

West Chester University

News from the Graduate Social Work Department

"Be the change you want to see in the world." *Mahatma Gandhi*



Mark your Calendar

PSCSW CONFERENCE

*Healing the Wounds of
Attachment & Rebuilding Self:
Changing the Narrative*

Saturday, April 21, 2012

9:00am - 1:00pm

Lankenau Hospital Auditorium
Wynnewood, Pa

4 CEU's offered

Free admission to any
graduate student that helps
with the conference. For more
information on volunteering &
free admission contact Linda
Brockway at
linda@lindabrockway.com

For the conference summary &
registration [click here](#).

West Chester University's MSW Program ranks 79th on U.S. News & World Reports of the Best Social Work Programs



West Chester University's
Graduate Social Work
Department has been ranked
79th in the nation for our
high quality program.

WCU outperformed some well-established
programs in the region. We are proud to be
acknowledged by US News and World Report
for our academic quality.

To view the rankings [click here](#).

Faculty Research Presentations- Ann Abbott, PhD, LCSW

Dr. Ann Abbott, Chair, Department of

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT EVENT

Graduate Open House
Saturday, April 21, 2012
10:00am -12:00pm
Sykes Student Union

SPRING SEMESTER 2012

Last Day of Classes
Friday, May 4, 2012

Student Research
Presentations
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
8:30am - 4:30pm
Graduate Business Center

Wednesday, May 9, 2012
10:30am -1:30pm
Graduate Business Center

Field Instructors Appreciation
Breakfast
Wednesday, May 9, 2012
8:30am -10:00am
Graduate Business Center

Graduate Commencement
Monday, May 14th, 2012
7:00pm
Hollinger Field House

Dignity Project

The Graduate Social Work
Student Organization (GSWSO)

Graduate Social Work, spent spring break celebrating social work month by responding to invitations to speak on one of her major



interests-ethics, malpractice, and risk management for social work practitioners. She spoke on "Ethical Practice: A Social Worker's Best Defense Against

Malpractice" at the Annual Program Meeting of the National Association of Social Workers-Virginia Chapter, held in Richmond Virginia, and the Annual Program Meeting of the National Association of Social Workers-Oregon Chapter, held in Portland Oregon. She also was invited to present on "Ethics and Risk Management for Educators" at the Baccalaureate Program Directors' annual meeting held in Portland. Dr. Abbott has served as board member and a past Chair, National Association of Social Workers Insurance Trust, and is currently a volunteer presenter and program developer for the National Assurance Services in the area of education of social workers about ethical practice and ways to mitigate risks of malpractice.

Faculty Research Presentation Gwenelle O'Neal, PhD, DSW

Dr. O'Neal was one of twenty participants invited to a consultative session on Culture and Protective Factors for Quality Improvement of Early Childhood, Center

will be collecting toiletries as part of a Dignity Project. Donated items will go to Temple University Hospital and the West Chester Salvation Army and be distributed to homeless individuals.

The collection box is located in Anderson 222 and donations will be accepted until April 28th.

SELF CARE CONFERENCE

When Helping Hurts: A Day of Healing for Helping Professionals

Monday, June 18, 2012
9:30am - 3:30pm
Temenos Retreat Center

or

Friday, October 5, 2012
9:30am - 3:30pm
Temenos Retreat Center

Facilitated by Lara Krawchuk, MSW, LCSW, MPH. 5 CEU credits available for PA Social Workers, MFT & LPC.

\$125 per person (per person)

\$115 Groups, per person (2+ people)

For more information or to get a registration form contact Laura Krawchuk,

healing.concepts@yahoo.com

for the Study of Social Policy on March 21-22 in National Harbor, MD.

The session involved structured group discussions regarding the implications of culturally specific understandings and manifestations of the protective factors. In addition to large and small group discussions, the Community Cafe Process was facilitated to garner perceptions of the major themes of all participants.

The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework emphasizes the protection of parental resilience, social connections, concrete support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence. These factors are simultaneously acknowledged as "promotive" factors that build strong family and community environments. Using this approach, more than 30 states are shifting policy, funding, and training to help programs working with children and families.

For more information:

[Click here](#) to visit the Center for the Study of Social Policy website

[Click here](#) to go directly to Strengthening Families section of the Center for the Study of Social Policy website

Dr. O'Neal's multicultural work was recently published:

O'Neal, G. S. (2012). Self-assessment and dialogue as tools for appreciating diversity. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 48(1), 159-166.

NASW-PA CONFERENCE AT VALLEY FORGE

2012 Reforming Social Services: Our Evidence Based Future Conference

Thursday, October 11, 2012-
Sunday October 13, 2012

Radisson Valley Forge Hotel

The NASW-PA will hold a conference on reforming social services. The conference has opportunities for students to present a research poster.

Submissions are due September 7, 2012. For more information on the conference or poster submission visit the [NASW-PA's website](#).

MSW student presents at West Chester University Annual Research Day

Kamrin Yelley, a second year full time student in the MSW program, recently presented her research at West Chester University's 11th Annual Research Day. Kamrin conducted research at Phoenixville Hospital with the Postpartum Support Group. Kamrin's research uniquely focused on the perceived efficacy of postpartum support groups versus medication to treat post-partum depression (PPD). The exploratory, non-experimental research identified themes that the members of the support group found efficacious such as normalizing, increased confidence, decreased self-blame as well as the structure of the group. Kamrin's research with the support group also addressed perceived areas of need and a discussion of future research areas such as an experimental study testing the effectiveness of postpartum support groups and ways to attract more diverse populations to PPD support groups as a treatment method.



Standing Strong: MSW Student Participation

Standing Strong is WCU support group established by the Veterans Center in Fall,

2011 for the partners, families and close friends of military personnel. Co-founders of the group include MSW student Lawrence Davidson and Dr. Nadine Bean who recognized a need to "foster strength within individuals who have a loved one serving in the military."

Second year full time MSW student, Stephanie Teixeira facilitated a Stress Reduction Workshop on Monday, March 26, 2012 for the Standing Strong Group. In preparation for the Stress Reduction Workshop, Stephanie used her experiences from her field placement at Creative Health Services (CHS) and referenced Sharon L. Johnson's *Therapists Guide to Clinical Intervention: The 1-2-3-'s of Treatment Planning*. The workshop included writing exercises, brief meditation practice, and the use of guided visual imagery to build awareness of participants stress and ways to manage it. This was Stephanie's first workshop with Standing Strong and she looks forward to continuing her relationship with the Veterans Center on campus!

Alumni Recognition

Teresa Ryan, WCU MSW '09

Teresa Ryan, MSW'09, graduated with experience garnered from internships in the School District of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs (VA). Following graduation, Teresa was selected for the prestigious Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Recovery fellowship program through the Department of Veterans Affairs whose mission is to "develop future mental health leaders with



vision, knowledge, and commitment to transform mental health care systems in the 21st century." Combined with her MSW training at West Chester University, this fellowship allowed Teresa to pursue her passion of working with veterans.

Today she is working at the Philadelphia VA as a social worker in the HUD/VASH (Housing Urban Development/ Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) program assisting with housing for veterans who are experiencing homelessness.