

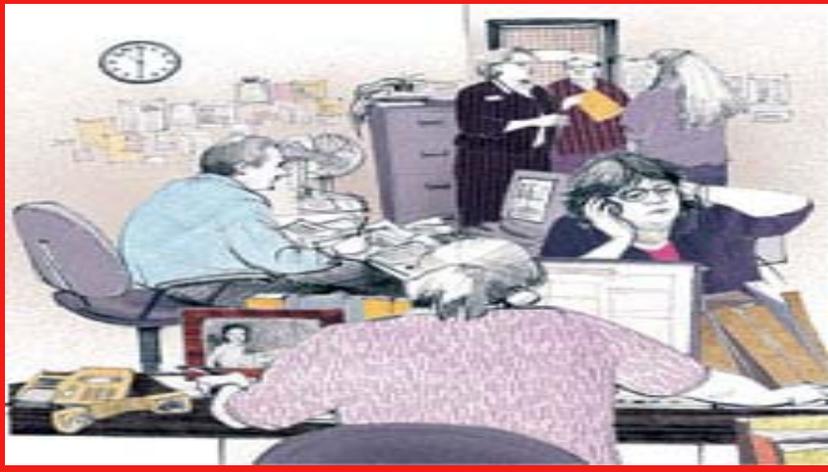
U OF L KENT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

A Social Worker is...

Positive

Passionate

Empathetic



Encouraging

Supportive

A Counselor

Willing to make a difference.

MSSW Program Newsletter

Issue 1

January 2014

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A Message From the Dean



**Dr. Terry Singer, Dean of
the Kent School of Social
Work.**

Welcome to our MSSW Newsletter. We keep looking for ways to make connections with our students, especially in this increasingly virtual world in which we live. I hope you are all connected to our Facebook and Twitter pages whose addresses are listed in this newsletter. These are all avenues to inform and to build a strong network of Kent School students, graduates, and friends. The work we do is not only important, it is also personally challenging. That is another reason to stay connected. Social support, timely information, and networking opportunities often give us the strength and courage to manage those professional and personal challenges. As the technology continues to develop more sophistication, it will become a vital tool for the work we do with clients. I would encourage each of you to develop a savvy understanding of the technological tools at your disposal. Perhaps I am old fashioned enough to believe that human contact and interaction will ever be totally replaced, but I am a realist enough to know that we need to understand all of the possibilities that await further development. The people we help demand us much, no less so than you might of the physician who treats you for a medical problem. So, stay tuned. There's more to come.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 6th: First Day of Spring Semester • **January 10th:** Last day to drop/add classes •
January 20th: Martin Luther King Day • **January 30th:** Last Day to Apply for Specialization
February 15th: Last Day to complete FAFSA • **March 6th:** Last day to withdraw • **May 15th:**
Kent Scholarship Applications due

Student Spotlight: Bruce Mimms—MSSW Online Program

Devyn Nance: What made you choose the Kent School's Online MSSW program over any other online program in the country?

Bruce Mimms: Opportunity. I wanted to attend UofL after high school, but I wasn't able to financially, so I joined the military. Now, 18 years and 7 relocations later, I'm stationed at Fort Campbell, KY. I meet UofL's residency requirement. UofL also offers generous tuition rates for Active Duty Military and since helping people is my calling what better way to grow personally and professionally than with a quality education from the Kent School of Social Work.

DN: In the field of social work, what causes do you feel very passionate about and why?

BM: Supporting active duty military members, veterans and their families is a passion of mine because I've seen firsthand the challenges they face and sacrifices they make every day in support of our nation's interest. They have given so much for the freedoms we enjoy every day so just saying thank you is not enough. We need to be there for them and help them through life's challenges no matter how small, no matter how big.

DN: What do you plan to do with your MSSW degree once you graduate?

After military retirement, I want to continue working with military families and wounded warriors. I'd also enjoy working in Child Protection Services or in a Family Advocacy program in my community.

DN: Are you currently working on a project in the program that has you really excited?

Not currently, but recently completed a Hispanic and Latino oppressed group project during SW602 with team members, Ana Sierra, Chuck Metts, and Margret Harris. For nearly two months, we performed research, interviewed advocates, identified cultural, economic, political, legal and sociodemographic evidence reflecting their oppression. We investigated strategies to influence or change public policy and analyzed social work's role in advocating for Hispanics and Latinos.



Bruce Mimms was accepted into the 2013 Online MSSW cohort. He's dealt with a large range of social issues such as stress and depression to suicides, domestic violence, child abuse/molestation, rapes, murders, alcohol and substance abuse and an abundance of mental health issues from being in the Air Force. His lack of formal education in the field of social work has inspired him to pursue his MSSW.

"Active duty military members have given so much for the freedoms we enjoy everyday so just saying thank you is not enough."

