



Spring 2015

Photo courtesy of Siddhartha Kota

Congratulations



2015 Human Service Graduates!

Erica Seaton

Roslyn Simmons

Tammy Spiker

Shimea Stewart♦

Tami Wacker

Barbara Wheatley

Amber Williamson

Katherine Woelfel

Todd Seabaugh

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Congratulations

The HMS Department congratulates **Brett Burton** and **Shimea Stewart** 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.

We appreciate your commitment and support of our department!



Keely is a shining example of the students in the HMS Department and we are proud of her accomplishments!





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
MADALYN M. BARNES
CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES STUDENT

Tell us about yourself. What would people be surprised to know about you?

I am passionate about helping children. Currently I am a Service Coordinator for Early Intervention. Early Intervention is voluntary program for children birth to three with special needs. I enjoy the helping field, it's a way of life for me. I received my undergraduate degree from UIS in just three years. I also played on the UIS volleyball team, was a resident assistant, worked part time at the UIS Cox Children's Center, and participated in Resident Housing

What attracted you to the HMS department at UIS, and more specifically the field of Child and Family Studies?

At first I came to UIS in 2010 for undergraduate studies. I ended up graduating in 2013 with a BA in developmental psychology. I honestly wanted to take another path, so I applied for occupational therapy school. After being waitlisted, it became clear that UIS was where I was meant to stay for my master's education. I applied for the child and family studies program and also received a full time position at the UIS Cox Children's Center. While working here I got my tuition paid for and a quality education in something I had a passion for, working with children. UIS feels like a home to me, I learned how to become a student, colleague, professional, and an adult throughout my years at UIS.

What are your career interests and goals?

I enjoy the helping field and I plan to stay in this field for as long as possible. I really enjoy being an advocate for low income families and 'breaking the cycle.' I really enjoy the Early Intervention model which is education young children in a home based environment, while including parents/caregivers in order to teach their children on a regular basis.



What motivates you personally or professionally?

I really am motivated by knowing I am making a small difference in a family's life. Although, in this profession, I cannot help everyone. For the families that I do help I feel great gratitude and fulfillment. I strive to be positive, professional, and personable in my working life.

What have you learned that's made a difference to you?

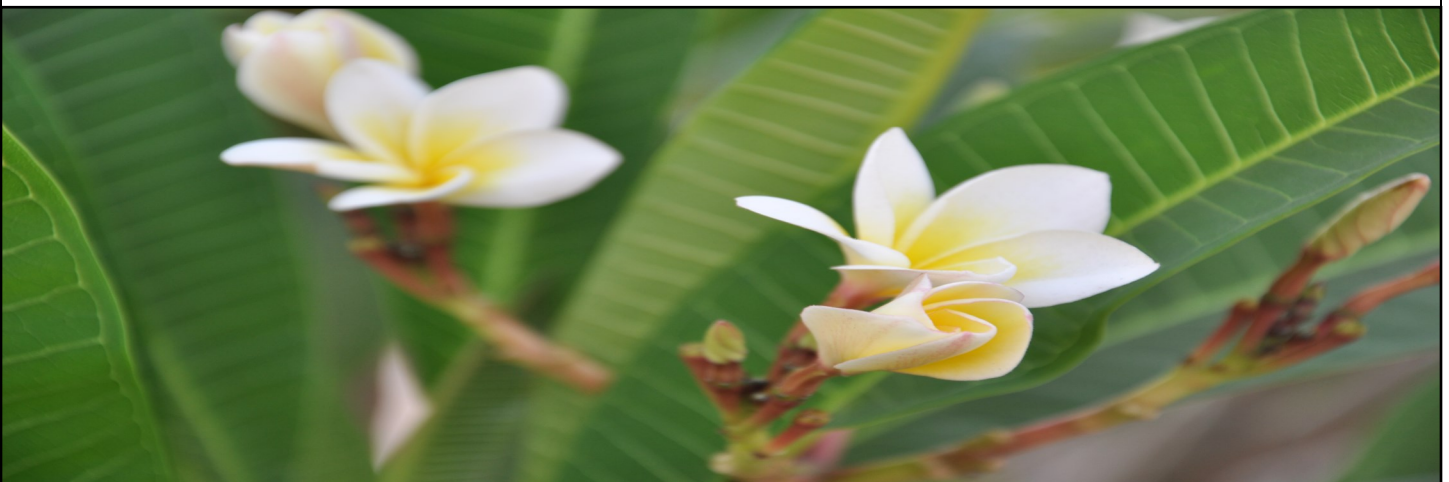
One of the biggest lessons I have learned is that I will not be able to change someone; I can ,however, provide tools to help the person change themselves.

