

THE SALUKI SOCIAL WORKER

Together we can change the world.

Social Work
School of Human Sciences
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Spring 2023

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HAPPY SOCIAL WORK MONTH

March is Social Work Month!
Let's take some time to
celebrate our social workers
and their contributions.
Thank you for all you do.

BREAKING NEWS

TRAUMA-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Article by: Emily Sinnett

The SIU School of Medicine, in partnership with the College of Health and Human Sciences, administers a Trauma-Based Behavioral Health Fellowship program, an additional training program offered to graduate students looking to supplement their education. Ginger Meyer, MSW, LCSW, CCTP, the program director, brings over 25 years of experience in child welfare, and over 20 years of experience in providing "psychosocial evaluations for children experiencing maltreatment" to this training program. The Work Force Development HRSA funded grant provides training for "masters social workers" and also "selected rehab counselors...who desire more clinical training to provide clinical trauma-based interventions to clients" Meyer said. "This Workforce Development training provides two semesters of trauma informed and evidence based training modules on Fridays- 4 hours every Friday for two semesters. During the training sessions, professionals from our local area who are experts in the field, provide the hands on

training. The trauma-focused program starts by examining the Adverse Childhood Experiences Research Study (ACES), which Meyer describes as "profound." The study can be applied to many people seeking mental health treatment, especially in our very rural area. Meyer also states that the program also has a team-based approach with their clients, where they frame anxiety and depression as a normal response from people who have had abnormal or traumatic things happen to them. One of several unique training modules within the program is focused on music - specifically drumming. One of the industry professionals that the program features, Lynda Killoran, demonstrates a "trauma-informed music and drumming session and the students can, through music and drumming, participate in a drum circle that is very healing. This translates well to the clients they serve."

In the spring semester, the Fellows delve into the different trauma-informed and evidence-based treatments that can be offered to clients depending

TRAUMA-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM - Continued from Page 1.

on their age, one of which being TFCBT is a trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy that assists a child or adolescent, three years old to 18 to process their trauma. "All of the evidence-based practices have the same treatment approach that gives patients/clients psychoeducation about ACES by showing them how to regulate their body with relaxation, mindfulness, meditation, nervous system response, and how to have clients figure out what their coping mechanisms are", Meyer states. There have been 226 graduates from the program to date and Meyer says that many of them, because of the program, feel much more comfortable during the job interview process. They also have "a lot of experience with multiple offers for employment and feel adequate as they're going through the interview process because they can talk about the research and discuss what they can bring to the table."

Not only does the program train students to provide trauma-based treatment for clients, but it also places a large focus on the mental health and wellness of the students themselves. "We weave all of the self-care modules within as we go on because we know how important it is to keep track of the barometer of the students' own vicarious trauma, stress, and burnout to make sure that they're okay." More information about the program and the team of professionals involved can be found on the SIU School of Medicine website.

SIU Day of Giving 2023

The 7th Annual SIU Day of Giving provides an opportunity for every member of the Saluki community to move the university forward. As we enter a new, promising year, we encourage you to consider all the incredible things happening all around us and the bright future ahead.

When is SIU Day of Giving?

It will be from 6 a.m. CST Tuesday, March 28, through 6 a.m. Thursday, March 29.

How can I make my gift?

Just visit siuday.siu.edu on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, and find the area and priority you wish to support.

What if I don't see Social Work in the list of participating groups?

If you do not see this on the platform, please select "Other" and include the program/fund

name you wish to support in the comments section. We will make sure your gift is designated to the area of your choice.

TO MAKE A GIFT TO SOCIAL WORK:

1. Select College of Health and Human Sciences
2. Select the drop-down box
3. Select the Social Work account

Support the social workers activity fund

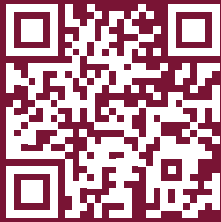


NASW ADVOCACY DAY

On 3/27/23, 10-1, our Illinois Chapter of NASW will hold a Virtual Social Work Advocacy Day. This event will provide training for a live Onsite Lobbying Day in Springfield, to be held on 4/26/23. We will provide a bus for our students to attend this event, and help NASW advocate for certain policy issues they are concerned about. Our undergraduate policy students will also make policy

recommendations pertaining to policies they have analyzed in their class. Only students who have attended the virtual event, and faculty are eligible to travel with the group. More details will be coming as NASW-IL finalizes plans. Students have received an email with a link to register.