The Advising Corner

Welcome to Spring 2014. We are extremely excited to announce a few advances that we have made to better offer advising and support. First, there is now an online Dean's Forum message board. It can be found in Blackboard under the Kent School Grad Advising Group. We monitor it constantly and encourage you to take advantage of this great means of communicating your thoughts and questions with the Deans. Secondly, we have begun to utilize the Grades First website. Please feel free to contact me for any advising needs. Grades First can be found on Blackboard or by going to louisville.gradesfirst.edu.

If you are planning to graduate in May, please apply for graduation via Ulink as soon as possible. Also, if you would like to apply for a specialization, the deadline is January 30th. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

The MSSW Online Program

The Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville offers its highly regarded Master of Science of Social Work (MSSW) degree **online**.

The program combines online learning and hands-on supervised field instruction, completed in your community, which helps you become a part of the fast-growing field of social work.

Our renowned and experienced faculty use their expertise to provide top notch social work education in a web-based environment. The online program mirrors the on-campus program although you are able to complete your coursework on your schedule.

The Kent School is committed to teaching the next generation of social workers. The online program is not available for the 30-hour program until Summer/Fall 2014.

MSSW Specializations

- The Kent School of Social Work offers many specializations such as:
- ◇ Alcohol and Drug Counseling
 - ◇ Mental Health
 - ◇ Gerontology
 - ◇ Psychosocial Oncology
 - ◇ Military Social Work*
 - ◇ Marriage & Family Therapy*
 - ◇ School Social Work*
- *On-campus programs only.
- For more specialization information, please visit louisville.edu/kent.

Faculty Profile



Dr. Pam Yankeelov serves as a Kent School Professor and the Associate Dean of Student Services for the MSSW Program.

Connect With KSSA

KSSA is currently looking to fill positions for next years council. Graduate students are encouraged and more than welcome to apply. Be involved with creating and organizing multiple events, initiatives and raising awareness. For more information please contact Marshall Kellner at Mjkell13@cardmail.louisville.edu

Pamela A. Yankeelov, Ph.D., is a Professor and the Associate Dean of Student Services at the University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work. During her past 10 years as the Associate Dean, she has played a significant role in the recruitment, admission, scholarship and orientation protocols for the on campus and online MSSW programs. She is the co-chair of the Advanced Research Sequence at the Kent School and has been teaching in this sequence for over 18 years. Several years ago, she co-led a revitalization of the research sequence curriculum from educating MSSW students to be producers of research to teaching students how to identify, evaluate and synthesize the best evidence related to a particular practice and how to translate the best evidence into practice. She won the 2006 UofL Distinguished Teacher Award, and has been nominated several years by her students as a Faculty Favorite. Her current research explores health disparities, social determinants of health and chronic disease management with vulnerable populations (e.g. low income, rural, and minority populations). Prior to her work on social determinants of health, the majority of her scholarly pursuits focused on program evaluation specifically in the areas of child welfare, post-divorce adjustment, and interdisciplinary training.

Sarah Caragianas– Admissions Coordinator– Oppenheimer LL04-1



She assists applicants in navigating the admissions process and recruits new students to the MSSW Program. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Kentucky and her MSSW at the Kent School of Social Work.

Phillip Clopton– Coordinator of MSSW Academic Affairs -Oppenheimer LL09



He assists current Kent MSSW students with their academic needs, acts as a liaison between faculty/staff and students, and identifies and assists students in academic jeopardy. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Education in Student Affairs Practice.

Millie Cunningham– MSSW Academic Affairs Program Manager- Oppenheimer 215



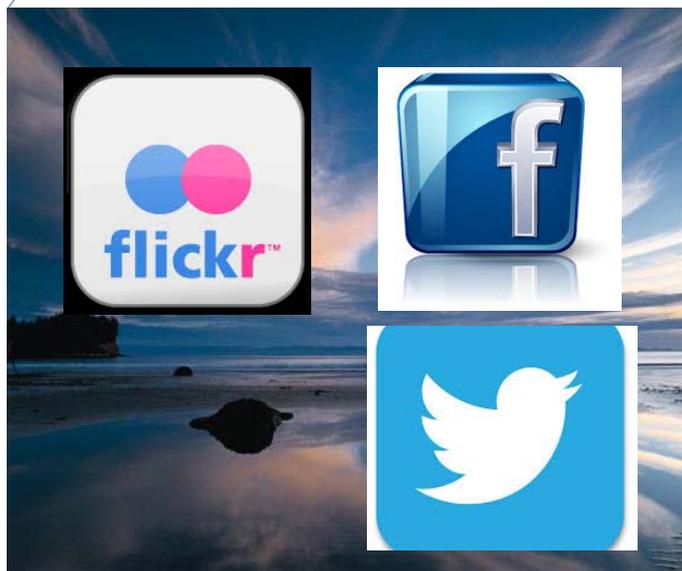
She ensures that the needs of current MSSW students are being well served. She received a Bachelor’s of Science in Business Administration and a Master’s of Arts in Education Administration from the University of Louisville. She is currently working on her Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership at WKU.

Social Media

Follow us on Twitter @ KentSSW!

Find our group on Facebook: University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work

Find the Kent School on Flickr!



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