The HMS Department congratulates Mark Middlebrook on being selected as the Graduate Program Marshall for the 2013 Spring Commencement Ceremony. Students selected as program marshals demonstrate academic excellence and are representative of the program. 

The HMS Department congratulates Amanda Winchell and Elizabeth Delheimer on receiving the Outstanding Human Service Student Honor Award. Academic honors are recognized based on excellence in academic achievement, scholarship, and/or service to the program/university.
Q & A

What lead you to seek a Master’s Degree in Human Services?

I have a passion for helping people. With a limited undergraduate degree in Psychology, I wanted to seek out something that would be broad enough that I could work in many different fields depending on where life took me. I grew up in a household with a mother that assisted children with disabilities and I fell in love with the idea of doing the same.

What are some of your thoughts about the program?

I have to say that I am so happy with this program and all of the people I’ve met throughout the past two years. I have had great guidance from my professors and met some friends that I will have for a lifetime. The program itself really builds on knowledge obtained in previous courses and provides you with information critical to your success in the field. I have to give so much credit to the professors and their ability to pair real life situations with the curriculum. They are kind, patient, and are always available to help you when you are stressed out. I love the small class sizes and the individual attention you receive for your work. In so many programs you are just a number, in the HMS program at UIS you are a person that will inevitably represent your school, program, and professors in the real world.

What do you expect for your future and what are your future goals?

While I can’t say exactly where my future will take me, I hope it entails a lifetime of advocacy for those in need. Life takes you in all different directions and I can only hope to become the person that inspires and encourages others to help as so many people have done for me in the past.

What motivates you?

This is a big question. I think the better question would be "what doesn't motivate me?" I’m motivated by the fact that we are living in an economy where more resources are needed than ever yet there are less available. I’m motivated to change that. I am motivated by the fact that people need help. I’m motivated by the people that say it isn’t possible. I’m motivated by the people who say "why human services? That doesn’t pay!"...because we all know it’s not about the money. I’m motivated to prove the close-minded wrong. I’m motivated by all the wonderful people that have taught me, worked with me, and guided me throughout my educational experience. Finally, I’m motivated because sometimes people just need a voice and someone that understands rather than judgment.

Student Spotlight: Susan “Suzy” Gentili

I am Suzy Gentili, I am 24 years old from Redlands, California. I have one older brother, Ronnie, who, like the rest of my family still lives in Southern California. I received a softball scholarship to a school in Kentucky when I was 17 and off I went! I graduated in 2010 with a degree in Psychology and moved to Springfield with my boyfriend to obtain my graduate degree. I am currently finishing up my CAPSTONE and I couldn’t be more excited! I work for an agency through the University of Illinois at Chicago called Division of Specialized Care for Children. We provide assistance to children in Illinois with special health care needs. I love love love my job and the people I work with! I have a 3 year old Siberian Husky/Border Collie mix that I am totally obsessed with. Anyone who knows me from class knows she is my pride and joy ;). I am a sports fanatic and love my Kentucky Wildcats!
Suggested Conferences & Announcements

Gerontology:

⇒ Dr. Peck was invited to present at the 2013 Illinois Department on Aging 2nd Annual Community Care Providers Conference. Her presentation was entitled, Compassion Fatigue and Burnout in Geriatric Care Managers and was held on March 25th and 26th in Springfield Illinois.

⇒ Illinois Department on Aging, Governor’s Conference, December 11-13, 2013 Chicago

⇒ Midwest Lifelong Learning Conference, April 10-12, Chicago, IL

Alcohol & Substance Abuse:

For the latest and most up to date information in the field of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, please visit the following websites:

⇒ The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration http://www.samhsa.gov/

⇒ The National Institute on Drug Abuse http://www.drugabuse.gov/

Child & Family Studies:

⇒ April 1, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Illinois State Building in Springfield in observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. There will be speakers and entertainment for the children.

⇒ The month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. Display a Blue Ribbon or Blue Pinwheel. The Blue Ribbon serves as a reminder of the hidden bruises and scars of abused children. The Pinwheel symbolizes hope and the promise that every child deserves to be raised in a healthy, safe and nurturing environment. You can obtain either one from Prevent Child Abuse Illinois.

