Congratulations
2014 Human Service Graduates!

Karrie Jo Deverger  Katie Renee Hruby  Mary Katherine Patterson
Elizabeth Ann Dillehay ◊  Anissa M. Lane  Christina Renee Portis
Sarah Jeanne Erude *  Kevin Lindsay  Kati Jo Riekena
Felicia Fredricks  Jasmine Shanece Moore  Amber Elizabeth Schappaugh
Staci Helmich  Megan Park ◊  Amy Lynn Schroeder
Mattie Howard Bey  Lisa Ann M. Partipilo  Lisa Marshall Shaw
  Susan Anne Stewart-Reynolds

Extended Congratulations
The HMS Department congratulates Sarah Erude* on being selected as the Graduate Program Grand Marshal for the 2014 Spring Commencement Ceremony. Students selected as program marshals demonstrate academic excellence and are representative of the program.

The HMS Department congratulates Megan Park◊ and Elizabeth Dillehay◊ for being Graduate Academic Honor Recipients. Academic Honors are recognized based on excellence in academic achievement, scholarship, and/or service to the program or university.
Reading Is Fun!

by Dr. Hanfu Mi, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services

At a recent social event, participants each had to share one fun fact about ourselves to break the ice. When it was my turn, I simply stated that, almost instinctively without too much thinking, “I enjoy reading.” A bubbling and energetic UIS alumna gently urged me, “You can certainly do better than that!” Can I?! I guess that I could in a way. I could have selected just as easily any of my other seemingly less boring, at least to me, personal hobbies and interests, such as traveling, collecting fountain pens and stamps, and so on. However, reading invariably remains by far my favorite pastime.

When I, with a B.A. in English from a Chinese University, applied for graduate studies in America way before the ubiquity of the internet, let alone the prevalence of any of the i-devices, I happened to discover Reading as an academic field. It is now commonly termed as either Literacy Education or Literacy, Language, and Cultural Studies. I instantly fell in love with the discipline, and have pursued it with such deference and diligence ever since. Imagine this: you do what you enjoy doing and get paid for doing and sharing it with others! This can only happen in the U.S. My constant search for a Chinese equivalence has yielded no results thus far. In the Chinese comprehensive universities, there are such majors as “Chinese,” “Linguistics,” “Literature,” “Education,” and several other related cognates, but there is no pure and straightforward Reading major leading all the way to a Ph.D.

Reading for me is addictive. When printed materials are not immediately available to me, I feel empty, anxious, and restless. I have to sustain myself on printed words. I read just about anything, ranging from undecipherable and pedantic professional writings such as the Chinese classics to popular genres such as romance novels and suspense stories, otherwise defined by the highly intellectual as trash. Reading has indeed broadened my horizons and enriched my life in multifold ways by allowing me to live vicariously other people’s life. Reading brings me tranquility and a peace of mind, and helps me momentarily escape reality into a world where the good always overcomes the evil.

Admitting that I enjoy reading might lead some people to think that I am humble-bragging. As Francis Bacon in his Of Studies wrote, “Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability.” Here I use studies and reading interchangeably. Maybe that is exactly what I was doing subconsciously. I was showing off the information that I gained, the knowledge that I acquired, and the tremendous amounts of enjoyment and pleasure that I received from this simple act of reading.

I hope to run into this lovely young alumna soon and share with her more of my reading enthusiasm, and I am sure that her response will change to “how exciting!” The millennium generation might still think that reading is laborious, dull, and inactive. However, I firmly believe that reading is fun!

Dean Mi joins our college from the State University of New York at Oneonta where he was the Chair of the Department of Elementary Education and Reading.
GERONTOLOGY CONCENTRATION STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

MINDY PETERSON-LINDSEY

Life has a funny way of coming full circle! Moving back to a small town and working in the community where I went to college seems to have taken me back to my small town roots as a kid. Thanks to my husband Sam and my adopted cat Sue, I live in Minier, IL, a great small community that keeps both us at the jobs we love! I am a ‘99 graduate of Millikin University, a ‘01 graduate of Johnson & Wales University, and began the UIS Human Services Gerontology program in the Spring of 2013. In my spare time I love to travel, cook great food, and spend time with my family and close friends.

What attracted you to the HMS department at UIS and more specifically the field of gerontology?

Most people who know me say I am an “old soul.” My compassion and love for helping those who are older than me is rooted in the relationships that I had with my grandparents and has continued throughout my adult life. My work with Extension and specifically Home & Community Education pushed me to see what other opportunities and help I could provide by learning more about the gerontology field, and that passion brought me to the curriculum offerings of the HMS department.

Are there personal or professional experiences with the elderly have been significant in your life?

Absolutely and I think that I intentionally surround myself with those experiences in my life daily. The most impactful experiences I have had all relate to my grandparents and the knowledge and skills they taught me. Watching them achieve success, fight failure, and struggle with daily living as they got older focused my passion and love for our elderly population.

