



# IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.

*Spring 2017*

# Greetings from the Program Chair

On behalf of the Department of Social Work, I welcome you to the Spring edition of Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Social Work Program newsletter. Spring is always a busy time for the Department of Social Work with students completing field practicums, honoring professional social workers in March, contributing to our role of advocacy by participating in legislative day at the capitol, and hosting our annual "Primp for Prom" event where we give away hundreds of prom dresses to high school students in Northwest Oklahoma for free. In this edition we take time to honor a special alumna, Audry Haldaman Stewart, celebrate DeeDee Nolan as NASW-OK undergraduate student of the year, and remember Sherie Byrd, a beloved BSW graduate and Northwest Oklahoma social worker. As always, we thank those whose efforts assist us in preparing competent, effective Northwest Oklahoma generalist practice social workers. We are so grateful to our field agency partners, field instructors, adjunct instructors, and Social Work Advisory Board Members for enhancing the experiences of our students and improving social services for the people of our region.

"Social Workers Stand Up!"

Dr. Kylene Rehder



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## Field Director earns LCSW license

Jennifer Pribble, Director of Social Work Field Education, recently earned her Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) credential with the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers. The LCSW clinical credential requires a practicing master's level social worker to be under supervision of a LCSW and passage of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Licensed Clinical Social Worker Exam.

"Social Workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States and I'm happy to say that I am one of those providers. It is my job as a social worker to empower people to combat mental illnesses, substance abuse, and social problems," Pribble said.

In order for Pribble to obtain her clinical credential, she worked as an outpatient mental health therapist for children and families at a non-profit agency in Northwest Oklahoma. While there, she completed more than 4000 practice hours, 3000 clinical hours, and 100 hours of educational supervision with a Board approved LCSW Clinical Supervisor.

"I am honored to bring my credentials to Northwestern and support the licensure of BSW social workers graduating from our program," Pribble said.

Pribble earned a Bachelor's of Social Work from Northwestern and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma's Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work.



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# Alumni Highlight-

## Audry Haldaman Stewart

Audry Haldaman Stewart worked 43 years in social work prior to her retirement in August, 2015 and returning to her hometown in Woodward, Ok where she continues to volunteer in the helping professions.

Stewart is a licensed clinical social worker who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Welfare/ Psychology (1971) from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and a Master's Degree in Social Work (1980) from the University of Oklahoma. Throughout her career, she specialized in providing treatment and prevention services for adults and children who experienced trauma, child abuse and neglect. She began her work with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services from 1972-1979 in Woods County including Child Welfare Supervisor for five counties in Northwest Oklahoma. Mrs. Stewart was hired with the Cooperative Education Project in 1979 and served the special education needs of preschoolers in Northwest Oklahoma both as a school social worker and director until 2000 when she retired from the Department of Education. Stewart maintained a private practice in social work in Alva and Woodward from 1980 to 2008. In 2008, she joined Choctaw Management and was employed with the New Parent Support Program and worked for the US Army in Ansbach, Germany until 2010. Her work in child abuse prevention included pre-natal and infant education during home visits with Army personnel and their families. She concluded her social work career at Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center working in mental health intensive case management from 2010-2015.



Her work as a rural social worker has not gone unnoticed by others. She received the NASW Oklahoma Social Worker of the Year award in 1988, the American Business Club's Therapist of the Year honor in 1997 and was inducted into the Social Work Hall of Fame at the University of Oklahoma for clinical practice in 1999. She also received the Chief's Recognition award for her commitment and work in both Germany and JCMVAMC. In 2013, she recognized and honored with the NASW Lifetime Achievement Award in Social Work. She has served on the Oklahoma University School of Social work Board of Visitors and multiple task forces. Stewart is now honored to be included as one of the 100 for the 100th anniversary celebration of the University of Oklahoma social work school and enjoys staying connected to social work and to the needs of others.

*Stewart continued page 4*

# Alumni Highlight-Stewart continued

Throughout her life, Stewart has been actively involved in her community. She served two terms on the Alva City Council, organized and collected Christmas items for those in need, worked years with the Guild of the Christ Child providing layettes to newborns including making infant quilts. She participates in the Quilt of Valor Program both making and presenting quilts to combat veterans and has organized a Stitch and Chat group in her home town to provide pillow cases and pillows for adult citizens with special needs. She is involved in making quilts for children through Project Hope; a prison ministry and actively involved in Saint John's Episcopal Church community outreach. Stewart is an avid quilter and presented the school with their 90th anniversary quilt that hangs in the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work. She is working to complete the 100th Anniversary quilt to be presented Sept., 2017.

