



School of
Social Work

*dignity service
compassion spirit*

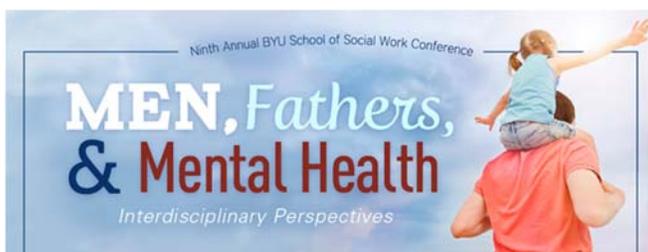


School of Social Work Hosts 9th Annual Conference

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The 9th Annual BYU Social Work Conference, *Men, Fathers and Mental Health*, was held on November 7th, 2014, in the Hinckley Center at BYU. The presenters represented a wide range of mental health clinicians, professors and professionals, including Michael Addis, Professor of Psychology from Clark University; Scott Easton, Assistant Professor of Social Work from Boston College; Kay Bradford, Associate Professor of Family, Consumer and Human Development at Utah State University; Cindy Lee, Adjunct Professor at Brigham



individual's mental health.

Dr. Michael Addis delivered the first plenary address, discussing gender understanding and the



Kevin Shafer

method of help-seeking behaviors, typically employed by men. The second plenary speaker was Dr. Scott Easton, who discussed the mental health of men with histories of child sexual abuse. Both interim break-out sessions featured the same three speakers: Dr. Kay Bradford, who discussed men and their help-seeking behaviors; Cindy Lee, LCSW, featuring clinical considerations for treating men with anxiety or de-



Cindy Lee

pression, and Dr. Shawn L. Christiansen, Professor of Family Life and Human Development at Southern Utah University; and Jennifer Bellamy, Associate Professor of Social Work from the University of Denver.



Shawn Christiansen

pression, and Dr. Shawn L. Christiansen, who discussed methods of supporting young men emerging into adulthood. The third plenary featured Dr. Jennifer Bellamy, who discussed her practice with fathers learning to become more involved in the lives of their family members.

Dr. Kevin Shafer, the keynote speaker, discussed the dignity and worth of all individuals. He spoke especially about men and mental



Michael Addis

health and argued that biology does not explain gender differences in mental health but rather aspects such as unstable employment, everyday stress, traumatic stressors, current events, and childhood losses all contribute to an

To end the conference, Erin Holmes, PhD, BYU, moderated a panel discussion with Dr. Michael Addis, Dr. Scott Easton, and Dr. Jennifer Bellamy, responding to questions relevant to their practice with men, in a variety of mental health circumstances.

The most common comment from conference participants was, "The conference was a huge success!" All who were involved felt they were able to learn and greatly expand their understanding of men's mental health. Many, also, spoke very positively of BYU, its students, and this "wonderful conference" hosted by the School of Social Work.



Dr. Gordon Limb

School of Social Work Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Social Work at Brigham Young University is to support the overall mission of BYU and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by generating new knowledge and by educating and training students to use the appropriate knowledge, values, and skills of the social work profession to serve children and families within their environment and the context of their specific cultures.

From the Director

By Dr. Gordon Limb

I had two experiences recently that enhanced my love of social work and my appreciation for life. First, I heard a song on the radio by Matthew West, a Christian musician, entitled “Do Something” where in the lyrics, he saw a world full of trouble with people living in poverty and he turned toward heaven and said “God, why don’t You do something?” Inferring God should not allow all these bad things to happen. God’s unexpected response was “I did; I created you.” I think many of us have either asked this question or had others ask it of us. But when I heard that song, it caused me to say “Yes; I do have the power to do something.” I then thought of Elder Bednar’s charge to be agents who act, instead of being acted upon. It caused me to ponder on the mission and values of social work and how many of you are taking that charge, to do something. Social work is not easy work, a fact that I tell many students who come to my office asking about the MSW program. However, I can’t think of a better profession that allows us to do something to make the world a better place for all of God’s children, especially for those who are poor and disenfranchised.