⇒ June 1st Saturday at Lincoln Park - The Illinois Walk for Children, it will feature a special appearance by Spider Man and Iron Man.

⇒ October 24-25- 2013 Annual Prevent Child Abuse Illinois Conf.- Wyndham Lisle-Chicago Hotel, Lisle, Il.

Social Service Administration:

For the latest and most up to date information, please visit the following websites:


⇒ Midwest Organization for Human Services http://www.nationalhumanservices.org/midwest-organization-for-human-services
Those of you, who have taken HMS 588/Grant Writing from me, know that I divide the class into five small groups of three and assign a grant request from a real-live human service organization. What follows is a moment of panic and questions like how are we going to meet since many of us are from different towns and cities throughout the United States and sometimes even from other countries? Or, why are you asking us to work in groups - I hate working in groups! After some reassurance and encouragement, you all meet each other, begin to develop rapport, and figure out how you are going to get the job done. The purpose of this article is to tell you more about the research I conduct in this class as many of you do not really get to see this part (research and publish) of my responsibilities.

The following are excerpts of an article I wrote in May, 2012 for E-mentor which is a peer-reviewed E-magazine published by the Warsaw School of Economics out of Warsaw, Poland. The challenge facing faculty new to online teaching and learning is in part maximizing engagement beyond the abstract nature of the online environment. Service learning offers students an experiential, activity that allows them to work with community-based stakeholders.

“...To facilitate this project... students... were given several mediums of communication and collaboration including discussion board on Blackboard ... Skype or Pronto on Blackboard” and PBWIKI which allowed students to write and edit a document. Additionally, “the journal function on Blackboard” ...allows students ... a place “to reflect” on and discuss their learning process ...with this teacher. In addition, this teacher/researcher “met with each group” at least twice...to help students ...resolve any intra-group conflicts and to facilitate their progress through this project.” What follows are some of the results and conclusions:

Students “rated collaboration (4.32/5.00), as the most highly rated competency that working in a group reinforced. One student indicated, ‘Our group experience caused us to work together, support one another’s weaknesses, allow for one another’s strengths, and graciously offer feedback.” One student indicated, ‘I now see collaboration in a new light; it’s worth trying something new!’” “The opportunity to demonstrate leadership ... was rated close to 4.00/5.00 or second highest... One student explained this about Leadership - ‘I had to intervene in setting up deadlines at times’... “

“Critical thinking (3.82/5.00) and empowerment (3.80/5.00) were the highest rated competencies in reflective journaling”... “Out of 36 comments, 13 noted that critical thinking was impacted most. ...”

Students “rated all four competencies (collaboration, critical thinking, empowerment, and leadership) at or above 4.00 when asked about the impact of service learning project on them.”

“In conducting this research ... several lessons were learned ... “The availability of the teacher early in the process helps to quell students’ anxiety around their use of unfamiliar technology, their confidence level, and their way clear to begin the process.” “Embedding service learning in online classes” can “transform the role of the teacher from authority figure to facilitator.” “Finally, the interaction”... between students and “their community partners facilitated” ... “learning from each other.”

Concentration Highlight: Alcohol & Substance Abuse

**Why do we need Substance Abuse Counselors?**

“In 2011, an estimated 20.6 million persons (8.0 percent of the population aged 12 or older) were classified with substance dependence or abuse in the past year based on criteria specified in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th edition (DSM-IV).” 1

**How to become a Substance Abuse Counselor:**
The alcohol and substance abuse concentration prepares graduate students for the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse counseling profession. The educational and experiential components of the concentration provide students with the knowledge and ethical sensitivity required to effectively address client’s needs. Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association, Inc. (IAODAPCA) has accredited the alcohol and substance abuse concentration in the M.A. in human services. Students who successfully complete this concentration may be eligible to take the certifying examination for IAODAPCA.

