



IMPACT

Serving generations, changing the world.

Fall 2016

Greetings from The Program Chair

On behalf of the Department of Social Work, I welcome you to the first edition of Northwestern's Social Work Program newsletter. Since first becoming accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in 2005, the program has experienced tremendous growth and numerous student and alumni successes. With over 120 graduates with accredited BSW degrees, the landscape of social services has been virtually transformed by the contributions of our graduates. In this edition, you will notice a number of outstanding alumni and a senior student profiled. In addition, you will be introduced to our new Director of Field Education, Jennifer Pribble.

We look forward to another exciting year for the department, as we prepare our students to provide competent, effective, generalist practice of social work services to the people of Northwest Oklahoma. I would like to thank all of those outside the University whose efforts enhance what we do in many ways. Our field agency partners, field instructors, adjunct instructors, and Social Work Advisory Board Members are central factors in providing high quality social work education. The Department is grateful for all you do to enhance the experiences of our students and improve the social services for the people of our region. The department cherishes the news and updates we receive from alumni and community partners, so feel free to email us any time.

Best Regards, Dr. Kylene Rehder



Dr. Kylene Rehder, LCSW
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Greetings from The Field Director

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Director of Field Education for Northwestern Oklahoma State University. There is no greater honor than having the opportunity to work with students in the field of social work, something near and dear to my heart. I earned my Bachelors of Social Work degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State University which fully prepared me to obtain my Masters of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma. I am a Northwest Oklahoma native and my field experience has been in this part of the state with children and families. Experiencing rural social work has definitely been a challenge, but a good one. With limited resources, different cultures, and small communities it has strengthened me as a social worker. In social work practice, our ultimate goal is to help others and I'm ecstatic about having the opportunity to assist students with reaching this goal. The field allows you to strengthen your own self-awareness while helping others and that's what these students are about to do. This year I'm excited about working with not only Oklahoma social service agencies, but also surrounding states. Our students are encouraged to practice where they see themselves and they are doing simply that. Now, let the fun begin!



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Continuing Education Information

Today
I'm

Thankful for ...

Northwest Helping Professional
Network Event – 2 Category II CEU's!

November 14, 2016

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Big Dan's Steakhouse

3113 Williams Ave, Hwy. 270 South, Woodward

Salad bar and full menu are available for purchase

REGISTRATION: Free for NASW members
\$10 for non-members

NASW is partnering with NWOSU. Proceeds to benefit
the new NWOSU Phi Alpha Chapter.

 **Northwestern**
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

 **NASW**
National Association of Social Workers



To register online

www.nasw-heartland.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=879541&group=

Alumni Highlight-Pamela Bookout

"During my career, I have had the opportunity to work with multiple populations and in various positions on the micro and organizational level," said Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) Social Work alum, Pamela Bookout. "I am so happy to be able to contribute to the growth and development of Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) in Oklahoma. Social Work is engrained into my thoughts and actions. I love this field and am so lucky to be a part of an amazing group of professionals."



Bookout received her Associate of Arts degree from Northern Oklahoma College in 2007, then came to NWOSU to complete her Bachelors of Social Work. During her time at NWOSU, Bookout was a nominee for the Undergraduate Social Work Student of the Year and was accepted into the accelerated social work program. After graduating from NWOSU in 2009, Bookout had the opportunity to begin her social work career with Youth and Family Services at N.C.O. in Enid, OK. While there, she began working in the therapeutic foster care program, working directly with foster children ages 16 and up, teaching independent living skills. She also helped create their quality assurance program.

"This program allowed me the opportunity to learn and implement policies and procedures in accordance with CARE, OHCA and ODMHSAS," said Bookout.

After receiving her Masters in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma in 2011, she transitioned into a drug and alcohol counselor at Bill Johnson Correctional Center (BJCC) in Alva. She provided therapeutic counseling to trainees focusing on relapse prevention. After leaving BJCC, Bookout worked at Northwest Treatment Center in Waynoka, OK, where she provided counseling, parenting classes, drug and alcohol prevention to women and children. Bookout gained additional experience in grant writing and coordination, and clinical facility supervision.

"My family and I moved back to Enid and I took another position at Youth and Family Services as a school-based counselor. There I provided school-based counseling services for Monroe Elementary, Waller Middle School and Enid High School. During this time, I was trained in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy," said Bookout. "I greatly enjoyed providing therapeutic counseling sessions with multiple age groups."

After completing her LCSW, she began working as a geriatric social worker with Millennium Medical Services. There, she had the opportunity to work with the elderly population in a nursing home setting and holds her experience in this area close to her heart.