Although retired, Stewart has excellent advice to offer social workers who are just beginning their career, "Use the best skills you have to do the very best job you can, use evidence-based treatment and continue to enhance your skills through training. Be kind, it is through our kindness that others begin to trust us and it is in the process of helping others that we find our reward".



March is national Social Workers month.

# Nolan receives NASW-OK Undergraduate Student of the Year award

Dlonra (Dee Dee) Nolan, Enid senior, was named as the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW-OK) Undergraduate Student of the Year award for 2017. Nolan will be presented the award in April at the NASW-OK Annual State Conference Awards Reception in Norman.

NASW is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world and works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social practices.

Nolan is majoring in Social Work with a minor in English. She is a graduate of Northern Oklahoma College and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. In 2014, she was a recipient of the Geraldine Burns English Award and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. During her tenure in the Navy, she was awarded three Navy Achievement Medals and Sailor of the Year. In 2015, she served on the board of directors for the Enid YMCA and is a current member of the NASW. Nolan was elected as the undergraduate student representative and currently serves on the NASW Oklahoma Board of Directors. In addition, she serves as President of the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow-SWAT student organization at NWOSU and for the last two years has arranged and advocated for student participation in NASW-OK's Legislative Day.

Rehder stated, "I have observed her dynamic interpersonal skills, time management, professionalism, appropriate role modeling, and her commitment to social justice in our region and in our state. She is the type of social work student who is truly worthy of this recognition. "

Following graduation from Northwestern, Nolan will be attending the Masters of Social Work program at University of Oklahoma Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work.



# Northwestern Social Work students participating in field experience

Field Experience for social work students from Northwestern Oklahoma State University recently began for the spring semester. Five senior social work majors entered practicum agencies within northwest Oklahoma, central Oklahoma and Kansas, to complete 420 contact hours, demonstrate 31 practice behaviors and master the program's nine core competencies as outlined by the Council on Social Work Education.

"Social work field experience is critical in developing the practitioner skills each social worker needs to be successful," said Jennifer Pribble, director of field education and assistant professor of social work.

Each student in field experience is assigned to a field instructor, someone with specific credentials in the agency to reinforce social work ideas, practice behaviors and competencies.

"The field instructor is a key component to the student's field experience," Pribble said. "Field Instructors volunteer their time to assist with educating these young professionals. Without their contributions to our students, our program, and the social work profession the field experience would not be possible."

Listed below are senior students studying field experience, hometowns and their practicum agency placements:

Dlonra Nolan of Enid, Youth and Family Services-Enid;

Jessi Neal of Hobart, CREOKS-Stillwater;

Codi Harding of Waukomis, St. Mary's Resilience Behavioral Health-Enid,

Kelci Hill of Harper, Kansas, St. Francis Community Services-Wichita, Kansas;

Cierra Willyard of Plainview, Texas, Western Plains Youth and Family Services-Woodward.



*Dlonra Nolan*



*Jessi Neal*



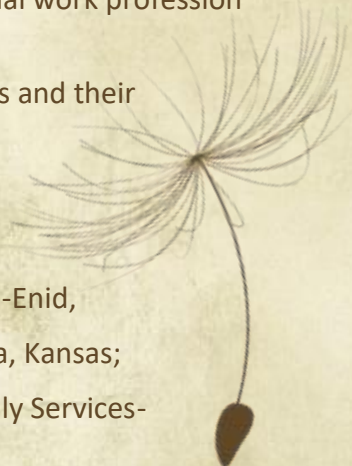
*Codi Harding*



*Kelci Hill*



*Cierra Willyard*



# NWOSU students attend NASW-OK Legislative Day at the Capitol

More than 130 social workers from across the state gathered this month at the Oklahoma Capitol for the National Association of Social Workers, Oklahoma Chapter (NASW-OK) Legislative Day.

Social work students and faculty from Northwestern Oklahoma State University were in attendance to learn about legislative issues impacting the social work profession and the populations they serve. Legislative Day provides an opportunity for social work students and practitioners to engage in macro-level practice and learn effective ways to advocate on the behalf of others. This day assists the students in learning to analyze and formulate policies that advance social well-being and develop ways for effective policy action.



*Pictured: Dr. Kylee Rehder (Dept. Chair), Jessica Goodballet, Marsellia Rael, Elizabeth Fox-Shiple, Codi Harding, Mirissa Branine, Jessi Neal, Jennifer Pribble (Director of Field Education), Lauren Shriver, Levi Sanders, Dana Kausek, and Denise Tyrell.*

“Legislative Day provides the opportunity for participation in public policy issues and social justice advocacy, both key components of social work education and practice” said Dr. Kylee Rehder, chair of the department of social work.

