

IN HIS SERVICE

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UQUEST MISSION TO BOLIVIA

In March, I had the opportunity to become a faculty sponsor with my husband and son for a uQuest mission trip to Rurrenabaque, Bolivia. Our team was led by Southern students Andrew Suekert (business administration major) and Jessica Malloch (psychology major). Our group visited the program Familia Feliz. Familia Feliz offers a Christian-centered, safe, and loving home environment; education; and medical/dental care for children who are orphaned, abandoned, abused, neglected, unwanted, or impoverished. With roughly 70 kids on campus, it was impressive to see this program work to ensure the children receive three meals a day, an education, medical attention, and a chance to be loved by the staff and visiting missionaries. Our group was able to assess how we could use our unique abilities to meet their needs by providing support to the staff through help in the kitchen or in the classrooms,



FALL 2018

Pictured above: The Baker family joined uQuest missionaries in La Paz, Bolivia.

worship, household repairs, tutoring in the evenings, and specialized training for the missionaries on staff.

I had the pleasure of supporting on of our university master's students in developing and co-facilitating trauma-informed care training. Our training offered resources to support the missionaries in caring for the children whom they serve. Some of the content we covered included research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma-informed ways of appropriately concluding their mission work. Due to the success of the training, I was invited to offer it again to our future missionaries through the Department of Student Missions at Southern.

Some of the uQuest team's favorite

experiences were getting to know the children; learning a special song, "Ten Million Reasons," by the boy group singing in English; and singing to the entire group during our last day at Familia Feliz. We used every moment we had to serve. The rewards we received were in abundance. We were honored that the Lord called us to Bolivia and so thankful to those who prayed for us during our time there. It was a privilege to serve as a social worker in this setting.

If you would be interested in learning more about uQuest opportunities or becoming a trip sponsor, please reach out to uquestmissions@southern.edu

—Evie Nogales-Baker, *associate professor*



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Life is good at Daniell's Hall. The School of Social Work made a strong finish to the 2017-2018 academic year. We know the end of another successful year doesn't mean our work is over. These are trying times in our country and across our planet. Society needs now what the social work profession espouses: a commitment to the vulnerable and oppressed; the courage to act when we see hatred, racism, or discrimination; and the capacity to extend kindness and compassion to all, regardless of our differences.

As social workers, our students, faculty, and alumni are on the front lines of advocacy for social and economic justice. We choose to be active in venues ranging from local neighborhoods to global localities, and to work with any conceivable population—from infants in

early-intervention programs all the way up through hospice. We choose to combine roles as clinicians, researchers, policy wonks, administrators, advocates, and community organizers. Just about any population you want to work with, any social problem you would like to solve, or any level on which you want to make change, our School community is there pursuing social change.

Every day we count it a privilege to educate students who will soon join a career that encourages them to make change on large and persistent social issues. This includes a commitment to end homelessness, intimate partner violence, and child abuse; to create fair and just mental health and immigration systems; and to end disparities in health outcomes, involvement in the criminal justice system, and educational failure among people of color. In this edition of *In His Service*, we are

excited to share with you a few highlights of our work in a profession that aligns with our commitment and dedication to Christian service.

I hope that no matter when or where this publication finds you, it finds you well. I invite you to stay connected with us, to share your story, and to join in our excitement about the mission of our School. Until our paths cross, I wish you well.



And the heavens proclaim His righteousness, for He is a God of justice.

Psalm 50:6, NIV

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: AMANDA CHASE, BSW '11, MSW '12

Amanda Chase is a graduate of Southern Adventist University's School of Social Work who completed her BSW and MSW in 2011 and 2012, respectively. The year 2017 was exciting for Amanda, as she obtained her LMSW in the state of Georgia and her Doctorate of Psychology (PsyD) from California Southern University. Amanda's emphasis in her doctoral studies included Consulting in Business, Education, and Mental Health; Career Counseling; and Positive Psychology. Her dissertation, which focused on depression treatment in the rural South, is titled "Efficacy of Rural Interventions: An International Approach for Depression." This was published in December 2017 by Scholar's Press. She marched at Southern Adventist University's May 2018 graduation as a guest doctoral graduate.

Chase says that she chose to continue her education for the purpose of advancing her career in order to teach in higher education and to open her own practice. "Social work and psychology are fields that require constant study, practice, and a willingness to learn new skills. The best way to accomplish this is to keep learning.