My second experience took place recently, when I was driving my son to his friend’s house in Mapleton. On my way back, I looked up and saw a majestic bald eagle sitting atop a large tree next to the road. That was the first time I had ever seen an eagle anywhere around where I live. At that point, my American Indian heritage came into play. You see, American Indians believe eagles, especially bald eagles, have a special connection with the Great Spirit. So seeing an eagle in this way would be a sign of good luck. I remember my attitude becoming more positive and I thought to myself, “today is going to be a good day.” And it was. As I look back now, I can see how small, positive things in our lives really make a difference. I also hope that I can be a positive influence in others’ lives as well. Thanks to so many of you, for all you do to be that positive influence in my life.

Well, this past year has been busy and exciting for the School of Social Work. In October of 2014 we had seven MSW students give presentations at the Council on Social Work Education’s APM in Tampa, FL. Each did an outstanding job and many were asked questions like “how long until you finish your PhD?” Three of these students were actually clinical emphasis students, who presented on pertinent clinical issues. All of these students should be commended for this accomplishment and being great representatives of BYU’s School of Social Work.

I would also like to express appreciation to Kevin Shafer for leading a successful conference last fall that focused on Men, Fathers, and Mental Health. Any of you who have worked on a conference of this magnitude knows the amount of effort it takes. I am also very grateful to Charlene Clark and our two student planners (Nichole Conrad and Jessica Helms) for their work in pulling this off.

We are sad to see Mike Seipel and Shirley Cox retire and wish them the best in the next phase of their lives. Both have been wonderful contributors to the School and will be greatly missed. As of Fall 2015, Kevin Marett and Jini Roby will become our senior faculty members. I am confident that they will help continue the strong tradition of BYU Social Work. For me personally, it’s a privilege to work with great faculty, staff, students, and alumni at BYU. The School of Social Work is truly a special place. Thanks to each of you for your contribution.

From the Alumni President

By Ruth Aguirre

The School of Social Work at Brigham Young University continues to change and grow as we have a new group of students each year, faculty retiring and hiring, and a new Alumni President! It is with great honor and humility that I continue the wonderful journey and reputation that Sandra Wilkes has set so well before me. I have appreciated the input and support that I have received since taking over and feel enthusiasm and excitement to work with you as well as along side our faculty at BYU.

We would like to sincerely thank Dr. Michael Seipel and Dr. Shirley Cox for their wonderful contributions and legacy to the School of Social Work. Their dedication in teaching students to be successful was and continues to be something that students will always remember! Thank you for being part of our journey in helping us to become field ready professionals.

Last year's November Social Work Conference was a great success! We had wonderful speakers, including some of our own professors and alumni, who taught us about some of the issues concerning "Men, Fathers, and Mental Health." The information was highly valuable, informative, and helped us recognize signs or cues from males, that might signify mental, emotional, physical, or spiritual distress. The breakout sessions were insightful and valuable as we continued to learn about specific populations and treatment modules. It was very helpful to know how to "get guys in therapy," and what to do "once they are in your office." Thank you again to all the speakers who contributed to another wonderful conference.

There have been events and activities, that have been organized in the past for our Alumni Association, including a picnic during Homecoming week. I am interested in hearing what you would like to see or do that would include fun activities that would help us get together as alumni. It is always exciting to see peers and classmates again and talk about where our journey has led us. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send them to me at: ruthaguirrecounseling@gmail.com. I would appreciate any and all input you may have, as I continue to serve you.

Another resource for alumni is an ongoing list of potential jobs. If you are aware of job openings in your agency or in your community, please let the School of Social Work know. This is a great resource for us all and helps us network with the community.

The Social Work program continues to uphold its reputation of producing outstanding students by continually refining and improving the program through upgraded goals and competency outcomes. It is a wonderful time to be a social worker and the School of Social Work of Brigham Young University is no exception, in providing quality social workers to communities around the world.

Ruth Aguirre
BYU School of Social Work
Alumni President



Ruth Aguirre

Your donation helps provide an excellent educational experience for students. If each of our 4,000+ social work alumni gave just \$10 per year, that would fund a scholarship for a current social work student!

Yes, your donation matters!

For donations to the School of Social Work contact:

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(801) 422-8028

Help give more students an "exceptional educational experience."