Bookout continued page 6

Alumni Highlight-Megan Baker

Megan Baker has been with Saint Francis Community Services, a contract company, since she started her practicum at Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) in 2008.

"I completed both of my practicum semesters with the reintegration team at Saint Francis and have remained here since that time. I truly feel that child welfare is a calling that you must have a strong passion for and to be able to handle the high stress, and at times, emotionally demanding aspects of the job," said Baker.

Kansas child welfare is now privatized and she has learned the benefits of privatization. Baker is able to take a child's case that the State of Kansas has deemed at risk to establish a safe and permanent solution for that child and family.

"This method benefits me by building stronger, quicker rapport with my clients. Saint Francis has the people willing to work with them to help get their children home," said Baker. "At Saint Francis, it is my job to work towards reintegration while determining if this is the best option for that child. If it is not, then I am the one to ask the court for a change in goals.

Each day is different. I have to say that on a monthly basis, I will attend and write court reports for each of the numerous court hearings held, establish case plans every 170 days for every child on my case load that is in Kansas State Department for Children and Families (DCF) custody, ensure that myself or one of my team members meets with each child and their parents monthly, as well as, coordinate their mental health services, visitations, education, and medical needs of each child."

Baker has been able to help facilitate the networking of multiple agencies in the southwest Kansas region including law enforcement, DCF, area schools, foster parents, and other contract agencies. The Liberal, KS office covers seven of the southwest Kansas counties. One of the largest counties in the area did not previously have a multi-disciplinary team meetings. After having many discussions with the county attorney, Baker was able to establish regular meetings which has led to better relationships with the area schools, law enforcement, and other agencies that have critical roles in their cases. This approach allowed Baker to broaden each agencies understanding of additional options for the at-risk children in their schools, jurisdiction, and appointments. This has also served to help them to better understand some of the unfavorable behaviors which they have seen in at-risk youth. These meetings allow her to gather firsthand accounts of client's



Baker continued page 6

Alumni Highlight-Bookout continued

"It was amazing to be able to provide support and therapeutic services, and to encourage the development of a positive quality of life," said Bookout.

As she continued to expand her professional experience, she worked as a LCSW St. Mary's Regional Medical Center's Resilience Behavioral Health, an adult inpatient unit. She continued to develop her diagnosing ability with adults experiencing serious mental illness. While there, she was able to provide assessment, individual and group therapy sessions, and positive discharge/safety plans for patients.

Currently, Bookout works as the clinical director of Youth and Family Services in Enid.

"This is my third time to work with Youth and Family Services and I am honored to have the opportunity to continue to grow as a professional and assist in others the clinical experience. I provide ongoing training, clinical supervision and program development to others, as well as, contract and grant monitoring, and the hiring and training of new personnel," said Bookout.

Bookout participates in multiple coalitions and committees including Domestic Violence Committee, Drug and Alcohol Coalition, Mental Health Coalition, Health Planning Committee, and the Health and Human Service Alliance and provides interagency licensure supervision for counselors under supervision for their LCSW.

Celebrating their ninth anniversary this year, Bookout is married to Brandon and they have one son, Boston. Her husband is currently the dean of students at Waukomis Elementary School and is the head football coach for Waukomis High School.

Alumni Highlight-Baker continued

behavior. Sometimes, the behavior that she saw in her clients is not always the behavior that they exhibit at school.

Baker feels that she has made an impact in her area.

"I have been in reintegration long enough, that I sometimes feel that my name and number are written on the jail house walls in many of my assigned counties. I have been told that I have earned the reputation for being fair, honest, blunt, and not one that is going to let parents get away with much," said Baker. "I have had many successful re-integrations of children that do not remember who I am, which to me, is a success. I always tell my parents that I do not want to keep your children forever. I do not even want them to remember who I am, but I want their lives to be better because of me. If they go home to a safe place where their life is better than before, that is a success and a positive impact on our communities. I have received a few thank you cards, even a few death treats over the years, but the one that will always stay on the front on my computer screen is a Valentine's Day card that says, 'You're a real life hero.'"

Student Highlight: Joby Saint-Fleur



Winter Haven, FL senior, Joby Saint-Fleur came to Northwestern Oklahoma State University to play football as a defensive end for the Rangers, leaving behind his family. He came to Northwestern not knowing anyone and his goal was to play football to the best of his ability. Not really knowing what he wanted to major in, he looked at all the programs and decided to include Social Work in his choices. He met with Dr. Kylene Rehder and they discussed his options, but Dr. Rehder felt this might not be a degree he would be passionate about and she suggested he continue looking for another option.

