

Winthrop Social Work E-News

Fall 2013

Issue # 4

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

Web Links:

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Message from the Department Chair

Greetings social work students, alumni, and friends! Welcome to the fall 2013 edition of Winthrop Social Work E-News. You will see in our newsletter that Winthrop social work continues to flourish. We welcomed two new faculty members this fall: Dr. Monique Constance-Huggins (Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh) and Dr. Duane Neff (Ph.D. from Brandeis University). In addition, we recently opened a new weekend option for the advanced standing MSW degree program. This new option will provide BSW-degreed social workers the opportunity to earn their MSW degree on the weekends while continuing their professional employment during the week.

On yet another front, we are in discussions with the Winthrop College of Business Administration about establishing a new professional management certificate program suitable for MSW students who wish to supplement their MSW degree with additional course work in business and management. I thank our Social Work Community Advisory Committee members for their insightful feedback that contributed to this collaboration.

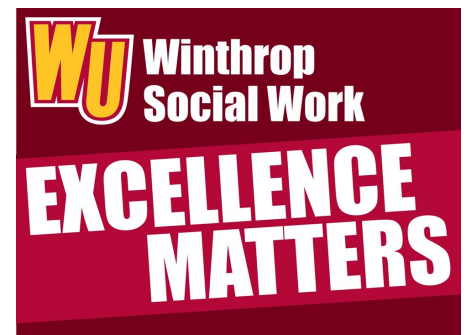
You will also see in this newsletter information about some of our civic engagement activities beyond classroom walls, including our annual Caring Connections Conference, a Charlotte-area commemoration of the historic 1963 March on Washington and a food drive for Rock Hill's own Pilgrims' Inn in honor of World Food Day.

In closing, I want to offer our special thanks to the hundreds of social work professionals in agencies across the region who support Winthrop social work by serving as field instructors for BSW and MSW student interns. Your mentorship to our students is instrumental in preparing them for real world social work practice. We sincerely thank you for your contributions to social work education at Winthrop.



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

Did you know that our social work students contributed **49,727** hours to community agencies last year through their field placements?
WOW!



New MSW Program Option for Students with a BSW Degree

We are very excited about the addition of a weekend advanced standing program to our range of MSW degree options. There are currently three programs where students can earn the MSW degree: the two-year full-time program, the three-year weekend program and the one-year advanced standing program.

Like the one-year advanced standing program, the new 39 credit weekend advanced standing program is designed for working professionals and others who have previously earned a CSWE accredited bachelor's degree in social work. This highly requested program provides additional flexibility in pursuing the MSW degree by providing advanced standing classes that meet one weekend per month over a two year period.

We will start to review applications on Feb. 1 for admission in August 2014. For further information about the advanced standing weekend program option, contact the MSW admissions office at 803/323-2650, 803/323-3396, or e-mail msw@winthrop.edu.

[Sue Lyman](#), MSW program director



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New Faculty

Name: Duane R. Neff
Title: Assistant Professor
Education: Ph.D., Brandeis University
MSW, Arizona State University
B.S., Arizona State University
Office: 136-B [Bancroft Hall](#)
Phone: 803/323-2342
E-mail: neffd@winthrop.edu
Area(s): Underage drinking and other problem drinking; social problems theory; policy analysis; the history and development of the welfare state; and social work administration.



Duane Neff is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work. He received his Ph.D. in social policy from The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, an MSW from Arizona State University and a B.S. in political science from Arizona State University. His research focuses on understanding social problems in context with an aim towards developing appropriate programmatic and public policy responses. His professional experience includes being a part-time faculty member at Boston College's Graduate School of Social Work, a research associate in the Schneider Institute for Health Policy at Brandeis University, an associate faculty member in the School of Social Work at Arizona State University and a program administrator in the Arizona Governor's Division of Drug Policy.

Name: Monique Constance-Huggins
Title: Assistant Professor
Education: Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh
MSW, University of Pittsburgh
MPIA, University of Pittsburgh
BCOM Royal Roads, Canada
Office: 134 [Bancroft Hall](#)
Phone: 803/323-2476
E-mail: hugginsm@winthrop.edu
Area(s): Poverty, racial disparities, social policy, and social capital.



Monique Constance-Huggins is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work. She received her Ph.D., MSW and MPIA from the University of Pittsburgh. Her research primarily focuses on single women in poverty and the social policies and programs that are in place to address their needs. Her research agenda also includes analysis of the role of social capital in the lives of low-income women. Specifically, she is intrigued by the ways in which low-income women find agency in their social network as they respond to inadequate social policies and programs. Her research brings together empirical studies, theory and social policy. She teaches courses in social welfare policy, macro systems and program evaluation.