Dr. Shirley Cox Announces Retirement



Dr. Shirley Cox is retiring September 1st, this year and looking forward to missionary service, including humanitarian service and Public Affairs presentations (where requested), family history and genealogy, and spending time with family and friends.

She began work at BYU in June of 1995, as the bridge Field Director successor to Dr. Gene Gibbons. Previously, after receiving her DSW from the University of Utah, she spent eight years on the faculty at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and one year at Weber State University in Ogden. During this time, she has taught in the areas of social policy, administration, direct practice, human behavior, and research. Always active in on-campus committees, Dr. Cox currently serves on the Civic Engagement and Leadership Minor, College Faculty Awards, Women's Studies, and Internal Development committees.

Throughout her 32 year social work career in direct service practice in state and private-non-profit agencies (1962-1995) and her 29 year career as a tenure track educator (1986-2015)—she acknowledges some dual-service time—Dr. Cox received numerous financial grants totaling over 8 million dollars. Awards for her teaching and

community practice include the Liberal Arts Outstanding Faculty Award, the Morris Committee on Excellence in Teaching Award, the NASW Nevada Chapter Social Worker of the year (1990), and the John R. Christiansen Honored Educator Award (2003) “for significant contributions to the field in university, family, community, national, and international arenas.”

Since joining the faculty at BYU, Dr. Cox has published thirty seven articles or book chapters in six different areas of social work: strengthening family systems, HIV/AIDS treatment validity, same-sex-attraction, international program and community development, field practicum administration, and the JUCONI street children's program in Puebla, Mexico. Her



individual and jointly authored publications appear in outlets such as: the *Journal of International Social Work* and the *Journal of Social Work Education*, both of which venues she served as an invited editor of 86 submitted articles in her areas of expertise.

Dr. Cox also served on the Boards of local, state, national, and international organizations: 7 years (two terms) on the national (NASW) board and 7

years on the NASW Utah State Chapter board, 8 years on the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) board, 8 years on the International Consortium for Social Development board, and 18 years on the local ScenicView Academy board. She has, also, served as an invited consultant to numerous governmental agencies across the world.

During this last year, Dr. Cox and seven other authors working in an “Adversarial Collaboration” model established a new website, the “Reconciliation and Growth Project” (www.ReconciliationandGrowth.com) and have published documents outlining agreed-upon “Best Practices” for conducting therapy with individuals and families, struggling with issues attendant to same-sex attraction, and an applauded “Peacemaking Protocol” set of documents. One professional paper “Science, Advocacy, and the Woozling of Sexual Orientation Change Efforts” by Rosik, Cox, & Mansfield was recently submitted to the *Journal of Counseling Psychology*.

Last Fall, she made presentations in Melbourne, Australia and Almaty, Kazakhstan, regarding various models to strengthen families and promote the importance of emotional bonding and safety. She is expecting to make presentations this coming summer in Grenada, Turkey, Russia, and Singapore.

She reports that the highpoints of her year were a one week trip with her son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren from San Antonio, Texas, to visit church history sites, cross-country from Nauvoo, Illinois and back in an eight passenger van; and a ten day trip to San Carlos, Mexico with her daughter's family. Shades of more to come...

Dr. Michael Seipel Announces Retirement



Dr. Michael M.O. Seipel announced that he will retire from BYU's School of Social Work at the end of this academic year (August, 2015). He was one of the pioneers of the MSW Program, having joined the faculty in 1982, just one year after the MSW program joined the BSW program, initially accredited in 1975. During his time at BYU, Dr. Seipel taught primarily *Social Welfare Policy and Community Organization* courses at both the MSW and BSW levels.

Dr. Seipel's research interest has been in the areas of health and poverty throughout the world and he has published articles on these topics in both national and international journals.

Previous students will remember how Dr. Seipel brought theory into practice as they participated with him in various community activities, such as meeting with the Utah Governor regarding pending state social service issues, traveling to Salt Lake to personally lobby State Legislators, helping to organize a political debate between Gubernatorial US Senate and US Representative candidates, participating in nationwide demonstrations to

enact more compassionate social welfare reform, and creating a nonprofit healthcare organization known as Baobab to raise sufficient funds to send ten students to Mozambique to promote safe hygiene practices, by local pregnant women.

