

Social Work Alumni

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Hello, Social Work Alumni! Greeting from the Dean

Special points of interest:

- *Greeting from the Dean*
- *MSW Coalition*
- *Alumni Feature*
- *Alumni Weekend*
- *CEU Opportunities*
- *Senior Spotlight*

Greetings from the School of Social Work! We are excited to bring you the inaugural issue of our alumni newsletter. We hope that by these efforts to reach out to you our connection will grow stronger and we will experience the benefits of mutual support that is the backbone of the social work profession. We also hope that as you read the information we share here, you will spread the good news

about your alma mater and the impact we are having on students, our church, and the community through our projects and by educating the next generation of social work professionals.

It is our desire to create an ongoing dialog to meet your needs as alums from this program and to celebrate the milestones of your lives and careers. Please let us know about the work you are doing and your personal journeys.



Send us pictures and stories that we can share with others who have graduated from our program. All the best to you as you use and further develop the skills to carry out your calling.
- **Dr. Rene Drumm**

MSW Coalition *contributed by Abby Smith*

The MSW Coalition mission is to enhance the lives of others through the social work profession in Christ centered service and dedication to the social work code of ethics. The coalition is student led and committed to providing implementation and activities that promote professional growth, community service, and fellowship among its members. We work with the local NASW chapter on events and promoting Social Work Month in March.

The coalition will help to promote NASW award nominations and the award banquet, sponsored by the local NASW TN chapter. We also plan to help a cohort promote Suicide Awareness week on Southern Advent-

ist University's campus. The coalition will also have a booth and invite guest speakers on the topic of sex trafficking. This will hopefully create awareness on campus and provide information on how to get involved in Chattanooga, TN.

We invite the alumni to be members of the MSW Coalition and stay connected with Southern Adventist University's School of Social Work. The benefits of alumni joining the MSW Coalition include: access to an online professional portfolio site, networking opportunities, and opportunities to get involved with projects in your community. If you are interested in joining the coalition or have questions please contact jstollenmaier@southern.edu or visit the website <http://students.swpro.org/club/>.

Inspiring Quote:

"Don't give up. I believe in you all. A person's a person no matter how small."

- Dr. Seuss



Alumni Weekend *contributed by Lisa Koffler*

Last October 2011, Daniells Hall opened its doors to welcome alumni during Southern's annual Alumni Weekend. Current events such as the new MSW program and new research projects were displayed. Delicious finger foods, desserts and beverages were available while current students spent time socializing with alumni.

Although several students came by, the School of Social Work and Family Studies is hoping to have a bigger turnout this coming Alumni Weekend. The thought of an alumni dinner is in mind.

If there is anything in particular you would like to see happen at next year's Alumni Weekend let us know! We look forward to seeing you!



(Left to right) Graduate assistants: Lisa Koffler, Abby Smith, Amanda Chase and professors Shannon Trecartin and Ed Lamb.

Alumni Feature: Anamaria Cordero



Class
of
2009

Anamaria Cordero graduated from Southern in 2009. She misses the rich social and safe atmosphere at Southern as well as being surrounded by passionate social work professionals.

One of Ana's favorite memories happened during the policy class trip to DC. "We had two big vans for our trip and we created a game using two walkie-talkies between the vans as we drove," Ana recalls.

"The game was that one van

would offer up a surprising fact about one of the occupants in the van and the other van had to try and guess whom the fact was about."

"We learned a lot of unexpected and impressive information, to say the least. It was also amazing," says Ana, "to see how much we really did know about each other."

Ana always planned on getting her MSW because she wanted to be a counselor. After graduating, with her BSW, she promptly went back to work at camp to continue her service to the youth. Ana went on to complete an advanced standing MSW program at UCF. She encourages other alumni to remember why they chose the social work profession and to keep making efforts to keep their passion for people alive while they do God's work of helping heal families.

Upcoming Events:

**Continuing Education
Units Catalog Coming
Soon, Fall 2012!!**

Specialization opportunities in the summer for Alumni:

International
Family and Children
Advocacy and Treatment
Crisis and Trauma

If you would like more information please contact us at swfsalumni@southern.edu.

**Social Work Awareness
Month: March**



THE MITZVAH DAY PROJECT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS THROUGH MUCH HARD WORK AND PRAYER AND I FEEL SO BLESSED TO WORK AT AN AGENCY SO COMMITTED TO SERVICE. -CRISTY KAY

Senior Spotlight: Cristy Kay

Contributed by Cristy's Field Supervisor

On Sunday, January 15, the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga hosted a communitywide service project. This year over 100 volunteers from the Jewish community as well as Southern Adventist University took part in six projects that all benefitted Barger Academy of Fine Arts, a local elementary school in the Brainerd area.

By the end of the day, two learning mats were made for math and spelling games, a brick walkway was laid making it easier for the kids and staff to travel to and from

outdoor classrooms, materials for 80 puppets were cut for a drama class, many birthday cards and crowns were made, 52 book readings were recorded for first and second grade students, and a truck full of school supplies were collected. As part of Cristy Kay's senior year field placement, she was responsible for coordinating this event. Cristy worked with the Jewish Federation Director of Programs, Ann Treadwell and Director of Social Services, Amy Boulware to coordinate all of the details

associated with the six projects. She met with team leaders for each project, arranged for supplies and handled the logistics of the day itself. Cristy was able to learn how a project goes from an idea to reality with all the bumps and stress that goes along with it. Cristy is an outstanding example of a student who takes her field placement seriously and is willing to literally get her hands dirty to get the job done!

Groundbreaking Domestic Violence Workshop *contributed by Lisa Koffler*

In February, the School of Social Work held a seminar on domestic violence. The first of several, this seminar was geared specifically toward training pastors to be first responders in the area of domestic violence. This groundbreaking workshop was held on Southern's campus with pastors from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in attendance. As the first known worldwide attempt to train and educate pastors to be first responders in the problem of domestic violence,

this was a truly revolutionary event.

During the training, pastors learned of Dr. Drumm's research and how prevalent domestic violence is within Adventist congregations. They listened as a former victim shared her experience of abuse by her husband, who was a well-known church member. At the end of training, the pastors engaged in role-play to practice responding to victims' reports.

Dr. Drumm has engaged in extensive research on domestic violence

in the Seventh-day Adventist Church since the 1980's. Research findings suggest that pastors are people that victims confide in but often they are not as helpful as the victims of domestic violence would like them to be. From this research, Dr. Drumm has found what is most helpful for victims of domestic violence in the church. She is working towards sharing this information with pastors so they may better meet the needs of their congregations.

If you are interested in being featured in the Alumni spotlight or you would like to share with us an alumnus to feature, please contact us by email.

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