For questions, email Professor Joe Harper at joseph.harper@siu.edu



Connect with our Social Work world through our **Facebook group.**

We welcome current and previous students, faculty, community partners, and friends of Social Work at SIU. "Social Work at SIU"

SOCIAL WORK DAY FIELD INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP

Free workshop for our Field Instructors, in thanks for their service to our students:

April 7, 2023 8:00am-1:00pm
SIUC Student Center
Ballrooms A & B

Free CEUs:

Jeremy Allen – Implicit Bias – 1 CEU
Chastity Mays – Cultural Competence – 3 CEUs

Please send your RSVP to pmartens@siu.edu and supply us with:

your name,
your license # (for the CEU certificate),
your agency

Online MSW Program (Fall 2021)

The online Master's of Social Work Program, started in Fall 2021, has brought a platform for the program to become nationwide. The faculty hopes that as the program continues, it can benefit those in the social work field across the world. Professor Elaine Jurkowski commented, "We've been able to teach students from the East Coast to the West Coast. They've all been able to get to know each other well through their discussions."

New Editor Coming

Upon the retirement of the current editor of The Saluki Social Worker, Professor Joe Harper will take over as editor. He will oversee the 2024 edition of the newsletter.

Online DSW Program (Fall 2023)

An Online Doctorate of Social Work Program is being proposed for the future. If approved, it is set to begin in the fall of 2023. A survey distributed by the department showed a good amount of interest. The program will focus on advanced social work practice skills.

STUDENT NEWS

Mariza Charicata

Article by: Stellah Nakiranda

Struggles in life aren't what define how you live your life. In some ways, hardship can grant you fortitude and desire for something more. Strength in hard work and working towards something is showing how some will overcome their story. Meet 24-year-old Mariza Charicata from Cobden, Illinois.

Her parents were about eighteen when they both migrated together to the United States from Mexico. Both of her parents worked at a farm in which Mariza says it was so challenging. "The most challenging thing for me growing up was that my parents never had a set schedule at any job they worked in. My brothers and I were either always with a babysitter or grandparent because they worked all day, every day", she recalls sadly. Despite life struggles, Mariza has managed to work hard in school. In the year 2019, she joined Southern Illinois University where she is doing her master's in social work and hopes to graduate in May 2023. She says being a part of the social work program has tremendously

made her grow as a person.


"The Social Work Program has helped me build very strong relationships with my professors, gain hands-on experiences through outreach opportunities, as well as endless guidance from our dear professors".

Mariza credits all her good experience towards being a part of the SIU community, which she says has tremendously changed her life, whereby she has been able to meet new people and has made lifetime friends.

After she graduates, Mariza plans to work at a hospital as a pediatric social worker and continue to change and touch people's lives.

Despite her story, she did not let it define her. Mariza worked hard and found a passion in her life where she wants to help change the lives of others.

No matter what your story is, you can be whatever you want to be.



"No matter what your story is, you can be whatever you want to be."

How I Know I Was Born a Social Worker

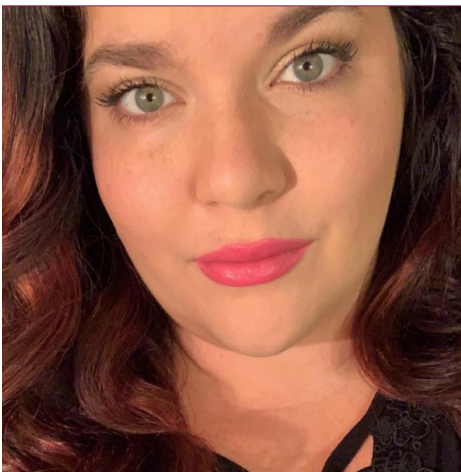
This is how it happens – you don't just do it for the paycheck, it is a life calling. Two of our students have articulated how they know they were born a social worker:



Jessica Cates, BSSW Student

When I ask myself how I was born a social worker, I recall always being able to encompass a certain altruistic capacity for empathy. I was the child who would let other kids take the toy I wanted to play with. I was also the child who was incredibly sensitive to the world and people around me. With that being said, I also believe that I was socialized in such a way that allowed for me to care for the well-being of my fellow man. In other words, I was TAUGHT to be a social worker. I was raised by my grandparents and having that experience they provided an insight into being a person who selflessly helps others. For example, my grandmother always picked up hitch hikers. Even though this was incredibly dangerous and she would get scolded by other family members for doing so. Her response was always "they needed help and if I was stranded walking, I would want someone to stop for me". She also gave to many charities which included St. Jude

and many charities for veterans. My grandfather also set a high bar for giving back. He installed carpet for a living and would often times do work for free for families who couldn't afford it. He would do this in his spare time. There were also instances where he would send me on my bike to send extra food to our widowed neighbors. Aside from the environment that provided me with the examples of caring for others, I was born with a genetic predisposition for addiction. Both of my parents struggled with alcoholism, thus passing the likelihood for me to inherit this as well. This natural occurrence propelled a ten-year battle with addiction. I am currently 7 years sober and my goal is to become a L.C.S.W with my C.A.D.C so that I can help others realize the possibilities of their own potential if THEY want it. Giving back to someone with the knowledge of my experience, empathy, and tools learned is my goal in life. Being a mother, I want to make this world better for my children and the rest of humanity as well.



Meridith Ruble, BSSW Student

I was recently asked by one of my professors to explain how I know I was "born a social worker." This question really got me thinking. For the first 25 years of my life, I didn't even know what a social worker was, or what they did. However, after becoming a foster and adoptive parent, I met some amazing men and women whom I like to think of as World Changers: Social Workers. One particular social worker, who

was my daughter's caseworker at the time, humored my many questions and told me about her profession—the good, bad, and ugly—and I immediately knew that I needed to get a degree in Social Work. I also realized that I have been doing social work my entire life. As a 4th grader, I remember coming home crying over a classmate whom I had recently befriended. She came to school with filthy ripped clothing on, always smelling of dirty

Meridith Ruble - Continued from Page 5.

clothes and other body odor. I told my mother that we had to buy her some clothes, and that we did. We got a huge sack full of socks, outfits, underwear, and even hair things for her and I took it to school. Years later, as a 6th grader, I noticed a little girl on my bus who always seemed to be sad. She was roughly 3 years younger than me, and I invited her to start sitting with me. I soon learned that she was a foster child and was being adopted. She told me a lot of sad stories that my little privileged heart couldn't believe were true. She at one point told me, "I wish you were my mom, Meridith." I am still friends with her to this

my heart. Today he is adopted into a loving family, along with his brother. Soon after that, we became officially licensed to foster and over the last 6 years have fostered over 20 children. Four of them we have had the chance to adopt and they're part of our family forever. Over the years of being a foster parent, I have fought hard for the children in my care, sometimes having to challenge decisions and actions made by their caseworkers and agencies. Recently, I was forced to report a certain worker for falsifying legal documents for court, because this action is unethical and illegal... and directly affected the child in my

"I was truly astonished when I learned what all social workers did, and that I had been doing many of those things ever since I was a little girl."

day, and glad to report that she is doing well and fostering her own little girl. Fast forward many years... to 2017, I was approached by a woman on Facebook, who was asking for free baby items for her soon-to-be-born son. I gathered everything I could find from friends, thrift stores, and Walmart and took it to her. Soon after, her son was born, and I learned that DCFS already had custody of her older 2-year-old boy. She was in the hospital and when I checked on her, she said she needed someone to care for the newborn while she was in the hospital. She asked me, a complete stranger, to take her son for the weekend. From that day on, I became an unofficial foster parent to a newborn baby boy, whom I loved with all

care's life. I am thankful that I was born a social worker. I was truly astonished when I learned what all social workers did, and that I had been doing many of those things ever since I was a little girl. I love helping others—children and adults alike. I love seeing an adult take pride in improving their own life, taking charge of their choices and their future. I love witnessing a child being placed in a safe home and experience true love and safety for the first time. I absolutely love seeing a child and parent be reunified. I hope that I can spend the rest of my life working as a social worker, and simply helping those around me.