After a semester of courses, Saint-Fleur came back to Dr. Rehder and asked to be placed in one of her classes. He just felt this was the right program for him as he wanted to find ways to help people. Rehder enrolled him in his first Social Work class.

"I chose Social Work to help families and adults. My dad is a preacher and, as a family, that is what we did. We helped people. I wanted to continue to help anyone in need, especially adults," said Saint-Fleur. "It just felt like the right way to go."

Saint-Fleur is majoring in social work and minoring in criminal justice. His plans are still up in the air as he has been scouted by the National Football League for possible placement in the league, so long term plans will have to wait until the football season is over.

"Once the season is over, I can make plans about my future. I hope I am chosen by a pro team close to home, but I will go anywhere with anyone who wants me."

Saint-Fleur has not ruled out going back to school for an advanced degree, but is sure he wants to work in the area of domestic violence and adult and family services.

"I really enjoyed my practicum this last spring at BJCC (Bill Johnson Correctional Center) in Alva. It was interesting to work in that atmosphere and would do it again if I could," said Saint-Fleur. "Seeing first-hand that atmosphere, real life, was a great experience. I enjoyed learning what the counseling side was like and getting my feet wet."

"I have to thank Dr. Rehder for working with me on my schedule and helping me with my many needs, like getting me textbook when I needed it or letting me borrow a laptop when



Saint-Fleur continued page 8

Student Highlight-Saint Fleur continued

I needed one. She has worked hard in getting my schedule set so I can plan football and still make classes,” said Saint-Fleur. Everyone has assisted me a lot and I am grateful for all the help.”

“I am so proud of the accomplishments of Joby, both inside and outside of the classroom. His commitment, work ethic, and his abilities to use feedback for professional growth and development are inspirational qualities,” said Rehder.

“It is beyond difficult for student-athletes to excel in externally accredited programs due to rigorous academic standards and expectations of time, but he has done so with great integrity. Regardless of his career path, the Department of Social Work is confident he will transform lives and be a strong advocate for those in need.”

Saint-Fleur has received a lot of notice from the pro scouts for his football skills. He has set multiple Northwestern individual records during the 2015 season which included total tackles for loss in a game (5), and total sacks in one game (4) and has earned numerous accolades after the 2015 season, which included a First Team All-Great American Conference selection, First Team All-Region selection, and an All-American Honorable Mention selection. He played in all 11 games in 2015 and in ten games in 2014 which resulted in 53 total tackles (10.0 TFL) and 29 solo tackles. He led the team with 7.5 total sacks. Saint-Fleur also had one forced fumble and one blocked kick and was named to the All Great American Conference Team as an Honorable Mention selection.

Born in Haiti, Saint-Fleur is the son of Roniel and Rose Saint-Fleur. He has six siblings: Peterson, Phaniel, Daniel, Rony, Roselande and Marie.



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*

Janice Melton, Warden,

Charles E. "Bill" Johnson Correctional Center



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

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



Dee Dee Nolan, SWAT President,
Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Tricia Mitchell, Executive Director,
4RKids Foundation



Trudy Hoffman, Executive Director,
Northwest Center for Behavioral Health

In memory of Orren Dale, PhD, MSSW

Did you know?

- ◆ NWOSU students hold a 95% acceptance rate for admission into any Masters of Social Work (MSW) advanced standing program.
- ◆ NWOSU students hold a 95% job placement rate upon graduation.
- ◆ Fourteen students from NWOSU have already been awarded over \$100,000 since participating in the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program.
- ◆ NWOSU is the home of the 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2015 National Association of Social Workers - Oklahoma Undergraduate Student of the Year.
- ◆ Students from NWOSU have been elected to participate as Undergraduate Representatives for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-OK) Board of Directors, a statewide professional organization.
- ◆ Multiple NWOSU students have been elected to the National Education for Women's Leadership Institute, a five-day, award winning collaborative action project.
- ◆ Dr. Kylene Rehder, department chair, was appointed in 2015 by the Governor to serve a five-year term on the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers.
- ◆ The Social Work Department is the recipient of two endowed chairs: The Jake and Jayne Lindsay Endowed Chair in Social Work (Alva campus), and the Citizens of Enid Endowed Chair in Social Work (Enid campus).
- ◆ SWAT (Social Workers Association of Tomorrow) is a vibrant and active student organization on all three campuses. They host events such as regional food drives and Primp for Prom and has raised over \$10,000 for charities.