What are your career interests and goals?

While I hate to admit this about myself, I am not so great at making goals. After surviving cancer, my attitudes and thought process about everything in my life has changed allowing for me to realize what is really important in my life. 99% of the things I used to strive for now seem so silly!

People sometimes look at me funny when I tell them that I have a business administration degree, a culinary degree, and now am studying gerontology, but in some weird and unique way they each have come together to make what I do at Extension successful. I think that you can plan your life but every time I try, my belief in a higher power guides me into the path I am supposed to be taking, and I laugh a little out loud because for some reason I thought I was in control.

What motivates you personally or professionally?

Personally and professionally, my motivation is and will always be my parents. My parents, Duane and Pat Peterson, are the reason why I have every bit of talent, skills, compassion, and work ethic that I do. Their sacrifices have allowed me to be the person I am and continue to give the best each day. Motivation is having a father, who at the age of 75 still works full-time outside in the elements because that is what he wants to do!

So far, do you have a favorite gerontology class you have taken? If yes, what made it special?

While this might sound crazy, my favorite gerontology class had been Death, Dying, & Bereavement with Dr. Peck. This class not only had the ability to challenge me as a student, but also pushed me as an individual to face a subject that most American’s choose not to talk about. It was a life changing opportunity to say the least!

If you could go back and give yourself some advice of when you first entered the program, what would you tell yourself?

Take the time to engage and show your family what you are undertaking in this program. Sometimes some of my best posts, paper topics, or conversations have come from the observations of my husband and parents. Allow your family to share in the struggle and successes that you have with this program!
HMS Graduate Assistants

Jackie Currie is a new GA to the HMS Department this spring. She holds an AAS in Professional Photography from Colorado Mountain College and a BA in Psychology, minor in Youth Ministry from Colorado Christian University. Jackie is currently studying Human Development Counseling with a focus on Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling. Jackie has a passion for working with struggling youth, loves the outdoors, and enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and pets.

Jill Bomstad has been working with the HMS department since Fall 2013. She is currently studying Human Development Counseling with a focus on Community / Clinical Health. She is happy to be working with the HMS department and is looking forward to another wonderful year!

The College of Education and Human Services bids farewell to...

Debbie Culler
Office Support Specialist

Dr. Donna Weinstein
Assistant Professor, Child and Family Studies

Thank you for your service!
Items of Interest in the field of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling

Dr. Ann Melvin, Assistant Professor, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling

⇒ Teresa Orrick, current HMS/ASA student is a member of Labyrinth Outreach Services for Women. This organization provides outreach services to women who have recently been released from jail or prison. The following links provide additional information.

   http://www.labyrinthoutreach.org/

⇒ According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in 2010 and 2011 10.3% of adolescents in the United States drank alcohol for the first time. To see the full report please follow the link


⇒ Learn more about SAMHSA’s underage drinking campaign

   http://www.samhsa.gov/underagedrinking/

⇒ According to SAMHSA there are many people who need but do not receive substance abuse treatment, an estimated 19.3 million in 2011 to be specific. Also reported, is that lack of health insurance is a common barrier to treatment. To read more follow the link


⇒ Heroin use has increased dramatically within the last few years and continues to do so according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse. NIDA reports approximately 669,000 heroin users in 2012. To learn more follow this link

   http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/heroin/letter-director

Dr. Melvin can be reached in her office (BRK 317) at 217-206-8473 or by email at amelv2@uis.edu
What’s New for the 2014-2015 Academic Year in the Social Service Administration Concentration

Dr. Denise Sommers, Assistant Professor, Social Service Administration

Social Service Administration students have grown accustomed to giving me their feedback about course and curriculum content, teaching methods, and learning needs. More specifically, students have expressed a desire for more information about finance, budgeting, and fundraising; working with a board of directors; and creating an inclusive and learning work culture and environment. Over the past few years, I have built in additional reading and presentations by two community presenters addressing work with a board of directors and financial and budgeting practices in nonprofits. I plan to develop additional lectures regarding finance and working with a board of directors. Through the course of the next academic year, I also intend to develop an assignment around working with a board. During the 2014/2015 academic year, I plan to develop a small group assignment for HMS 538/Social Services Administration that uses case scenarios to address current and pressing finance-related issues common in human service organizations. To address diversity and inclusiveness, in both HMS 514/Staff Development and Supervision and in HMS 584/Introduction to Nonprofit Management, students complete a diversity assignment. In HMS 514, students address White Privilege and in HMS 584, students write a reflective paper around serving or working with a marginalized group that has been a struggle for them to understand. In addition, in HMS 584, I have chosen a newly published textbook that teaches students how to build a learning culture and environment in human service organizations. I must admit, while there is still a lot to do this semester, I am also looking forward to implementing these course adjustments to better meet the learning needs of our human service students.

HMS Advisory Board

Thank you to each of the members for their support.