Research Class Study on Homeless SIU Students

Article by: Kat McCauley

On December 8th, 2022, Dona Reese's social work research students gave their final presentation on their homelessness research within the SIU community to fellow classmates and SIU administrators. The students were fueled with passion as they discussed their concerns students face on and off campus, from food insecurity to unsuitable housing over breaks. The students discussed their quantitative and qualitative research findings backed by recommendations for the university to improve the lives of students. Dr. Jamie Clark, Director of Student Health Services, spoke about how the students' research played a part in the university receiving a grant to help homelessness among SIU students. She also highlighted the new HEROES Program (Higher Education Resources and Opportunities for Salukis in Need) to provide resources for housing, transportation, mental and physical health, financial aid, educational and learning support, safety, and involvement on campus. Dr. Clark described, "You've recommended, based on the participants that there is affordable break housing when the resident halls close down. We have achieved that, but like you said the word needs to get out." The conversations in this class helped spark an actionable response, "SIU really doesn't want to only address homelessness, they want to address all basic needs and (in)securities."

Link to HEROES Resources:
https://dos.siu.edu/policies_resources/heroes/

FACULTY NEWS

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Brian Brown

Article by: Parker Siner

Brian Brown graduated in 1986 from Southern Illinois University receiving his degree in Bachelor of Science in Social Work. In 1987, Dr. Brown received his Master's in Social Work. Dr. Brown was one of the first graduates of SIU's MSW program. This led Dr. Brown to complete his Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology-Counseling at SIU in the spring of 2002. Dr. Brown's earlier teaching career consisted of teaching interviewing and counseling courses. More recently, he taught graduate-level practicum classes 543 and 544. Dr. Brown previously worked as the Executive Director of Brehm Preparatory School with over 30 years of experience working with students with learning disabilities and other learning challenges. Currently, he is a school social worker for Carterville School District #5 providing individual and group counseling for students in grades K-12. When asked about the vision for Social Work at SIU, Dr. Brown responded by saying "The Social Work department has a rich history that needs to be sustained. I would like to see the program continue to grow in its undergraduate and graduate student enrollment and enhance the curriculum to include the availability of a DSW program."

Dr. Hussein Soliman

Article by: Allison McDevitt

Dr. Hussein Soliman received the School of Human Sciences (SHuS) "Teaching Award 2022". Dr. Soliman utilized new teaching methods such as the use of two-sided mirrors to help students sharpen their practice skills, and developed research group projects in research classes. He is currently the New Programs Coordinator at the SHuS. He has led a task force in the development of an Online MSW Program. Dr. Soliman is currently the coordinator of the task force for the proposed Doctor of Social Work Program. Currently, Dr. Soliman is organizing an interdisciplinary program event on March 28, in the Student Center, for representative students from all education units in the SHuS. Dr. Soliman

has also developed programs overseas to promote social work education in other universities. He is very deserving of this award. *Congratulations, Dr. Soliman!*



NEW FACULTY

SHANIKA WILSON, DSW

Assistant Professor of Practice

Shanika "Lavi" Wilson received her Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Connecticut-Storrs, Master's of Science in Social Work (MSSW) with a concentration in Mental Health and Substance Abuse from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and her Doctor of Social Work (DSW) with a concentration in Clinical Practice and Leadership from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She is a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS) and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in the States of North Carolina and Florida. Her direct practice includes providing mental health and substance abuse therapy to individuals, groups, and families. She has experience working at a university student health center, university counseling center, private practice, and in community mental health agencies. Hired specifically to teach in our new online MSW Program, Professor Wilson joined us in Fall semester 2022.

Written by Dona Reese



FACULTY NEWS CONT.

Michelle Connell-Coriasco

Written by Grace Dodd

Michelle Connell - Coriasco has a bachelor's degree and master's degree in social work as well as another master's degree in Educational Administration. She has worked at Herrin Elementary School since 1997 and was the first social worker hired in Herrin Community School District #4. Michelle also is an adjunct instructor for SIU, where she teaches students the ins and outs of social work. Michelle believes the most meaningful part of her career is being that safe space

for children and families. She described how her true passion is advocating for people and educating them to live their best, healthy life. Michelle expressed how the most rewarding aspect of her career is when previous students have reached out to her to let her know the impact and change she's made. Although this makes it seem that a career in social work is all positive, Michelle portrays that there are everyday struggles and hardships. The ratio of a student body to one or



Left to Right: Zach Schumacher, Brenna Howerton - SIU School Social Work Intern, Savanah King - School Social Worker, Michelle Coriasco, and Erin Camfield, Director of Advancement at CenterStone

FACULTY NEWS CONT.

