



IMPACT

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Fall 2017



FALL 2017

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Greetings from the Program Chair

On behalf of the Department of Social Work, I welcome you to another fall edition of Northwestern's Social Work Program newsletter. It is an exciting time in social work as we are seeing new interest in the field, increased numbers in enrollment, and significant contributions in social service delivery by our social work alumni. In this edition, we introduce you to one of our adjunct instructors, Sarah Thompson, and congratulate the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma on their 100th anniversary celebration. In addition, we continue our rich history in NASW with two Northwestern members elected to the NASW-OK board of directors. Furthermore, we provide you with an update on Joby Saint-Fleur and announce our newest scholarship and CWPEP recipients. As always, we would like to express our gratitude to our community partners and external stakeholders. Homecoming is scheduled for September 30th so we welcome you to "Come Back, Give Back- Continue the Legacy!"

Ride, Rangers, Ride!

Dr. Kylene Rehder



Dr. Kylene Rehder, LCSW

Associate Professor of Social Work
Social Work Program Director
Jesse Dunn 308 Alva Campus
(580) 327-8135
kdrehder@nwsu.edu

A message from the Field Director

I am thrilled to be starting my second year as Director of Field Education for Social Work at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. This past year I have had the pleasure of working alongside some great agencies in Northwest Oklahoma and Kansas. With an increase of students entering the field this spring semester, I will have the pleasure of working with even more agencies throughout Northwest Oklahoma and I couldn't be more excited! In social work practice, our ultimate goal is to help others and I'm ecstatic about having the opportunity to continue to assist students with reaching this goal. The field allows our students to strengthen their own self-awareness, while applying the skills they've been developing during their entire social work education journey. I look forward to another great semester of field education!



Jennifer Pribble, MSW, LCSW

Assistant Professor of Social Work
Director of Field Education
Room 110 Enid Campus
(580) 213-3148
jlpribble@nwsu.edu



Alumni Highlight-Sarah Thompson

“As a social worker, I have had the opportunity to make a difference and grow as a professional,” said Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) Social Work alum, Sarah Thompson. “I am proud to be among such an outstanding group of professionals as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Oklahoma. It is an honor to be able to contribute to social justice and change.”

Thompson received her Bachelor of Science from NWOSU in 2004, then returned to NWOSU to complete her Bachelors of Social Work in 2011. After graduating from NWOSU in 2011, Thompson began her social work career with Opportunities Inc. Head Start. While there, she began working as a family advocate, working directly with low income children and their families, providing case management services to assure that all families received comprehensive care.

“The Head Start program gave me the opportunity to advocate for individuals as well as address social problems that directly impact children and families,” said Thompson.

She then left Opportunities, Inc. and began working for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance abuse Services (ODMHSAS) as a Prevention Specialist. There, she developed community coalitions to address substance abuse issues at the macro level.

As she began to expand her practice, she began working for Western Plains of Youth and Family Services’ (WPYFS) Systems of Care program. While at YFS she provided services to children with mental health challenges and their families.

Following her time at WPYFS, Thompson, began working as a school based social worker through a partnership between Woodward Public Schools and the Department of Human Services. As a school based social worker she worked with teachers, parents, community agencies, and other professionals to address student problems and develop appropriate intervention strategies. She was also the homeless liaison for the school district.

After receiving her Masters in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma in 2013, she began working for Youth and Family Services of North Central Oklahoma. She provided therapeutic counseling to school-aged children ranging from ages 4 - 18. After leaving Youth and Family Services, Thompson worked at Millennium Community Services, where she provided outpatient counseling to adults and children. In addition to working in an outpatient setting, she worked with Faith Hospice to assist patients living with terminal conditions. She arranged for care to enhance the quality of life and counseled patients and their families as they adjusted to the diagnosis.

“My experiences with hospice, school-based counseling, and outpatient therapy provided me with the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of populations at all stages of life. During



Continued Thompson page 10

Rehder recognized by University of Oklahoma School of Social Work



Dr. Kylene Rehder, an associate professor, director of the Social Work Program and chair of the Department of Social Work at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, was chosen as one of 100 honorees in the field of social work from the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma during the school's 100 for the 100th anniversary celebration.