The day started with a tour of the Oklahoma State Capitol and a welcome message from NASW-OK Board President Frannie Pryor, followed by Kara Joy McKee, an outreach specialist from the Oklahoma Policy Institute who presented on effectively approaching legislators. A legislative panel comprised of Rep. Carol Bush, Rep. Emily Virgin, Rep. Jason Dunnington, Senator Adam Pugh, and Sen. David Holt, was moderated by Andy Moore. The day concluded with opportunities to engage with legislators and closing remarks by the executive director of NASW-OK, Mary Jo Kinzie.

Social work students that were in attendance were: Jessica Goodballet, Marsellia Rael, Elizabeth Fox-Shiple, Codi Harding, Mirissa Branine, Jessi Neal, Lauren Shriver, Levi Sanders, Dana Kausek, and Denise Tyrell.

# Remembering Sherie Byrd

*We remember one of our own, Sherie Byrd, who recently passed away. She was a beloved member of NWOSU's Social Work alumni and one of those special people who, if you met her, you would not forget. She will be greatly missed.*

Sherie Byrd, 49 year old Woodward resident, died Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, surrounded by her family. Funeral services were held Monday, January 30, 2017 at the Free Will Baptist Church with Dr. Allen Mabra, Reverend Daniel Sweet, and C.J. Sober officiating. Burial followed in the Elmwood Cemetery.

Sherie Diann (Perrin) Byrd was born on July 6, 1967 in Woodward, Oklahoma to Jay Bennit and Linda Eulane (Scott) Perrin. Byrd attended Woodward schools and graduated from Woodward High School in 1985. She graduated from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in 2011 with a Bachelor's in Social Work before graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a Master's in Social Work.

She was united in marriage to Richard Lee Byrd on April 2, 1988 in San Diego, California.

They made their first home in California. Byrd stayed at home with her children while living



in California and she received her degree in Medical Billing from America University. The family moved back to Woodward in 2001 to be near her family. Byrd went to work for Mutual of Omaha and continued working there until they closed. She went to work for the Northwest Domestic Crisis Center and she loved that job. Byrd was very



proud of the fact that she received her Masters Degree in Social Work. She helped so many people and felt like the girls she worked with were her family.

She was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church. Byrd loved her family, especially her grandbabies, who she loved dearly. She will be missed by everyone. The boys friend's always referred to her as "Mama Byrd".

Byrd is survived by her husband Richard Byrd of the home; her parents, Jay and Linda Perrin of Woodward; children: Anthony Byrd and wife Patricia of Mooreland, Chase Byrd and fiancée Maranda of Woodward, Shelby Byrd of Enid; Brandon Byrd of Woodward, Shanna Byrd of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Alex Byrd, William Byrd, Benjamin and Abigail Byrd, and Zayleigh Byrd, Tobiah Rodriguez; two brothers: Scott Perrin and wife Christi of Bethany, Chris Perrin and wife Trinity of Guthrie; other relatives and many friends. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Clifford and Betty Scott.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Northwest Domestic Crisis Center with the funeral home accepting the contributions on behalf of the family.



# Event Information

Join us and shop for  
your **FREE** formal gown

## PRIMP FOR PROM ANNUAL EVENT

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Woodward High School  
Practice Gym  
13th & Downs Ave.**

*Sponsored by Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work  
and Woodward High School Key Club*

# Advisory Board Members

The Social Work Program Advisory Board is comprised of social workers, practitioners, and leaders in our local communities that foster and support the continued development of social work education in the region. While members come from different communities, the committee is seen as one functional unit and focuses on the overall development of the program. The primary purpose of the board is to maintain active communication between the social work practice community and the program to ensure continued improvement. The Social Work Program Advisory Board addresses the following: student preparation to meet community and agency needs, expectations for students in field education, program assessment outcomes, input on educational policies, student recruitment and retention, job placement, research initiatives, and identifying agency needs that the social work program can address to contribute to community betterment.



**Amy Whitson**, Child Welfare Deputy Director,  
Region I, *Oklahoma Department of Human Services*

**Nancy Prigmore**, MSW, JD, Manager,  
*Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma*



**Kevin Evans**, Executive Director,  
*Western Plains Youth and Family Services*

**Raquel Razien**, Family Specialist,  
*United Methodist Circle of Care*



**Dee Dee Nolan**, SWAT President,  
*Northwestern Oklahoma State University*

**Tricia Mitchell**, Executive Director,  
*4RKids Foundation*



**Trudy Hoffman**, Executive Director,  
*Northwest Center for Behavioral Health*

**Pamela Bookout**, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Director,  
*Youth and Family Services of North Central Oklahoma, Inc.*



We wish to congratulate Janice Melton on her retirement from the Charles E. "Bill" Johnson Correctional Center. Thank you for serving on our advisory board for so many years.

*In memory of Orren Dale, PhD, MSSW*