MICHELLE CONNELL-CORIASCO - Continued from Page 8.

two social workers can be quite overwhelming. The challenges of the job itself can leave you with what she described as “burnout” or “secondary trauma”. She says it is important that social workers prioritize their mental health and feel supported. Michelle gave out some great and educational advice to aspiring social workers and students pursuing this career field. She explained that it is unique because you get the opportunity to watch people grow in their learning environment. She described it as challenging, but also rewarding. She encourages students to join the Illinois Association of School Social Workers that provides lots of support. Michelle received a

\$1,500 grant at Herrin Elementary, which she says will be used for purchasing children’s trauma literature, education materials for parents and teachers, sensory items, and calming materials. They want to use this for creating an open space, increase student’s awareness of their own emotions, and educate staff and parents on how children respond to trauma, to give them the resources they need. She said they purchased a sensory tower, as well as many sensory items like kinetic sand and board games. This grant and others were made to aid schools’ staff in efforts to open up and engage with students and their mental health.

Joe Harper

Written by Monse Munoz

Joe Harper is an Assistant Lecturer, and is on committees in the Association of Social Work Boards. Also he is co-investigator for a NIH grant held by University of Illinois. He is the current Executive Director of Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center of St. Clair County, Inc. which provides mental health and substance abuse services to the community. He previously held positions with the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health including Executive Director of the Southern Region and Hospital Administrator of Chester Mental Health Center. He has served as the program administrator for mental health services at Menard Correction Center which is the state’s largest maximum-security correctional facility. He has

prior practice experience in child welfare, employee assistance programs, and outpatient mental health services. Mr. Harper is currently on the faculty of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.. He has been a long-term member of the National Association of Social Workers and the former First Vice-President of the Illinois Chapter. He also served as the Chair of NASW-IL’s statewide Political Action Committee. He has previously served as the Chair of the Metro East St. Louis District and has represented the Illinois Chapter at past Delegate Assemblies. Mr. Harper has presented on the topic of services to forensic patients at several conferences including those held by the Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the National

Faculty Member Retiring After 17 Years of Service at SIU

Dona J. Reese, PhD, MSW, LCSW, is retiring at the end of Spring semester 2023. She has been at Southern Illinois University since 2006 – for 17 years. Before that, she served as a professor at other universities for 12 years, and practiced as a social worker for 15 years. She obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology at Northwestern University, and a MSW and PhD in Social Work at University of Maryland. When she arrived at her MSW Program, she realized this was the first time she was with people like her, and realized she was definitely on her life path. Her first professor position was at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – she says she ended up in Illinois three times by accident. When she drove into Carbondale after obtaining a position here, she says she had the feeling she was home.



JOE HARPER - Continued from Page 9.

Commission on Correctional Health Care and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. Mr. Harper has also co-authored several publications in the field of forensic social work practice and has served as an expert witness regarding forensic populations. Mr. Harper is a past member of the clinical examination committee with the Association of Social Work Boards. Mr. Harper is a graduate of the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis.

He was selected to be on the Clinical Exam Committee for ASWB in 2017 and remained on that committee until 2022. This committee reviews questions that will be included on the licensure exam for individuals seeking their clinical social work license in various states and Canada. He is now a member of the From Review Committee which gives a final review to questions developed by the exam committee prior to them being placed live on the

exam. Mr. Harper is a part of the NIH study that seeks to reduce barriers to testing and vaccination in minority communities. He is a co-principal investigator with other research members. Mr. Harper is also the Principal Investigator on a \$4.8 million dollar grant from SAMSHA called Restoring the Community's Center.

When asked what his vision for Social Work at SIU Mr Harper stated, "I am delighted to work with so many young people with interest in helping others. After some 30 years in the profession, I still learn something new each day—oftentimes from my students. I hope to be able to pass on to my students my professional and practical experience that will assist them in their careers."



"I am delighted to work with so many young people with interest in helping others."