What has been your greatest challenge?

I feel like that greatest challenge for me was to narrow a career path. I have participated in internships at the Ronald McDonald House of Central Illinois and The Hope School for Children with Autism and it was difficult for me to settle on a specific path to take. But I have learned that I do not need to settle on something immediately. It's important to be exposed to many opportunities, and in return, it will shape and narrow my career path.

What advice do you have for incoming students?

I would advise future students to fully immerse themselves in the UIS experience. Take part in GSPI, volunteer, and many more opportunities help shape your life and career vision. UIS has given me all of these opportunities and many more life lessons that are priceless. I am so thankful for the experience!





Alcohol and Substance Abuse Concentration

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

Employment Outlook and Open Positions for Substance Abuse Counselors

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment outlook for Substance Abuse Counselors is very good. The field will show an approximate 31% growth due to an increase in insurance coverage for mental health and substance abuse counseling services. In addition, “job prospects should be good for substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors, particularly for those with specialized training or education. Employers often have difficulty recruiting workers with the proper educational requirements and experience in working with addiction. In addition, many workers leave the field after a few years and need to be replaced. As result, those interested in entering this field should find favorable prospects” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015)

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors, Retried on April 3, 2015 from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-and-behavioral-disorder-counselors.htm>.

There are many current openings for Substance Abuse Counselors, please check them out below.

Chestnut Health Systems: <http://www.chestnut.org/Employment/CentrallllinoisArea> & <http://www.chestnut.org/Employment/SouthernMetroeastllinoisArea>

Gateway Foundation: <https://rn21.ultipro.com/GAT1000/JobBoard/ListJobs.aspx?VT=ExtCan>

IAODAPCA Job Board: http://www.iaodapca.org/?page_id=598

Family Guidance Center: <http://www.familyguidance.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>

Dr. Melvin can be reached in her office (BRK 317) at 217-206-8473 or by email at amelv2@uis.edu



Social Service Administration Concentration

Dr. Denise Bockmier-Sommers , Associate Professor,

Social Service Administration

News from the Social Service Administration Concentration

The Importance of Application

As with the other concentrations in the Human Service Department, the Social Service Administration concentration ensures that students be able to

apply the awareness and knowledge they learn in both core and concentration classes. The use of multiple presentations of course content, such as watching and listening to lectures, watching and responding to video clips, writing White Privilege and career vision papers, reflecting on and responding to questions regarding course content, ensures that students process the course content to learn both awareness and knowledge. Application of the course content is achieved by responding to and developing case scenarios; writing a grant for an actual human service organization; completing a guided comparative analysis of two human service organizations; responding to fiscal case scenarios; developing a human service program; and, applying a chosen leadership theory to different aspects of running an agency. Many of our students actively work in human service organizations as they progress through the social service administration concentration. These students generously share their experience with less experienced peers and help them more thoroughly apply course content. Watching and listening to students share with each other is perhaps one of the most exciting experiences for me – the instructor. Occasionally, a student possesses extraordinary knowledge about some aspect of human services and are asked to prepare and offer a presentation. One student presented about her work in Africa. Students gave excellent support to and asked thoughtful questions about her topic. Students particularly enjoy hearing from each other. I have been working with social service administration students for a little over seven years now. I am always astounded by their progress that comes from making the world a better place to live by offering their compassion and sensitivity to the people who's lives they touch.

Of special interest: from fall 2008 through fall 2014, my grant writing students have written a total of 27 grants for human service organizations located in Springfield, Jacksonville, Joliet, Quincy, Rockford, and Champaign in Illinois and also organizations in New York City and Atlanta, GA. Here are three recent examples of successfully funded grants that were written by HMS students:

- * ECADemy (At-Risk Youth Educating Assistance Dogs in Dobbs Ferry, NY; Contact people -Carrie Picard & Leslie Johnson; Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities; Written by Berni Klickner & Tami Wacker
- * Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging in Rockford; Contact person - Grant Nyhammer, CEO; Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Evidence Based Health Program; Written by Donna Belito, Tyler Rogers, & Elizabeth Dillehay.
- * St. Patrick Catholic School; Springfield, IL; Contact Person - Jessica Wilmarth; Future Fund Grant Proposal for Playground; Written by Brandi Melton, Shimea Stewart & Elizabeth Rosenthal.