The MSW program greatly helped me prepare for my doctoral studies through the exploration of different therapeutic modalities, extensive in-depth research projects and collegiate writing, and direct client practice." She also credits her academic success to four people in the School of Social Work: Tricia Foster, Evie Baker, Annette Heck, and Cheryl Craven for their assistance both in and outside the classroom.

Not wanting to shy too far away from her social work (and Georgia) roots, Chase is pursuing her LCSW at Georgia Southwestern State University's Counseling Center in Americus, Georgia. She also works as a career counselor and professional speaker at ACE Career Coaching & Speaking, where she teaches resume development, job interviewing skills, networking skills, workplace conflict resolution, leadership skills, communication skills, and job searching techniques. She reflects, "And to think it all started with the question: 'What is social work?'"



Amanda Chase
BSW '11, MSW '12

DECEMBER 2017 GRADUATES



Patrice Boyd
MSW-Mental Health



Leanne Fraser
MSW-Mental Health



Sharon Johnson
MSW-Child & Family



Elaine Lee-Bradway
MSW-Trauma



Melissa Mitchell
MSW-Mental Health



Julie Phillips
MSW-Trauma



Robert Wade
MSW-Trauma



Andria Wilson
MSW-Trauma

MAY 2018 GRADUATES



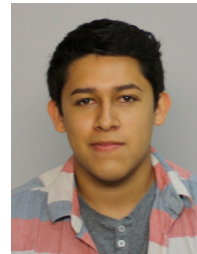
Selena Andrade
BSW



Savannah Grignon
BSW



Cassandra Harris
BSW



Stephen Lopez
BSW



Elizabeth McHome
BSW



S. Michelle Quintero
BSW



Kelly Ridge
MSW-Mental Health



Krista Walker
BSW

2017-2018 AWARDS, BSW, MSW

BSW Senior Awards:

- S. Michelle Quintero - *Academic Excellence*
- Savannah Grignon and S. Michelle Quintero - *René Drumm Research Award*
- Savannah Grignon - *Social Work Major of the Year*
- Savannah Grignon - *Excellence in Field*
- Stephen Lopez - *Leadership*

Ed Lamb Community Service Award:

Adriana Izquierdo and Allison Newhart

Top Achiever Awards:

Karissa Goodman, Lori Mitchell, and Allison Newhart

MSW Awards:

- Brenda McColpin - *Student of the Year*
- Jessica Carroll - *Community Service*
- Allie Wilga Day and Becky Woods - *Academic Excellence*
- Tim Burton - *René Drumm Research Award*
- Candacee McFarlane, Kelly Sullivan Ridge - *Field Excellence - Advanced Year*
- Jennifer Reed - *Field Excellence - Foundation Year*

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK - BSW UPDATES

BSW Events

The 2017-2018 school year proved to be yet another wonderful year filled with amazing students and events. The school year started with our Welcome Back Party featuring live music, grilled veggie meat, and great company. Late September, our seniors embarked on their Social Welfare Issues & Policy trip to Washington, D.C., where they were able to flex their policy/advocacy muscles. October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and for the second year in a row, the School of Social Work hosted our #PurpleThursday awareness booth in the Student Center. Students were able to learn more about this important topic and take photos to stand in solidarity with survivors and victims of domestic violence. Our December convocation hosted our own BSW alumna Khaneisha Harewood as she shared her talk, "The Journey to Social Work: #metoo."

MLK Service Day

For Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day, the Social Work Club partnered again with the Salvation Army to collect warm clothes and distribute them through the annual "Street Store." Chattanooga's Street Store provides

individuals who are homeless with a dignified shopping experience.

ACE Convocation

Our department convocation in January focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma-informed practice. Guest speaker Elizabeth Tallman's (United Way) topic was, "Building Stronger Brains: Adverse Childhood Experiences and How to Build Resilience." Our BSW curriculum has been integrating the data and information from the ACE study in attempts to better prepare our majors to be trauma-informed practitioners.