Faculty Member Retiring After 17 Years of Service at SIU- Continued from Page 9.

She uses an active learning approach to teach her research and policy classes, where students conduct a social action project as their way of learning the material. At SIU, her students have conducted projects on immigration policy, child welfare policy, cultural competence in end-of-life care, reforms needed in the criminal justice system, policy about homelessness, among a number of others. They have also conducted research on homelessness, and when they found out that some of the homeless people they interviewed were SIU students, they started conducting research specifically on homeless SIU students. In Fall 2022, Dr. Jaime Clark, Director of Student Health Services, asked them to conduct a new study about homeless SIU students. She subsequently received a \$50,000 grant to help these students; she said the students' research played a part in getting this grant.

Coming here from city life in the Washington, D.C. suburbs, Dr. Reese considers Carbondale to be paradise. She appreciates very much her experience here, and the opportunity to participate in the development of our new generation of social workers. She has been inspired and energized by their enthusiasm, their vision for a new world, and their commitment to helping others and helping to create that new world. She wishes our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners all the best in their future work.

STAFF NEWS

Darla Phoenix

Article by: Allison McDevitt

After twenty years of working as an Administrative Aide, Darla Phoenix is preparing to retire. As the Administrative Aide to the Director of School of Human Sciences, she supports the faculty and students. She is a first generation, nontraditional SIU alumna. Phoenix received her Bachelor in Science in Paralegal Studies, summa cum laude. She also added that her daughter continued the Saluki tradition, earning her Juris Doctor Degree from SIU School of Law. Her son received his degree at University of Illinois Chicago. The day-to-day beauty of Southern Illinois inspires Darla, something we all take for granted. When asked about her vision for the future of SIU, Phoenix replied, "My vision for SIUC is seeing dedicated and loyal faculty and staff, students committed to excellence in learning, and a AAA-rated research institution."



ALUMNI REPORT

Carbondale Public Library

Article by: Ashleigh Spence



L to R: Diana Brawley Sussman, Director, Carbondale Public Library; Shannon Butler, MSW, alumna, first Social Work library intern; Dona Reese, Professor, Social Work

In 2015, the Carbondale Public Library began an internship, kickstarting the creation of their social work program. Social Work professors and master's students were part of a coalition to begin work on a program aimed at poverty and homelessness issues. This first coalition was staffed with Professor of Social Work, Dona Reese; Master's in Social Work student and first library intern, Shannon Butler; and Carbondale Public Library Director, Diana Brawley Sussman. Library Director Diana Sussman explains how during the creation of the social work program, she only knew of one other public library with a social work program at the time; the San Francisco Public Library. Sussman contacted them, and talked with the social worker to learn more. There are now 227 library social work programs in

31 states, D.C., Canada, and Australia. Last fall, Carbondale Public Library hired their intern full-time, in thanks to an ARPA grant they received from the City of Carbondale. This program aims to work for the Carbondale community in many different ways. "A person does not need to be homeless or housing insecure to use our social work services," says Sussman.

They also have services for seniors, grief support, and more. The Carbondale program frequently assists with locating resources to assist with housing needs and paying bills. Jack Trexler, the intern who has now been hired full time thanks to the ARPA grant, has helped multitudes of people in the community.

Carbondale Public Library
-Continued from Page 11.

"In his first two months working full-time at the library Jack Trexler served 77 individuals. Thirty-two of those individuals were either homeless or housing insecure. He has found shelter and housing for people, helped them apply for food assistance through SNAP, recover lost IDs, access Veteran and Social Security benefits, find transportation, navigate the justice system, and secure employment," says Sussman.

Social work meets the community's informational and cultural needs. The library has also helped to launch and sustain related programs for the Carbondale community, such as the Carbondale Warming Center, an emergency homeless shelter, which works closely with the library's social work program. Sussman continues to serve on the Carbondale Warming Center's board.