Dr. Seipel has been affiliated with the Global Awareness Society International (GASI) for about 20 years and served as President for a two-year term 2006-2008. He continues to serve on the GASI board and states that one of the highlights of being involved is his being able to increase student scholarship by taking students to the conferences each year to present papers and

the National Association of Social Workers, serving as a chair of the Political Action for Candidate Election (PACE) committee. He was appointed by Governor Leavitt to serve as a member of the Utah Asian American Advisory Board and was also appointed as a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission, with the responsibility at one point, to address both chambers regarding social justice, on the opening day of the Utah State Legislature. He testified numerous times before legislative committees on welfare policies and human rights.

Dr. Seipel states he has enjoyed his career at BYU, "It has given me the opportunity to engage in the community and professional civic, and family life to the fullest extent. I am especially appreciative of my colleagues, who had faith in me and trusted me with many departmental responsibilities. I am grateful to have been able to work with faculty, staff, and students who have enriched my life."



Dr. Seipel and students with Governor Huntsman in his conference room

meet scholars from many parts of the world.

Throughout his career, Dr. Seipel served in many local community and professional organizations. He organized a citizen group, Renters United, to promote affordable and habitable low-income housing in Utah County. He assisted in the formation of the local Food and Care Coalition and served for many years on their board of directors, at one point as President. He was active in the Utah Chapter of



School Welcomes New Assistant Professor Cory Dennis



Cory Dennis

York where he earned his PhD in Social Welfare.

Cory's professional experience includes working at the Cirque Lodge providing residential substance abuse treatment, at the Center for Excellence in Aging and Community Wellness in New York, and part-time at LDS Family Services. Cory has also been the assistant professor for the School of Social Work at California State University, San Bernardino. He specializes in substance abuse treatment and 12 step programs, aging, and best practices. Cory has conducted research in the areas of aging, homelessness and substance abuse.

their clinical skills. [He is also] excited for the research emphasis at BYU and the support available to pursue various research interests. [Cory is] thrilled to join the respected and productive faculty at BYU."

In his free time, Cory enjoys being able to play golf, go fishing, coach his children's sports teams and read as many biographies as he can get his hands on! The faculty and staff are thrilled and excited to welcome Professor Cory Dennis to the BYU School of Social Work!

The School of Social Work welcomes Assistant Professor Cory Dennis to the MSW program. He will join the faculty and staff summer term 2015. Cory graduated from the University of Utah with his BS in Sociology, earned his MSW at BYU 10 years ago, obtained his LCSW and went to the University at Albany, State University of New

Cory will be teaching the Advanced Clinical Practice, Advanced Group Work, and Clinical Practicum courses. He has stated that he is "thrilled to return to BYU, teach clinical courses and work with students on developing

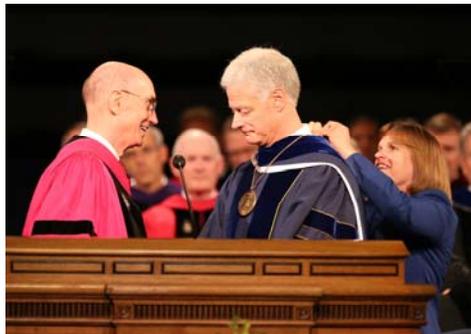


School Advisory Council



The School of Social Work greatly appreciates the time and effort of our Advisory Council, which meets with our administration. The purpose of their quarterly meeting is to receive updates on our program curriculum and activities, and to provide input and to advise the school on the community's reception of our students and activities.

