



Summer 2011

Calendar

August 15, 2011
Practicum Supervisor
Orientation

August 22, 2011
Fall Semester Begins

August 26, 2011
Practicum Supervisor
Orientation

October 10-11, 2011
Fall Break

December 5, 2011
Fall Semester Ends

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Kent School of Social Work

Creative Student Projects



Kent School students have proven to be innovative in their methods for tackling problems and concerns. Student projects are proving to be sustainable as evidenced by the following example of a former Kent student who is now a practicum supervisor for Kent School.

In 2004, Peter Burkhart, while a student at Kent School, completed his MSSW practicum at Wayside Christian Mission. He created an evidence based project that met the requirements of the curriculum, while incorporating his lifelong passion of cycling. Since then the program has developed into a model for communities looking to provide cycling education and promotion to low income individuals. Wayside's Bike Program has grown this year more than ever!

The Wayside Bike Program now offers multiple educational opportunities in bicycle use, bicycle safety and free bicycle repair to the many low income individuals riding bikes in serious need of basic safety and maintenance. At the Hotel Louisville location, clients can take classes on bicycle safety and borrow bicycles for transportation. The bicycle repair shop is located on the campus of Wayside's Jefferson St. location and is staffed by experienced bicycle mechanics, clients, and volunteers. The shop contains necessary parts to fix most bikes. Bikes beyond repair can be traded to working bikes. Non-functioning bikes are stripped of usable parts, then picked up for metal/ aluminum recycling. Free bicycle repair is provided to people who are riding unsafe bikes and cannot afford to have them fixed.

that even small amounts of daily exercise can be beneficial in the recovery process of those with substance abuse, mental health and physical health concerns. So the bicycle program also promotes education in physical fitness.

Cycling provides an enjoyable and affordable means of exercise and transportation for all. The program provides Louisville's low income residents with an inexpensive means of transportation and a way to get daily exercise without the costs of gym memberships or equipment. Recent collaboration with TARC of Louisville resulted in the provision of a steady stream of bikes for those in need. Additionally, donations from the community continue to be received.

With the high cost of gas and owning a car (insurance, maintenance, etc.), bicycles are becoming more popular by the day. The positive implications of riding a bike are numerous, and include: less traffic, less pollution, more economical if using TARC bike racks for long or dangerous journeys, increased physical activity (improving mood, decreasing depression, and strengthening the heart) and of course it's FUN.

Contributors: Peter Burkhart, Practicum Supervisor, Class of 2004 and Russell Price, Jr., Student, Class of 2011.

Empirical literature supports

It's Happening at Kent School

Dr. Ruth Huber retired this month. She joined the Kent faculty in 1989 and became the Director of the PhD Program in 1996. She was a mentor to countless Masters and Doctoral students. Her influence on the lives of Kent students, faculty and staff reaches far and wide. She is a living personification of the values we as a profession hold dear. Ruth will be missed, but we wish for her a great new adventure as she begins this exciting new phase of her life in Montana, nearer to family.

Mark Johnson retired last month as a Practicum Faculty member. He worked with students and supervisors in the Lexington area since Fall 2005. We wish him well.

Dr. Karen Kayser was appointed the first Dr. Renato LaRocca Endowed Chair

in Oncology Social Work. Dr. Kayser is notably one of the nation's top oncology social workers and hails from Boston College. Her contributions and commitment to expanding the field of oncology social work practice is impressive. Dr. Kayser is charged with creating a premiere training and research program to develop highly skilled social work practitioners and services for individuals and families living with cancer. We are certainly looking forward to her arrival in August.

Kent School in New Orleans

This past March Kent School faculty member **Dr. Judy Heitzman** escorted a group of nine MSSW and BSW students on a service learning trip to New Orleans over spring break. The group worked in the Central City neighborhood, a low-

income neighborhood which is still recovering from devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Students completed an audit of all cases served by a neighboring community center, conducted a pilot study of a survey to households in the Central City neighborhood, and tutored an entire class of 5th graders in preparation for a special test. Students also enjoyed seeing the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New Orleans as well as the sights and sounds of the French Quarter.

Congratulations to **Dr. Karla Washington**, Kent faculty member who is one of eleven faculty selected across the nation as a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar. Her research focus is in gerontology.

2010-2011 Practicum Awards

Outstanding BSW Practicum Student Joy Yelton

Joy Yelton completed her BSW practicum at the Cabbage Patch Settlement House under the supervision of Steven DeGeorge and Calvin Holloway. Joy demonstrated exemplary professional behavior, insight, and creativity throughout the year. She took initiative in seeking learning opportunities for herself and provision of services to clients.

Outstanding MSSW Practicum Student Lindsay Carney

Lindsay Carney completed her MSSW practicum at Meyers Middle School Youth Services Center under the supervision of Steve Rickner. Lindsay demonstrated a contagious positive disposition and willingness to take on new challenges and do what was needed to meet her clients' needs. Her passion for children and education was evident in her practice.

Outstanding Practicum Supervisor Steve Rickner

Steve Rickner is the coordinator of the Youth Services Center at Meyers Middle School. He has supervised Kent School students for 11 years. Students consistently rate him highly and he is a sought after practicum site. Steve provides diverse learning opportunities and challenges students to step out of their comfort zone all the while being very supportive.

Outstanding Practicum Faculty Tony Helm

Tony Helm is in his 12th year as a practicum faculty member at the Kent School. He worked with students in the Louisville area for many years before moving to Elizabethtown. Tony now works with students from Shepherdsville to Bowling Green and beyond. He has been dedicated to supporting students and supervisors and is highly regarded for his efforts.

Appreciation to Practicum Supervisors

Another practicum year has come to a close. The Field Education office greatly appreciates the countless hours of teaching, planning, and consultation provided to our students. Your commitment to our students, our communities, and our profession simply is beyond measure. We salute you all.

Practicum Program Evaluation

Please be sure to return the practicum program evaluations recently mailed to you with a return envelope. Your feedback is valuable information for us. We want to know what is working and what we need to do to be more supportive of you. If you did not receive one or need a replacement, please contact Kim Rogers at 502-852-8039 for the BSW program or Linda Exton at 502-852-3934 for the MSSW program.