COMMUNITY PARTNER REPORT

Juanita Drue

Article by: Jada Plummer

Juanita Drue is a School Social Worker. She has been in this field for 22 years, all in Southern Illinois. Juanita graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2001 with a Masters in Social Work. When asked what her daily activities include she stated, "My day is never dull, lots of excitement with my little ones. My duties include, but are not limited to, working with all students, individual counseling, social skills groups, participating in school wide celebrations, working with homeless students and families, working with truant students and families, providing social, emotional, and behavior support to students, providing community resources for families and collaborating with outside agencies." Juanita works for Parrish Elementary School. This is her second year with them. Parrish Elementary School is a Pre-K through 1st Grade building, which serves approximately 400+ students. When asked if she liked/loved her job she stated, "I absolutely love working with this age group. Our staff are hard working and dedicated to providing a quality education to our amazing students. We have great administrative support from our Principal, Mrs. Carla Ehlers, and our Dean of Students, Mrs. Sheila James." They have a partnership with SIU and absolutely love when the students come into their building. Parrish has had social work interns, student teachers, athletes, cheerleaders, SIU Readers etc... at Parrish. Our students enjoy seeing and spending time with the SIU Salukis. I asked Juanita what inspired her or drove her to become a social

worker and she states, "We all have our story to share. My experiences during my childhood inspired me to become a school social worker. I grew up on the East Side of Carbondale, eventually moving to Lake Heights for my middle school and high school years. I was raised by an awesome single mom who provided for us the best she could. My two sisters and I didn't have much, but we were proud and humble and our mom instilled in us to hold our heads up high regardless of the hardships we went through. I went to school at Winkler, Thomas, Lincoln Middle School and Carbondale High School East and Central. Wow, this was a long time ago! I received special education services up to my high school years. I had wonderful teachers that helped me become a superb reader and writer and average at math. Most importantly, they made me feel good about myself, they encouraged me everyday, they were happy to see me, and they didn't give up on me. So between my mother and those teachers, I chose a career where I could have that kind of impact on others. I come to work with a positive attitude, smiling and loving on my babies at Parrish. I hope one day they'll remember how I made them feel. Here I am 30+ years later still remembering those good feelings. At the end of the day, this is what matters the most."

Good Samaritan Ministries

Article by: Ryan Edwards

Patty Mullen, the Executive Director of Good Samaritan Ministries, is responsible for overseeing the agency's facilities, staff, programs, and funds. Eighteen years of experience at the organization, Patty has a deep commitment to helping people in need and a ton of experience in administration and management.

As the Executive Director, Patty sets policy and direction for the organization, seeks funds and makes budget decisions, determines the types and numbers of clients, programs and facilities, maintains space, maintains the quality, and upkeeps a budget. She also writes and implements grants for funding of Good Samaritan Ministries programs, according to guidelines provided by funding agencies, and prepares monthly and yearly reports and other documentation on grants and programs. Despite facing challenges such as high employee turnover and slow payments on grants due to the pandemic, Patty remains committed to helping people in need and ensuring that Good Samaritan Ministries can continue

to make a difference in the lives of those it serves. One of the most rewarding experiences for her is seeing people get back on their feet and become successful in retaining their housing. Knowing that the organization has played a role in helping someone overcome a difficult situation is incredibly fulfilling.

Patty's vision for Good Sam is to continue to expand its services and programs to meet the growing needs of the community. The organization is currently hoping to raise enough funds to move into a newer building, as their current building was built in 1903 and has limitations on the services they can provide.

In the meantime, Good Samaritan Ministries is facing a challenge of slow payments on their grants, which has been a problem for many organizations due to the pandemic.

Patty and her team are working to address these issues and ensure that they can continue to provide the services and programs their clients rely on. Patty's commitment

to helping people in need and her experience in administration and management have made her a valuable asset to Good Samaritan Ministries. With her leadership, the organization is poised to make an even greater impact in the lives of those it serves.

CORRECTIONS

Colleen Bader – Her undergraduate university was misprinted last time as SIU Edwardsville. Her correct undergraduate university was University of Evansville (in Evansville Indiana).

Dr. Sarah Buila has been teaching at SIU since 1998, and has been a Program Director for 14 years. Her Undergraduate Major was in Art.

Professor Diedra Hopes – her name was spelled wrong last time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH MORE NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, FACULTY, STAFF, OR STUDENTS:

Editor:

Dona J. Reese, PhD, MSW, LCSW
Professor, Social Work
School of Human Sciences
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
djreese@siu.edu

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Designer:

Lauren Clark

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

-Helen Keller