President Worthen's Inauguration



President Henry B. Eyring officially installs President Worthen with the presidential medallion, assisted by his wife, Peggy Worthen

September 9th, 2014, Kevin J. Worthen was inaugurated as the 13th President of Brigham Young University. President Henry B. Eyring, 1st Counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and First Vice Chairman of the BYU Board of Trustees, gave the installation charge and spoke at the event. He spoke of the confidence he has in President Worthen in fulfilling his new role of leading all those who will teach, study, and serve at the university. President Eyring, recognizing that at times it will be hard, stated that it will be Worthen's "ability to be a determined learner and mentor that will help him stay calm and guide him in administrative decisions." President Worthen then addressed the

student body, faculty and staff of BYU. He said, "We are to 'assist individuals in their quest for perfection and eternal life' by providing 'a period of intensive learning' that includes not just the 'arts, letters, and sciences' but also the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ.'...We need to provide an education that allows our students not just to learn new things and to experience spiritual insights, but to become different, better people. That is the kind of education we aspire to provide: the type of life-changing education that can take an inexperienced and insecure young man from the coal mines of Carbon County - whose main aspiration was to be a pro basketball player and who never dreamed of being a university professor - and prepare him intellectually and spiritually to become, by some unlikely miracle, the president of one of the greatest universities in America."

Also in attendance was President Thomas S. Monson, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, 2nd Counselor in the First Presidency, Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and chairman of the executive commit-

tee of the board of trustees, and four of the University's past presidents - Elder Dallin H. Oaks and Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Merrill J. Bateman,



President Thomas S. Monson & President Worthen

Elder Cecil O. Samuelson, emeritus Seventies and other LDS Church leaders and university personnel.



Current and past living presidents of BYU: Elder Dallin H. Oaks, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, President Kevin J. Worthen, Elder Merrill J. Bateman, and Elder Cecil O. Samuelson

New Course: 669 Advanced Practice Skills

Our program has added a new required course to be taught the final semester of our two year MSW program. The new course, Social Work 669, Advanced Clinical Practice, is being taught by Dr. Marett.

In collaboration with the students, the class was conceived to cover a variety of topics not previously taught in the program, e.g. addictions, additional theories, and the philosophy of change.

Utilizing the strengths of the students and the community, as well as those of the university, the course will draw on the expertise of those with specialized experience to provide an enriched learning opportunity. The course will

allow students to formalize their approach to therapy and the change process as well as expand their knowledge, skills, and abilities at an advanced level.

Though still early in this first semester, as a core course, the class has had favorable and enthusiastic responses from students. This course will undoubtedly make a valued addition to our already outstanding program!



Faculty & Staff Updates



Dr. David Wood

Dr. Wood continues to work with the faculty this year as a visiting professor, teaching our DSM and Motivational Interviewing courses. He has had a busy year, also teaching the Research Project Evaluation Class for the first time. In addition, he has worked with Aaron Parks and Ryan Turner on their research on

Adults with Military Experience Who Come from Stepfamilies and the resulting presentations at recent CSWE and SSWR Conferences. He enjoys being with the students and has said that "It is great to be able to directly contribute to our community agencies, and teach students valuable professional skills in the process."



Dr. Gordon Limb

Dr. Limb has had another very busy year presenting at both CSWE and SSWR as well as publishing 4 articles, three of which he collaborated with students. He is currently working with Dr. Kevin Shafer on an American Indian Stepfamilies project and they are currently focusing on adults emerging from these families. He is also enjoying his first time teaching the Spirituality Class in which he focuses on

spiritual assessments with clients. Dr. Limb's oldest daughter joined him at BYU this year as a freshman and enjoys going to lunch with her each week in the Cannon Center.

Dr. Kevin Marett



Dr. Marett has begun teaching two new courses this year. The first semester he taught the Psychotherapy class and states he really enjoyed that experience. This term he has begun teaching another new course, Advanced Clinical Practice and has, as well, thoroughly enjoyed that opportunity! In addition to the new courses, he will continue to teach Crisis Intervention, Marriage and Family Therapy, Clinical Practicum, and

Human Sexuality and Social Work Practice.

Dr. Kevin Shafer



Dr. Shafer is teaching the Research Statistics and Methods course and has now added the Community Organization course to his current teaching responsibilities. Of this new addition to his course load, he states, "This class sort of returns me to my roots, having been trained initially as a sociologist. I'm excited to teach 2nd year students, in particular." He also organized and managed the 2014 BYU Social Work Conference, "Men,

Fathers, & Mental Health" and is the co-organizer of the Society for Social Work & Research's Special Interest Group on Social Work with Men. Dr. Shafer further added to his busy year, publishing six different articles, all with participation of a current or former student of the MSW program, and presenting at thirteen different venues located across the country.