Rehder has worked at Northwestern since 2005 and is credited with leading the social work program to external accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Northwestern's social work program is only one of five CSWE accredited universities in the state and is the only one in western Oklahoma. With the development of a social work program in the region, the landscape of social services in Northwest Oklahoma has been transformed.

The honorees were social workers, former faculty, directors, alumni and other friends and supporters of the school. The anniversary celebration culminated in a very special dinner event: "An Evening of Celebration: 100 Years of Social Work" on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017, in the University of Oklahoma Molly Shi Boren Ballroom.

Rehder was beyond thrilled to be included as one of the 100 for the 100th anniversary celebration, particularly because she understands the brilliant and dedicated social workers this state has.

"I am truly humbled by this honor because our state encompasses so many brilliant and dedicated social workers who work tirelessly to enhance human well-being," Rehder said. "It is a dream come true to

chair the Department of Social Work at Northwestern as it is where I originally developed my passion in social work and my commitment to help meet the basic needs of all people. It is a privilege to work as a professional social worker, and having your contributions recognized by the University of Oklahoma's Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work and your alma mater is a wonderful professional experience."

The 100 selected individuals were honored in two main ways. The first included a year-long tribute on the school's website that will showcase those selected with a photo and short biography. The second was at the 100th anniversary event in September.

Rehder obtained a bachelor's degree in social work from Northwestern (2001) and a Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma (2003), graduating summa cum laude. In 2013, she completed a doctorate degree from North Central University, where her dissertation research focused on the use of technology in social work education and practice.

Rehder is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Board Approved Clinical Supervisor by the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers. She has a rich history of involvement in the National Association of Social Workers Oklahoma chapter (NASW-OK), holding key roles such as Northwest



Rehder and Dr. Deena Fisher at the 100 for the 100th anniversary celebration.



President Dr. David Boren, University of Oklahoma, speaking at the event.

Branch Chair, Chapter Committee on Leadership Identification (CCNLI), steering committee for the Social Work Public Education Campaign, and a member of the Political Action for Candidate Election (PACE) committee.

Student, faculty to serve on NASW-OK Board of Directors

Levi Sanders, Northwestern Oklahoma State University-Enid senior, and Jennifer Pribble, social work field education director and assistant professor of social work, have both been elected to serve on the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW-OK) 2017-2018 Board of Directors.

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.

Sanders will be serving the board as the undergraduate student representative.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that I have been presented to serve on the NASW-OK Board of Directors," Sanders said. "I am honored to serve Northwestern in this manner and thankful for the guidance and leadership of Dr. Kylene Rehder (Department of Social Work chair and associate professor of social work) and Professor Pribble while undergoing the undergraduate program.

"Social work was not my initial major, but I quickly found my passion and love for the profession. My ultimate goal is to work on the clinical side of social work, engaging in students' lives while being a school social worker, specifically in a high school. If I can make a difference in just one high school student's life, I know that all the education and training I am undergoing now will be worth it."

Pribble will be serving the board as the Northwest Branch Chair.

"I am honored to be a part of the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers," Pribble said. "I look forward to advancing an agenda that promotes and supports the value of social work in Oklahoma."

Rehder is proud of the commitment to NASW-OK seen through Northwestern students and faculty.

"Northwestern's social work program is proud to have a rich history of involvement with NASW-OK," Rehder said. "We are so proud to have both a student and a faculty member elected to serve this year on the NASW-OK Board of Directors. This is the fifth time a student from Northwestern will have the privilege to represent the interests of Oklahoma undergraduate students and the second time for a faculty member to serve as the Northwest Branch Chair."



Jennifer Pribble, MSW, LCSW



Levi Sanders

Cremers is finalist for Homecoming Queen



Ranger Royalty King and Queen finalists that will go on to the final round of voting are (pictured left to right) Joel Gonzalez, Jordan Cremers, Bailey Jaye Wilson, Sadie Vore and Demetri T. Wilson.

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University Student Government Association (SGA) officers announced this year's five final candidates for Ranger King and Ranger Queen. The winners for Ranger King and Queen will be announced during the Ranger Homecoming football game.