Alumni News

Betsy Jenkins (BSW '11) completes her service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Vanuatu. She received a very favorable report from the Peace Corps director in Vanuatu who said she did some impressive work during her two years on Ambrym. Betsy and Wendy Campbell, Ph.D. will be hosting a cultural event on campus regarding the Peace Corps in partnership with Residence Life/Helping Hands Faculty Partners.

Maggie Bruce O'Neal (BSW '10) was awarded the Care Support Employee of the Year through the CARIS World Class Award, S.C. Region. She works for CARIS as a hospice worker and received this award at a recent ceremony in Columbia, S.C. Maggie is excited and honored that she won this award.

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society

The Winthrop Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society has been reactivated and the group held its Fall 2013 initiation ceremony on Oct. 20.

Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Program Director Kareema Gray is currently serving as the chapter's president and presided over the ceremony, which included remarks from Winthrop alumna Molly Edwards '07, an attorney from Charleston, S.C.

The Department of Social Work was well represented by having second year MSW students Sara English and Stacy Wright inducted into the honor society.

Only graduate students who have the highest academic standing are considered for membership. Deana Morrow, Ph.D. attended the ceremony as Sara English's faculty mentor, and Tori Charles attended the ceremony as Stacy Wright's faculty mentor.

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From the Field Office

Continuing Education: A Community Partnership

The Task Force for the Elderly - The name belies the purpose, as this group has evolved since its inception more than 20 years ago. It was begun by a farsighted community mental health social worker, Betty Ann Surratt, who saw a need to help with continuing education after professional social work licensure came about in South Carolina. This group is now a partnership among Winthrop University Department of Social Work, SC NASW and Catawba Area Agency on Aging. For many local social workers it has served as their core spot for continuing education units, and more importantly, as a place to connect with other professional social workers from many varied fields.

We meet on a Thursday morning each month, usually the third one if possible, to share social work news and community resources. At each meeting, we have a guest speaker who shares with us information on various topics. Most often the guest speakers are social workers, but occasionally the speaker might be a community representative from an agency sharing his/her ideas, concerns, best practices, etc. Often we ask our wonderful field instructors to come and be our guest speakers, and we would love for you to come and speak to our group! If you are interested, please contact/e-mail me at ashleyl@winthrop.edu and we will be happy to get you on our calendar. There is no cost to attend, it is our collective gift to our profession, but we like to take up a donation for a local food bank each time. If you would like to join us any time or get on our e-mail list for the Task Force, just send your e-mail address to me and, we will add you. Come join in this great group of social workers and community members!

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

CSWRA

Center for Social Welfare Research & Assessment

Since 2006, the Center for Social Welfare Research and Assessment (CSWRA) has partnered with South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Long Term Care to organize and host the annual Creating Caring Connections Conference. The purpose of the conference is to provide a venue for dissemination of current research findings from studies conducted by the CSWRA on behalf of the Bureau. Long term care professionals have the opportunity to apply real-time research to enhance their practice. The workshops available at the conference cover a range of best practice themes and specific topics designed to build professional skills, knowledge and career satisfaction.

This year's topics included emergency preparedness, chronic disease management, mental health, dementia, identity theft, Adult Protective Services, self-care, animal-assisted therapy and many more. Community professionals in a wide range of practice areas, public agency professionals and social work faculty were among the presenters at the conference. In addition to building knowledge, enhancing skill sets and providing continuing education credit opportunities, the conference is intended for attendees to have a break from the pressures of direct practice.

This year's conference, with the theme "Ready, Set, Build!" was held Sept. 26 - 27 on Winthrop's campus, and was attended by approximately 250 providers, conference speakers and exhibitors. By all measures, the conference was a success, reflecting the hard work and attention to every detail provided by the CSWRA leadership, staff and graduate student research assistants.

Planning for the 2014 conference will begin in January. Winthrop alumni who are interested in presenting or attending should send inquiry to the [CSWRA](#).

Stacy Wright, MSW student

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Why do I need an MSW? Student Donine Lucenti reflects on her decision

An excerpt from the Charlotte Family Housing Summer 2013 Newsletter

Before beginning this journey, I often asked myself, “Why do I need an MSW when I already have a bachelor’s degree in the field and 14 years of experience?” Now that I have completed my first year of graduate school at Winthrop University, I have realized that the advanced study has enhanced my knowledge and skills far more than I could have imagined. While I believe that a social worker can be great without an MSW, they miss out on the deeper understanding of the foundations and theories on which the social work practice was built, which I have found can only be taught at the graduate level. A deep level of understanding of the social work practice is essential when working with families in [Charlotte Family Housing](#) (CFH).

