



THE SOCIAL BUZZ

East Central University's Social Work Program Newsletter

In this issue:

- Greetings
- Phi Alpha Induction
- Simulation Labs
- Events
- Upcoming
- Calantha's Corner

Greetings from the Director

What a wonderful and exciting semester we have had! It's delightful to see our social work students in action. From serving a meal to the homeless to working together to create a



homecoming float. Our students are involved and engaged in their communities.

Our program is growing and changing to meet the needs of an ever-changing and complex society. For the first time at East Central University, we had 24 social work students from our practice courses participate in simulation labs. The outcomes were terrific. Students report feeling that the simulation labs have helped to better prepare them to work with clients.

It's been a joy to watch our students flourish while serving our community. These students will soon enter the world of professional social work and help societies most vulnerable. We are confident that our students are well prepared to serve and we can't wait to see what the future holds.

Warm Regards,

Amy Ward, Program Director

Phi Alpha Honor Society Induction

The East Central University chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, Phi Upsilon, held its fall induction ceremony on Friday, October 13th. The ceremony highlighted the purpose of the society, its history, and the lighting of individual peace candles, signifying the intention to promote world peace. Participating students were pinned and received their membership certificates. Phi Alpha is an international social work honor society which promotes humanitarian goals and ideas as well as a closer bond among students. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and our local chapter invites into membership those who have attained an overall GPA of 3.25 and a 3.5 GPA in social work courses. We were delighted to have friends and family attend, bear witness to the event and share in refreshments.

Inductees for this year include (from left to right): Kimberly Talkington, Rebekah Byrd, Shelby Bryant, Kirstyn Campbell, Kathryn "Jade" Rankins, and Jamie Smith. Pictured with faculty advisor, Ms. Shelley Bailey



SIMULATION LABS BRING TOGETHER UPPER-LEVEL STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

An innovative way of bringing several academic disciplines together came to fruition recently with Simulation Labs at East Central University.

Upper-level students from disciplines such as social work, criminal justice, nursing and legal studies came together to work in mock multi-disciplinary teams to deal with real-life, complex issues, according to Amy Ward, social program director at ECU.

“The teams dealt with substance abuse, mental health and child welfare issues and came up with solutions,” said Ward. “Faculty from all of those programs were there and able to give quick feedback. The students absolutely loved it.”

The Simulation Labs provided a professional-like atmosphere, according to Ward.

“The students were able to see what networking looks like as each got to play a professional role,” Ward said. “It was a good experience for them.”

Ward called this event or ‘Pillar 1’ as successful. Another event, called ‘Pillar 2,’ brought in fine arts students as client actors to help create more real-life situations.

The reasoning behind the labs, according to Ward, is that social work students will not be so terrified and be prepared to deal with clients during their internships.

“By participating in these simulation labs, the social work students will have a better grasp of what to do and how to react to situations, thus providing a smoother transition into their internships and ultimately their careers,” said Ward.



East Central University students participate in Phase 1 of the social work simulation labs

Social work student, Brandon Meador, along with Fine Arts acting students, participate in Phase 2 of the Simulation Labs



Events



Social Work students and faculty volunteer their time to serve food at Abba's Tables for those in need



Below: Social Work students volunteer at the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, hosted by the Human Resources department, which allows East Central University and the community to come together in fellowship. Free meals were provided to roughly 1,200 people



Above: Social Work students and Faculty participate in the 2017 homecoming parade

Congrats to our December 2017 Graduates!



Upcoming:

- January 16th: spring semester begins
- March: Social Work Month-Leaders. Advocates. Champions.
- March 6th: Self-care training with Dr. Burke

Calantha's Corner



Happy Holidays, my Social Work peeps,

Congratulations on successfully completing another semester!

As we rush towards winter break, I wanted to remind you that the Library has an abundance of entertainment to get you through those long winter nights. Not only do we have an excellent collection of DVDs on the 3rd floor, ranging from a six hour documentary on the civil war (shout out to all my fellow nerds!) to all nine seasons of Seinfeld, but we also are well stocked with both fiction and non-fiction books. For all the mom's and dad's out there, the Children's Literature section on the 3rd floor contains a plethora of age-appropriate books to keep your kiddo's brain busy.

To find out whether the Library has the DVD or book you want, go to library.ecok.edu and click the Books & More tab.

If you have any trouble, shoot me an email at ctillotsn@ecok.edu or call me up at 580-559-5370.

I wish you all a jolly holiday break!

Calantha

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