Cathy Annerino: MERCY Communities
Mary Jane Forney: Illinois Department of Human Services
Valerie Gebhardt: Counseling Center/ University of Illinois at Springfield
Roy Harley: Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
John Kelker: United Way of Central Illinois
Brittany N. Ottino: Gateway Foundation
Lisa Zuurbier: Illinois Department on Aging
The HMS Department has a **new Mandatory Internship Orientation** that must be completed the semester before a student begins their internship. Students will receive their internship packets and specific information required to begin internship. All students in each concentration (Gerontology, Child and Family Studies, Social Services Administration, Alcohol and Substance Abuse) must attend. Students are encouraged to work with their advisor on securing an approved internship site. **For more information please contact Dr. Ann Melvin.**

**Interview Tips for Interns**

**Prepare responses to frequently asked questions**
- Why do you want an internship with this company?
- What do you think makes you a good candidate?
- What do you think you will gain from an internship with this company?
- How does this internship relate to your career goals?

**Research the company**
We can't emphasize enough how important this one is. No matter how busy you are, if the company has a web site, take the time to explore it. There's nothing that impresses an interviewer more than someone who shows a real interest in the company and its goals. Doing your research proves that you're engaged with what the company has to offer and that you made an informed decision when you applied for the position.

**Prepare questions of your own**
Wait a minute - aren't they supposed to be the ones asking you the questions? Not necessarily. Having thoughtful questions prepared for an employer will show that you're conscientious about making sure the internship meets your needs as well as the company's. In fact, employers expect questions-they are a sign of an employee with potential. Here are some sample questions you might consider asking:
- What's the company's philosophy behind hiring interns?
- How many interns is the company hiring?
- Who will be my boss? With whom will I be working?
- What do you like about your job?
- What is the office environment like?
- How do you think this internship will benefit me?

**Thank you, thank you, thank you**
Often overlooked, the thank-you note is a crucial part of the interviewing process. It doesn't have to be long, but promptly thank your interviewer for his or her time and consideration. This is also a good opportunity to stress your best qualities, reiterate why you'd like the position, and address some of the concerns you feel the interviewer might have had when speaking with you. As with all correspondence to potential employers, be sure to use correct grammar and avoid informal language.

**Academic Year Calendar**

**Summer Session 2014**

- June 2, 2014—Classes begin
- June 28, 2014—Mid-Point
- July 26, 2014—Semester Ends

**Fall Session 2014**

- August 25, 2014—Classes begin
- September 1, 2014—Labor Day, campus closed
- October 18, 2014—Mid-Point
- November 24-28, 2014—Thanksgiving Recess
- December 13, 2014—last Day of Classes
- December 15–20, 2014—Finals Week
- December 20, 2014—Semester Ends

---

Tami Wacker makes sure seniors get the care they need. As an advocate, the graduate Human Services major assists residents in long term care facilities in 16 counties. Wacker was recently awarded the 2013 Ombudsman of the Year award at the Governor’s Conference on Aging. Even though she’s worked in the field for years, her gerontology education at the University of Illinois Springfield has opened her mind to new ideas. She enjoys learning difference perspectives and methods in the human services field.

Photo courtesy of UIS campus relations
Suggested Conferences & Faculty Scholarship


**Alcohol & Substance Abuse:**


National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, June 8-12. For more information, visit [http://www.uwstout.edu/profed/nri/index.cfm](http://www.uwstout.edu/profed/nri/index.cfm).


Dotson, D. G., Duncan, J. C., Ricks, S., Bunton, D., Davis, S. J., Melvin, A., (2013). Get ready for the boom: Why rehabilitation professionals should expect to see older adults with addiction related disorders and what needs to be done to be prepared to serve them well. *Journal of Addictive Behaviors, Therapy & Rehabilitation, 2*(1). *doi: 10.4172/2324-9005.1000101*

**Child & Family Studies:**

Dr. Mitchell will be presenting at the Family Science Association’s annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii in June 2014. The conference theme is *Teaching Family Science: Integration Across the Curriculum*.

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Conference will be held on June 25-28, 2014 at the Hyatt regency St. Louis at the Arch. Visit [http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/14/tableofcalls.html](http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/14/tableofcalls.html) for more.

**Gerontology:**

Dr. Peck will be presenting at the following conferences during the Spring 2014 semester:

Compassion Fatigue and Burnout in Geriatric Care Managers, at the Alzheimer’s Association—Center IL Chapter, Annual Professional Education Conference on April 29, 2014 in East Peoria, IL. Invited presentation.


**Social Service Administration:**


Jackie Currie and Jill Bomstad, Graduate Assistants to the Department, create the newsletter under the guidance of the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Elissa Thomann Mitchell, Assistant Professor of the Child and Family Studies concentration. Suggestions for future HMS Newsletters can be directed to Jill Bomstad (jboms2@uis.edu) Thank you and we hope you enjoyed this semester's edition.

All photos courtesy of UIS campus relations.