Ranger Queen finalist, Jordan Cremers, is a senior social work major from Ponca City. She is sponsored by Social Workers Association of Tomorrow. Her hobbies include playing with her dog, Izzy; hanging out with friends and going to concerts. Her favorite subject is psychology. She is the daughter of Ron and Michelle Cremers.

The Ranger King and Ranger Queen Coronation ceremony will take place during halftime of the homecoming football game against East Central University on Saturday, Sept. 30. The game starts at 4 p.m. Good luck Jordan!

CWPEP stipend awarded to two social work majors

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Social Work announces Northwestern-Woodward junior Marsellia Rael and Northwestern-Enid junior Denise Tyrell are the stipend recipients of the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) for the 2017-2018 academic year.

CWPEP provides funds for students who plan careers in child welfare services in Oklahoma. The stipends are awarded to full-time students majoring in social work and provide money toward educational expenses to participating students. Students who receive the stipends complete educational internships in child welfare agencies within the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). Upon graduation, students are assured employment in the participating DHS programs.

"I am majoring in social work because there is nothing better than helping children, who are going to be the future of tomorrow," Rael said. "I'm lucky enough to be a recipient of the CWPEP and plan on utilizing my education to help families and children improve their lifestyles and bring opportunities to them."



Marsellia Rael



Denise Tyrell

Denise Tyrell said, "My reason for choosing a social work degree, and more specifically Child Welfare, is because I want to make a difference in someone's life. I want my career to have purpose, and I feel like Social Work is the best way to fulfill that. As a Child Welfare specialist, I hope to be an advocate for children and families. I intend to use what I learn during my studies at Northwestern to further this goal."

"The social work program is proud to administer the CWPEP program and play an essential role in securing and *retaining quality social workers in the public child welfare system*," Dr. Kylene Rehder, Department of Social Work Chair, CWPEP coordinator, and associate professor of social work said. "CWPEP at Northwestern has graduated 15 students, resulting in more than \$115,000 being awarded in educational assistance."

CWPEP is a Title IV-E partnership between the University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Council, and Social Work Education (CSWE) in accredited social work programs in Oklahoma. The University of Oklahoma manages the child welfare consortium. Other partners along with Northwestern include East Central University and Oral Roberts University.

Funding for the educational program is provided by Title IV-E of the social security act, called the Child Welfare Training program.



Kausek awarded scholarships; new scholarship added to program

Dana Kausek, senior from Enid, has been awarded the Ruth Ann Devery VanLandingham and Steve and Janet Valencia scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year. Together, the two scholarships totaled almost \$500.

"I feel truly honored to be selected as the VanLandingham and Valencia scholarship winner," said Kausek. This gives me pride in knowing that my determination and hard work as a social work student at Northwestern Oklahoma State University has been meaningful to someone other than myself. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to continuing my path to educational success!"

The Ruth Ann Devery VanLandingham ('80) scholarship was named for the wife of Ted VanLandingham and her children after she passed in an automobile accident in 1991. VanLandingham graduated from Northwestern Oklahoma State University with a BA degree in Social Work. VanLandingham was employed as a social worker for the Achenbach Center in Hardtner, KS and then at Parkview Learning Center at Macksville, KS.

Students receiving this scholarship must be an upper-division, full-time student majoring in social work. They must have a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA with preference going to a non-traditional student who demonstrated financial need.

Steve ('88) and Janet ('87) Valencia, Alva, added to the department's scholarship program during the spring of 2017 to assist social work students with the expenses of college life. This stipend can be applied to the student's account for tuition and fees, books, and/or room and board. The scholarship stipulates that the award must go to a full-time, continuing social work student with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.

"Steve and I felt that a nationally accredited program should have more than just one scholarship. We've known Kylene for a long time and she has worked hard to build her program. We wanted to show her that we noticed. This small token was our way of showing our appreciation to these hard working students who will give their lives to the social work profession," said Janet.



