



Lobby Day 2015

NASW Student Lobby Day 2015 was well attended, despite the winter weather warnings, by students from variety of colleges and universities from across the state and country. This was an opportunity to get vital information first hand and to be able to talk to the elected officials face to face about the concerns of social workers and their clients.

Lobby Day was emceed by the NASW, Georgia Chapter Student Representatives Razi Abraham and Mark Douglas. Sonya Hunte, MSW, President of the NASW Georgia Chapter discussed the necessity of involvement not only in our chosen fields but also in the politics that shape the field and our professional organizations. Wendi Clifton, Esq, the Legislative Advocate for the NASW, discussed some of the many bills before the House and Senate that will shape the field of Social Work and directly impact the clients. She gave candid answers about the viability of many of the bills and the importance of speaking directly to our elected officials. VSU's Dr. Mizanur Miah, MPH, MSW, welcomed the audience and spoke briefly as the sponsor of the event.. Miguel Fernandez, LCSW, CADC, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice explained how HB242 was a Rewrite of the DJJ Code and how it would impact the detention and treatment of juvenile offenders, many of whom have mental health issues. He further explained how moving many of these youthful offenders, many of whom committed status offenses, out of facilities and into the communities would result in a tremendous

savings and the ability for the facilities to focus efforts on the more dangerous clients. Mr. Bobby Cagle, MSW, is the Interim Director of DFACS. In his remarks to the group he explained the importance of the DFACS employee and conceded that in 2013, 139 children died from maltreatment in Georgia. According to Mr. Cagle, the loss of each child represents much more than the death of an innocent child but in financial terms it was a loss of \$1.5 million, per child, that would not be contributed to the economy. He further explained that the cost of a maltreated child is \$63,000 per year for the rest of their life. This reflects the medical, educational, and correctional expenses that would be incurred as a result. He has set a new practice model in motion and made great strides to improve the reputation of the Georgia DFACS. He received an enthusiastic cheer when he announced that DFACS educational benefits for employees was to be reinstated. Mr. Cagle has a compelling vision for the Georgia DFACS and will certainly be someone to watch in years to come.

Following a lunch break, a contingency of VSU students, led by Dr. Holliman, invaded the offices of Rep. Dexter Sharper (D-Valdosta) where he listened intently to the concerns and ideas of the MSW/BSW students. He explained a few of the bills and took numerous selfies with the group. Moving from the Cloverdell Building and into the Capitol



*The VSU Faculty & Staff
Lobby Day 2015*

Building the group was fortunate enough to meet with Rep. Amy Carter (R-Valdosta) where she explained the process of the budget hearings. The group was joined by several other elected officials who came to meet their constituents~ a text from Rep. Carter really gets a response! The NASW Georgia Chapter and VSU hosted and presented an educational event that attendees will remember for years to come.



The Department of Social Work of
 Valdosta State University
 Cordially invites you to celebrate the
 Graduating Class of 2015

Departmental Reception
 Friday, May 8th
 4-6 pm

Department of Social Work Offices
 1500 N Patterson Dr.
 2nd Floor

Graduates and families are invited to attend. During this reception the Student of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and a Scholarship Recipient for the 2015-2016 school year will be recognized. Graduation Follows at 8 pm.

Employment

Social workers held about 642,000 jobs in 2008. About 5 out of 10 jobs were in health care and social assistance industries and 3 out of 10 are employed by State and local government agencies. Although most social workers are employed in cities or suburbs, some work in rural areas.

Employment by type of social worker, follows:

Child, family, and school social workers.....292,600
 Medical and public health social workers 138,700
 Mental health and substance abuse social workers
 137,300
 Social workers,
 all others 73,400

Employment for social workers is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2018.

Source: O*NET—Occupational Outlook Handbook. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2010-2011 www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm www.bls.gov/k12/help05.htm



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