Social Work Month

In March we celebrated Social Work Month, and NASW's theme for this year was "Social Workers: Leaders, Advocates, Champions." Each day we are humbled and blessed to lead, advocate, and champion important causes that impact the clients we serve. On our campus, we hosted awareness booths that showcased different themes, which included: helping students connect how they are leaders and change agents within their chosen profession; educating others about the

social work profession; and increasing voter engagement in our communities. Students were also able to practice their advocacy skills as they attended the Social Work Day on the Hill event in Nashville.

Social Work Club

Karissa Goodman, Social Work Club president, reports that in addition to the Street Store this past winter semester, the Social Work Club had a blast hosting our second annual bake sale on Southern's campus, with the help of our faculty and fellow officers donating the baked goods. In April, the club hosted a Sabbath School service, volunteered at Chambliss Center for Children, and ended the year with a game night filled with fun and laughter. This year has been full of service, fellowship, laughter, and Jesus.

In the midst of our events, we recruited on our campus, at various academies, as well as at our local community colleges. This past school year our BSW major enrollment was 70 students strong. We had amazing social work students who were engaged, passionate, and inspired us each day. The future of our profession looks incredibly promising!

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK - MSW UPDATES

MSW Coalition

The coalition was busy during winter semester. They created a new T-shirt representing the MSW program for students to purchase. The coalition continued to operate the Snack and Drinks store on face-to-face Sundays. Using the proceeds from the snack store and the sale of the T-shirts, they were able to provide students with \$5 gift cards to use for self-care.

Dean's List

This past semester we established the first MSW Program Deans List. This distinction honors eligible students who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.85 or higher.

Phi Alpha

In April, 20 students were inducted into the Phi Alpha honor society for academic achievement. The program included a catered meal and an encouraging speech from Professor Stephanie Guster. We are proud of the hard work and dedication of our Social Work students!

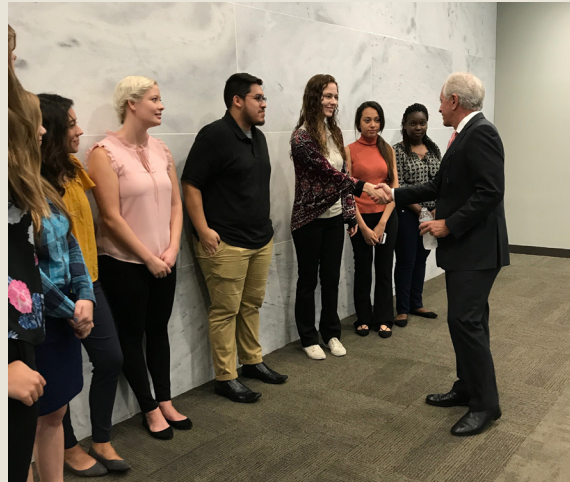


Bess Helton, (MSW '18) and Stephanie Supriyadi (MSW '18) display the MSW Coalition T-shirt.

SOCIAL WORK HAPPENINGS



Social Work Club holds a bake sale.



U.S. Senator Bob Corker greets Southern students during a Social Welfare Issues and Policy field trip to the nation's capital.



Poverty simulation participants prepare for their week.



Professor Annette Heck's grandmother knits hats for the Street Store.



#PurpleThursday with Colgedale Mayor Katie Lamb



School of Social Work Phi Alpha Induction



MSW 2018 graduating class

FIELD AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

“Meeting Needs with Love” is the motto of The Caring Place, a small faith-based and ecumenical nonprofit organization located in Cleveland, Tennessee. The Caring Place seeks to provide those living in poverty with much-needed food, clothing, social services, and programs aimed at helping individuals with current needs move out of poverty and toward permanent stability.

The Caring Place began in 2000, when four Church of God congregations in Bradley County, Tennessee, decided to join forces by combining their benevolence funds and creating an organization known as Lift and Redemption Ministries. After about five years, the organization officially changed its name to The Caring Place.

Currently, the ministry gathers support from approximately 53 local churches, which represent about 12 different denominations. In 2017, The Caring Place distributed approximately 148 tons of food to nearly 3,000 families and 31 tons of

clothing to around 2,500 families. In addition, social workers at The Caring Place gave more than 300 referrals and made over 700 case management contacts.

The Caring Place staff and volunteers do everything in their power to lift individuals out of poverty and point them to the Redeemer. After all, part of their primary mission is to “model the love of Christ by addressing spiritual, physical and social needs of the people in our local community.” Indeed, the Spirit of Christ’s love, tender care, and commitment to Christian duty pervades volunteers and staff alike.