Dr. Bockmier-Sommers can be reached in her office (BRK 344) at 206-6908 or by email at dsomm2@uis.edu.

Academic Year Calendar



Summer Session 2015

June 1, 2015—Classes begin

June 27, 2015—Mid-Point

July 25, 2015—Semester Ends

Fall Session 2015

August 24, 2015—Classes begin

September 7, 2015—Labor Day, campus closed

October 17, 2015—Mid-Point

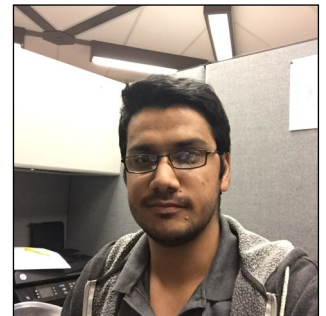
November 23-27, 2015—Thanksgiving Recess

December 12, 2015—last Day of Classes

December 14-19, 2015—Finals Week



HMS Graduate Assistant



Siddhartha Kota is currently studying Masters in Computer Science and has been working with the HMS department since Spring 2015. Sid has a passion for working with underprivileged people and likes to volunteer for social causes. Back in his home country of India he was part of educating poor children and rehabilitating the homeless. He is part of a organization on campus which is involved in helping out the Springfield community. He also enjoys photography, adventure sports and playing soccer.

LEADERSHIP
lived

Suggested Conferences & Faculty Scholarship

Child & Family Studies:

Dr. Mitchell will be attending the Illinois Council on Family Relations Conference in Champaign on Friday, April 17th. Registration is now available online for others who may be interested: Visit il.ncfr.org to learn more.

2015 Statewide Suicide Prevention Conference. *Preventing suicide among youth and youth adults: Everyone has a role.* Thursday, 4/30/15, Bloomington, IL. Visit <https://ipha.com/events/upcoming> to register and learn more.

The 106th Annual American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Conference, Jacksonville, FL, June 24-27, 2015. Visit www.aafcs.org to learn more.

Gerontology:

Dr. Carolyn Peck was invited to present at the UIS/SIU School of Medicine Research Colloquium, Friday, April 10, on the UIS Campus. The title of her presentation was "Compassion Fatigue and Burnout: Transition from Research to Applied Self Care Practices."

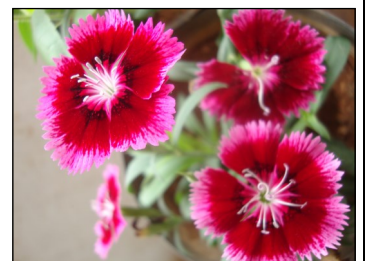
24th Annual Alzheimer's Professional Education Conference, "Best Practices in Dementia Care with Teepa Snow," April 28, Par-A-Dice Hotel Peoria Illinois, Alzheimer's Association Central Illinois Chapter. Information and Registration: www.alz.org/illinoiscentral or 1-800-272-3900.

The 8th Annual Scientific Conference on Healthy Brain Aging, SIU School of Medicine, May 19, James T. Dove MD Conference Center, St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL. Information and Registration: www.siumed.edu/alz

Social Service Administration:

Conference Presentation: Sommers, D.K. (March 2015). *The importance of working together in today's human service climate.* Midwest Organization for Human Services Regional Conference at Ankeny, IA.

Publication: Sommers, D. K. (2014). The use of service learning to develop multicultural counseling competencies. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 6(2), 58-69.



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Scan with a QR reader on
your smart phone and visit
our website!

Siddhartha Kota, Graduate Assistant to the department, helps to create the newsletter under the guidance of the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Elissa Thomann Mitchell, Assistant Professor of the Child and Family Studies concentration. Suggestion for future HMS Newsletters can be directed to Dr. Mitchell (thomann2@uis.edu). Thank you and we hope you enjoyed this semester's edition! *All photos courtesy of Siddhartha Kota*

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