Student Update-Joby Saint-Fleur



Joby Saint-Fleur graduated from NWSU in the fall of 2016 with his social work degree, but had dreams of playing in the National Football League (NFL). His dreams came true in the Spring 2017 when he was signed by the Miami Dolphins as an unrestricted free agent. Saint-Fleur played throughout the preseason with the Dolphins, seeing action on the field in all four games. Please join us in wishing him well in the next phase of his career whether it be on the football field or in the social work field. We are so proud of your accomplishments Joby!



Homecoming Information



***Come Back, Give Back
Continue the Legacy***



Schedule of Events

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017

- **Miss Cinderella Talent Show**
7:30 p.m., Herod Hall Auditorium

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017

- **Lady Rangers Volleyball vs Southeastern**
6:30 p.m., Percefull Fieldhouse
- **Miss Cinderella Pageant**
8 p.m., Herod Hall Auditorium

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017

- **Ranger Run (5K and 1-Mile Fun Run)**
8 a.m., Downtown Square
- **Social Sciences Alumni Get-Together**
9 a.m., Graceful Arts Gallery & Studio
- **Homecoming Parade**
10 a.m., Downtown Square
- **Alumni Lunch** Courthouse Lawn
- **Lady Rangers Soccer vs Harding**
11 a.m., Alva Rec Complex
- **Dunning Performance Center Dedication**
2 p.m., Dunning Performance Center
- **Massed Bands Performance** Ranger Field
- **NWOSU vs SEOSU Football Game**
4 p.m. Ranger Field



Alumni Highlight-Thompson continued

that time, I gained valuable insight and skills,” said Thompson. “I learned to appreciate the resiliency and strengths of our most underserved and oppressed populations. There is no one you can’t learn to love once you’ve listened to their story.”

In addition to her regular social work practice, Thompson, teaches part time as an adjunct instructor for the NWOSU Social Work Department.

After completing her LCSW, she began working as a geriatric social worker with Millennium Medical Services where she is currently employed. In her current position, she provides therapy to the elderly population in a nursing home setting.

“I am honored to work with our elderly population. I provide therapy and support to help them cope with the challenges they are experiencing,” said Thompson.

“I love this field and would encourage anyone with the desire to make a difference to explore social work as a career choice.”

Thompson has participated as a CASA volunteer and has served as a foster and adoptive parent in her community. Thompson is actively involved in community through Feed the Neighborhood and volunteers as a youth sports coach. Thompson also writes a column for the Enid News and Eagle.

Thompson has one daughter, Allison, who is 15-years-old. She also has a chocolate Lab named, Brady, whose goal is to one day be used as a therapy dog in nursing homes.

Rehder recognized at event continued

Her research efforts on licensure laws, titles and requirements provided the necessary foundation for

legislative changes, bringing the Oklahoma’s Social Work Practice Act in alignment with other jurisdictions and the Social Work National Model Act. In 2015, Rehder was appointed by the governor to serve on the State Board of Licensed Social Workers and is currently the board’s secretary. She is an advisory board member for the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP), which focuses on strengthening child welfare services in

Oklahoma. In addition, she is a board member of Freedom West Community Development Corporation, a non-profit development entity in Northwest Oklahoma that works to revitalize rural communities to increase community sustainability through proactive social and economic change efforts. Freedom West CDC was

awarded Social Services Organization of the Year in 2016 by NASW-OK.



President Boren and attendees applauding Dr. Julie Miller-Cribbs, director of the OU School of Social Work.

Rehder serves as a clinical consultant to many Northwest Oklahoma agencies and is a member of the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC), where she serves as a disaster mental health responder. She is the Jake and Jayne Lindsay Endowed Chair in Social Work at Northwestern and was awarded the university’s Distinguished Service Award in 2012. In 2013, she was named the prestigious John Barton Distinguished Teaching and Service Award recipient.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Dr. Rehder, and her staff congratulate the OU Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work on their achievements and continued success in providing Oklahoma with quality social workers.

On the Contents Page Photographed are Linda Smith, OU CWPEP program coordinator, Dr. Lanny Endicott, ORU professor and social work program director, Dr. Jim Burke, East Central University social work professor and Rehder.

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



Levi Sanders, 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.

In memory of Orren Dale, PhD, MSSW