When asked what is the best part of her job, director Corrine Freeman (MSW ’14), LMSW, stated: “The most rewarding part of my job is that I get to live out a calling here. I feel like this is where I get to be what Christianity is meant to be.... It is our vocation as Christians to serve those in need.”

As MSW intern Edward Pino stated: “This is a place where you get to experience

Christ’s love flowing through to the very people He sent us to serve. Working here has not only been an extremely valuable learning experience as an intern, but it has also been a significant source of spiritual growth.”

The love, care, and tender sympathy of Christ can be seen at this small nonprofit organization in Cleveland, Tennessee. By meeting the needs of the local community in the love of Christ, that love and care shines forward and shows the entire community what true Christianity looks like.



Pictured Above: The Caring Place director Corinne Freeman, Julie Hyde (BSW intern), social worker Caroline James, and Edward Pino (MSW intern)



Darcee Christensen returned for a year to the school from which she graduated.



Samir Khalil visited with shop owner friends in Damascus, Syria.

BSWs IN SERVICE ABROAD

The School of Social Work had several students who served as missionaries/task force workers or studied abroad during the 2017-2018 school year. Anissa Monteso (senior) at Hawaii Mission Academy, Darcee Christensen (senior) at Fletcher Academy, Lucia Hudgins (junior) at Familia Feliz in Rurrenabaque, Bolivia, and Samir Khalil (junior) in Damascus, Syria. We were able to interview Darcee Christensen and Samir Khalil to understand more about their experiences. We continue to lift up all of our students serving and studying abroad!

1: Where were you placed, and what is your role?

Darcee: I served as the girls' assistant dean at Fletcher Academy this year. To be honest, I never imagined that God would lead me back to the academy that I graduated from, but I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to care for the girls who live in the dorm.

Samir: My sister, Laila, and I lived in Damascus, Syria, where we were both students. We were there as international students to properly learn Arabic. Unfortunately, with the situation in Syria, not many programs had students going back and forth from Damascus. We were in Syria because our father is the country director of ADRA Syria and Lebanon, and as a result of his connections there, we can enter the country as often as he can. We studied at a language institute specifically for teaching Arabic to foreigners.

2: Can you share an experience you had that was meaningful for you as a social worker?

Darcee: As an assistant dean, I had many opportunities to practice the skills that I had learned in the social work classes I took at Southern. As I provided empathy and support to a girl who was weeping, she shared with me how she had been abused in the past. While silently praying for wisdom, God brought to my mind things I had learned in class that helped me effectively respond to this student. Afterward, I made sure to communicate this to those who needed to be aware.

Samir: While I was spending time with a friend of mine in Damascus, I was able to use some of the skills I learned from the Interviewing Skills course to listen and ask open-ended questions about something that was bothering him. It was meaningful because I could offer an empathetic approach to his situation and keep it focused on what he knew he could do, rather than add my own opinions. By the end of the conversation, he had already discovered a way to solve his issue without me adding any suggestions of my own.

3: What advice or word of encouragement would you give a social work student who wants to be a student missionary or would like to study abroad?

Darcee: Do it! You will never regret serv-

ing God. Such great joy is found in giving back to Jesus the talents, time, and energy that He has given you. Be so filled by His love that you cannot help but be a student missionary wherever you are!

Samir: My best advice is to pray about it first. While that's a very popular answer, I have a good reason for it. Had I not prayed before venturing all the way over there, I'm not sure it would have been possible at all. God was able to help my sister and me get our visas in a couple of weeks, then we got enrolled into the institution almost immediately and were paired with a fantastic teacher. Secondly, be as open-minded and flexible as possible. Being in a different country, which may or may not have all of the same comforts as home, can be a difficult transition. Having an open mind really helps to make things easier. And being flexible in situations where you may need to sleep on the floor, a couch, or in a tree—or in any situation that isn't the ideal—always helps, as well.

The opportunity to serve abroad or study a new language is a great one for students at Southern to experience. Being away from school for a year does not require them to abandon their social work education. As seen in the recent service experiences of Darcee and Samir, students are able to gain real world experience and enhance their already developing social work skills.



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Nina Nelson
Laura Racovita-Szilagyi
Corneliu Rusu
Kristie Wilder

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