**How can I become involved with prevention and intervention of substance abuse?**

“National Prevention Week is a SAMHSA-supported annual health observance dedicated to increasing public awareness of, and action around, substance abuse and mental health issues. This observance is an opportunity to join with other individuals, organizations, and coalitions in your community to promote prevention efforts, educate others about behavioral health issues, and create and strengthen community partnerships. **National Prevention Week 2013** will be celebrated May 12-18, 2013.” 2

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**Dr. Weinstein Brings Awareness to Child Abuse**

On April 5th, faculty, staff, and students gathered at the UIS colonnade to plant a pinwheel garden as part of Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. The event was coordinated by Dr. Weinstein, Assistant Professor of Human Services in the Child and Family studies concentration and co-sponsored by the Child Advocacy Center Sangamon County. The garden will be displayed the entire month of April.

Above: **Dr. Weinstein** advocates for child abuse prevention. Left: **Shah Hasan**, HMS Graduate Assistant, and **Chancellor Susan J. Koch** take part in the planting ceremony.

**Congratulations, Sarah Sagmoen!**

**Sarah Sagmoen**, the Librarian appointed to the College of Education and Human Services, thought she was going to a meeting with her colleagues when they left Brookens Library and walked to the Public Affairs Center. It seemed odd to her when one of them suggested they stop and see what was happening inside the PAC restaurant. When Sagmoen walked in, she found a surprise party in her honor, and learned she had been selected as the **UIS Employee of the Month for February 2013**.

Sagmoen is the director of **Learning Commons and User Services in Brookens Library**. Her nominator described her as a “perfect example of a 21st century librarian” in the way that she combines her “knowledge with passion, uses technology wisely, is enthusiastic about what the library can do for people, and teaches in a way that makes learning fun.” Sagmoen, who has been with UIS since 2009, reaches out to students in a variety of ways; she sponsors student book clubs, and works with the Student Government Association to organize and put on the annual Haunted Library. “She combines seriousness of purpose with an attitude of fun,” her nominator says. “Sarah just exudes positive energy.”

*Shannon O’Brien, Revised posting*
Special Recognition: HMS Advisory Committee

The Human Services Advisory Committee provides information and direction on local, state, and national trends and needs. In addition, they deliver facts regarding legislative and policy changes, and current research. Thank you to each of the members for their support.

◊ Brittney N. Ottino: Gateway Foundation
◊ Mary Jane Forney: Illinois Department of Human Services
◊ Mike Lucas: Caretaker
◊ Valerie Scarborough: Counseling Center/ University of Illinois at Springfield
◊ Cathy Annerino: MERCY Communities
◊ John Kelker: United Way of Central Illinois
◊ Lisa Zuubier: Illinois Department on Aging

National Organization for Human Services Honor Society

Would you like to be among the first members of the NOHS Honor Society?

Can you answer yes to ALL of the following?

· Completed at least 1 semester for your MA degree
· Maintained a GPA of at least 3.25.
· Cost: $40 for a Lifetime membership

The mission of the NOHS Honor Society is to: “honor academic excellence; to foster lifelong learning, leadership and development; and to promote excellence in service to humanity” (Retrieved from: http://www.tuahonorsociety.org/). If you would like to take part in establishing a new Chapter of the NOHS Honor Society at UIS, please email Dr. Weinstein at: dwein2@uis.edu. We are in need of at least 10 members to begin a chapter.

HMS Says Goodbye to GA

As this academic semester is closing so is Chrissy’s graduate assistantship with HMS. Chrissy has worked for HMS since Fall 2011 and has made significant contributions to the department. For these reasons, the Department would like to extend their warm regards. Chrissy will be deeply missed by her third floor family. We wish you the best Chrissy!

Spring 2013 Newsletter

Dr. Denise Sommers, Assistant Professor in the Social Service Administration concentration, serves as Editor while Chrissy Benoit and Shah Hasan serve as Graduate Assistants to the department’s Newsletter. They work together to construct the semiannual newsletter. Suggestion for future HMS Newsletters can be directed to Chrissy Benoit (cbeno2@uis.edu). Thank you and we hope you enjoyed this semester’s edition.