



## MSW Program at West Chester University

### Stand Up - Stand Strong

March is National Social Work Month!

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### Groundbreaking Practices in Social Work

***MSW Department Transforms 501 Practice Course Using OSCE***

West Chester University's Department of Graduate Social Work transformed its 501 Foundation Practice course in fall 2016, thanks to a collaborative effort with the Department of Theater and Dance.

Borrowing from the health profession's widely used Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), social work students practiced demonstrating skills by participating in a standardized practice simulation experience with trained theatre students. The interviews were video-taped, allowing faculty members and students to engage in meaningful post-interview evaluation and reflection.



This unique teaching method grew out of Dr. Marion Bogo's research and adaptation of the OSCE for Social Work.



Dr. Amber Holbrook, lead investigator on the study at West Chester University, presented the idea to fellow faculty members Drs. Julie Tennille, Wan-Yi Chen, and Stacie Metz who were immediately onboard. As Dr. Tennille explained, this revolutionary practice

advances the department's commitment to performance-based evaluation of students' skills.

In the Department of Theatre and Dance, Assistant Professor Charles DelMarcelle also jumped at the chance to participate. According to DelMarcelle, approximately 75% of actors in Philadelphia have specialized training as standardized patients. Working with the Department of Graduate Social Work provided an opportunity for his students to "develop a marketable skill while contributing to really important work" he stated.

For WCU graduate social work students, the OSCE initiative provides real-world practice experience and assimilates theoretical learning with practical skills. One student, Terry Ramsey, described it as a "validating experience" that gave her the opportunity to see where she has developed mastery and where she can improve her skills.

DelMarcelle described the experience as incredibly positive and said that students have been contacting him to inquire about participating in future initiatives. His department is discussing ways to build OSCE practice into future coursework.

Similarly, Drs. Tennille, Holbrook, and Chen are excited about duplicating the initiative at WCU's Philadelphia campus. "The OSCE transformed the Foundation Practice course, elevating both preparation and performance of students," stated Dr. Tennille.



## STAND STRONG

In recognition of National Social Work Month and the current state of affairs in our country, the Graduate Social Work Department has released a message to "Stand together as Social Workers, and

more importantly as humans, to protect and heal each other from hate and bigotry."

[Read the full statement](#)

## Alumni Antar Bush Presents at WCU MLK Jr. Day

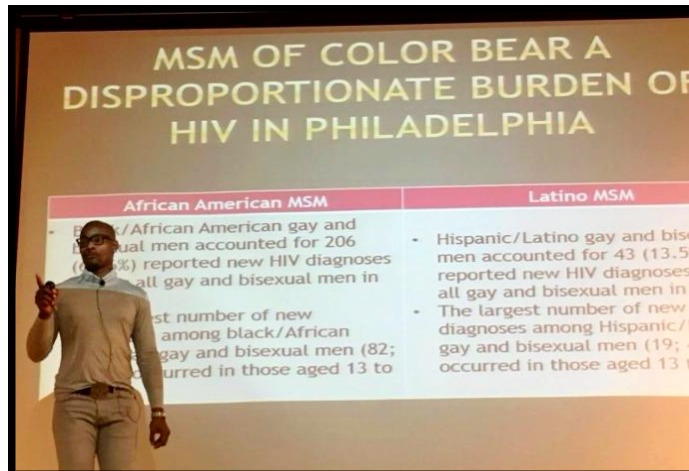
## Developing Competencies for Working with MSM and Trans People of Color

You may remember Antar Bush, MSW '16 from our 2016 newsletter highlighting his involvement in the documentary *Holler if You Hear Me: Black and Gay in the Church*. As expected, Antar's passion for influencing change and enriching the lives of marginalized populations endures.

On January 26th, as part of WCU's day-long celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Antar led students, faculty and staff in a presentation about holistic and wrap-around services for men who have sex with men (MSM) and trans people of color.

With the CDC projecting that one in two black men and one in four Hispanic men will be diagnosed with the virus that causes AIDS in their lifetimes, and MSM of color bearing a disproportionate burden of HIV in Philadelphia, it is critical that social workers develop cultural competencies for effectively working with this population. In his role as Health Education

Coordinator for the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office of Philadelphia (AACO), Antar has been working to ensure just that.



When Antar's not training service providers, he can be found back on West Chester's campus increasing his own knowledge in the classroom as he works toward a Master's of Public Health degree.

Antar considers himself blessed and lucky to be practicing macro level social work in the public health field. "It doesn't get any better," he said, adding that he is humbled knowing that what he does makes a difference. "I love to see people being their best selves," said Antar.

## Welcome Jeanean Mohr, Program Coordinator



On January 17th, the Department of Graduate Social Work welcomed Jeanean Mohr as its newest staff member. In her role as Program Coordinator, Jeanean will assist with review of admissions applications, counsel students on course selection, head the department's social media efforts, and support faculty with alumni engagement.

Prior to joining West Chester University, Jeanean worked as Executive Director of Breakthrough Philadelphia, a non-profit that

prepares Philadelphia public school students for college success and trains college students for teaching careers.

Jeanean's passion for social work ignited early in college when she took her first sociology class at Millersville University. Inspired by her desire to combat social and economic inequities, Jeanean quickly changed majors from communications to social work and subsequently spent more than 15 years working in the nonprofit sector.

Jeanean earned her master's in Social Administration from Temple University and her BSW from Shippensburg University. As a first-generation college graduate, she is intimately familiar with the value of higher education and is thrilled to transfer her passion for education and social justice to her position at West Chester University.

## Cutting Edge CEUs Free to Field Instructors

On Saturday, February 18th the Department of Graduate Social Work's Field Instructors joined students, faculty, alumni and staff at West Chester University for a symposium, *Inclusive Practice is our Ethical Imperative: Supporting Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) Clients*. The event was co-sponsored by the Office of Social Equity, MSW and BSW Departments.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Pictured: Jaymie Campbell, Director of Training and Capacity Building, ACCESS Matters, Naiymah Sanchez, Transgender Advocate Coordinator for the ACLU of PA, Christian Lovehall, CLEAR Recruiter/Outreach Specialist at TransHealth Information Project, Dr. Julie Tennille, Assistant Professor in MSW and Dr. Casey Bohrman, Assistant Professor and Assistant Chair in BSW Department.

## Recent faculty publications

- **Holbrook, A.M., & Chen, W-Y.** (2016). [Learning by doing: An experimental approach to program evaluation](#). *Social Work Education: The International Journal*. Advance online publication.
- **Ocean, M., Allen, R., Thompson, C., & Lyman, K.S.** (2016). [Team-based course design: Increasing resource utilization and collaboration across campus](#). *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*. Advance online publication.

- **Tennille, J. & Bohrman, C. (2017).** Conversations about Intimacy and Sexuality: A Training Toolkit Using Motivational Interviewing. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion for Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities. Available at: [www.tucollaborative.org](http://www.tucollaborative.org).

**Learn more**



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