Clinical social workers at CFH:

- Assist families in their social environment by having an advanced understanding of human behavior.
- Address trauma and other concerns that have proven to be barriers to maintaining housing.
- Understand the importance of social policies and how they impact service delivery.
- Use evidence-based techniques to facilitate long-lasting change within our clients.

All of these educational and licensing requirements combined create countless methods and techniques that can be personalized to each family’s situation to foster long-term positive change within the families served by CFH.

Janiva Willis, MSW '08: Winthrop's Convocation Speaker

Janiva Willis, the keynote speaker at Winthrop’s Aug. 19 convocation, came to the university from Canada and blazed a trail in the classroom and on the softball field. A three-time Big South Conference All-Academic Team selection, she was voted the 2005 Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Following her senior year in 2005, Willis was named the NCAA's South Carolina Woman of the Year and was a Top 10 Finalist for NCAA National Woman of the Year. Along with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education and a minor in biology in 2005, Willis also earned an MSW in 2008 from Winthrop.

Now a clinical supervisor for multisystemic therapy (MST) with at-risk teenagers, Willis works at [Youth Villages](#) in Charlotte, N.C. She recently received a **Sustained Excellence Award** for her work in MST, an award for being in the top one percent internationally for her work with emotionally troubled teens and their families.

In her keynote speech, Willis spoke of her fear of public speaking and the definition of fear. She talked about the many things she would never have accomplished in her life if she listened to her fears, and how her Winthrop experience helped her to overcome those fears.

“My Winthrop experience taught me what it means to have a family away from home. From having my professors and staff support me during my athletic career by coming to the games, sharing in my accomplishments with true genuine excitement and helping me with extensions so that I could pursue my Olympic dreams. From my softball coach who saw me as more than just a star athlete. He pulled me aside after a serious break-up and said, ‘Jay, if they can’t recognize your worth and the quality of a woman that you are, they don’t deserve you.’ From my MSW professors who challenged me to find my true passion and I maintain those connections with them to this day...that’s what Winthrop means to me.”

Willis challenged members of the incoming freshman class to face their own fears head on and to be open to making meaningful connections with new people to truly experience their Winthrop journey.



Janiva Willis

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Commemoration of the March on Washington

Dr. Kareema Gray went with a group of eight Winthrop students to the Commemoration of the March on Washington at Marshall Park in downtown Charlotte, N.C., on Aug. 28. The commemoration was a rally to honor the work that was spurred on by the original March on Washington and brought awareness of the change in policy regarding voting rights for citizens in North Carolina.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. William Barber, leader of the Forward Together movement and North Carolina state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The diverse group of students remarked that it was an appropriate way to honor the work of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to focus on the work that still needs to be done for social and economic justice in our nation.

[Kareema Gray, BSW program director](#)



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Your gift to the Department of Social Work ensures that students who have more ability and promise than financial resources will have access to the excellent education and full college experience provided by Winthrop University.

Thank you for your support! We appreciate your dedication to our students, department and university!

Remembering Those Who are Food Insecure

October 16 was World Food Day. This day provided us, social workers, with another opportunity to reflect on the reality that so many people in our country, and more specifically in our state, are food insecure. Fifteen percent of households in South Carolina have reduced food intake and disruptive eating patterns because they lack money and other resources for food. We all know that there are a plethora of negative outcomes associated with food insecurity. Among these are poorer health of children, poorer psychosocial development in school-age children, lower achievement gains in school and hunger. Many people think that we are faced with the problem of hunger because there are too many people and not enough food. This is actually not true as our planet produces enough food to feed us all. The issue of hunger is reflective of a broader problem of power and the inequalities in accessing resources.

As social workers we have a responsibility to respond to the needs of those with few resources. In commemoration of this year's World Food Day the students and faculty of the Department of Social Work participated in a food drive. The proceeds from the drive were donated to Pilgrims' Inn in Rock Hill. This organization has been providing services to needy families and individuals for more than 25 years. The contribution made to this organization is consistent with our ethics and values of 'helping people in need and addressing their social problems.' However, more needs to be done in responding to hunger and food insecurity on a consistent basis if these ills would ever be extinguished. In fact, with the fragility of our economies and the volatility in government, including the recent government shutdown, those with food insecurity are the ones who are always impacted.

Monique Constance-Huggins, assistant professor