Wendy Sheffield

Wendy Sheffield has had a wonderful year! She has collaborated with Kristin Carr and published an article, "Rubric Assisted Competency Evaluation," which was also presented at CSWE and was well received. She has served as a Co-Chair for the Northwest Division of Field Consortium and looks forward to serving this year as the Chair for 2016. Wendy is also teaching a class that is new to her, Direct Prac-

tice, and is loving it! She has stated that it has been a great experience and she has had a lot of fun with her students as they have interviewed Dracula, for his blood addictions, and Casper, for his boundary issues. She states that life is good and she is enjoying the small things in life - like a new dishwasher that works!



School Welcomes New Adjunct Faculty Stuart Harper



Stuart Harper

Stuart Harper, who began teaching the BYU MSW Clinical Practicum course during the Fall semester 2014, has worked for 17 years as an LCSW at the Family Support and Treatment Center in Orem, Utah, where he completed one of

his internships, as a BYU MSW Student. He states that he has greatly enjoyed his work at the Center and has remained in close contact with the School of Social Work, in part, by providing supervision for students completing their

internships there.

Stuart has greatly enjoyed teaching the Clinical Practicum course. He expressed that he has been “pleasantly surprised by the great students” he has taught in the MSW program and that they have exceeded his expectations “in every way possible.” Stuart even described the students as “sponges” in the way they “soak in every bit of knowledge they can, and in their eagerness to learn and do the best work possible.”

Stuart enjoys observing the progress of the Social Work program, is especially grateful for the time that he has been associated with the university, and treasures the experiences that he has had here. He would like to thank the staff and faculty for being so helpful and accommodating by helping him begin teaching, but most especially Charlene Clark for keeping track of everyone and everything going on in the school!

School Welcomes New Adjunct Faculty Marty Matheson



Marty Matheson

Marty Matheson has begun again to teach the 611 Clinical Practicum course at BYU. He has been involved in teaching many other courses, both graduate and undergraduate courses, in the School of Social Work, School of Family Life and the School of Nursing at BYU.

He has also done some work as a part time faculty member for both the University of Utah and Utah Valley University.

Marty currently works as the Clinical Services Unit Manager for ScenicView Academy overseeing psychotherapy, psychology and recreation therapy services. He graduated from the BYU MSW program, and has had a continual working relationship with the staff and faculty here through

both teaching classes and providing supervision for students interning at ScenicView Academy.

Marty stated that teaching the 611 course has been a great way to come back to BYU and he is delighted to do so. He expressed that he is grateful to be able to see the changes that have occurred in the MSW program over the years, with a specific emphasis on the research portion of the program. Of the students here, he said “They are a very capable and sharp group, who are extremely teachable and want to learn and receive feedback.” Marty said that his favorite part “of being able to teach 611, as well as being a supervisor for the interning students at ScenicView Academy, is being able to see the students ‘fly’, to see the ‘light bulbs’ go on, and to watch the students prepare themselves with power and excitement for this great field.”



Professor Jini Roby Update



Professor Jini Roby reports that she “has had an extremely busy, but wonderful year!” She published an article in the *British Journal of Social Work* on the pilot testing and contextual adaptation of the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) model, using process data from Guatemala. She also co-authored an article published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* with Todd Jensen

(MSW, 2013), Dr. Kevin Shafer, and Dr. C.Y. Roby on the differences between the polygraph outcomes of adults and adolescents. Additional work this past year includes a book chapter she co-authored with Taylor Brown (UNC Chapel Hill) and her service as a co-guest editor of a special issue of *International Social Work* dealing with the effects of human trafficking.

In addition, Professor Roby presented papers at CSWE with Chanel Nagaishi and Lauren Allred (2nd year MSW students) and participated in a panel presentation on orphan tourism. In addition, she participated in the roundtable discussion group of the Better Care Network, made a presentation in New York City on children’s living arrangements and school enrollment, and conducted training on case management in Malawi and Myanmar.

She reports the highlight of her year has been her research work in Ghana, with Dr. Kevin Shafer, Dr. Spencer James, and students (led by 1st year MSW, Bryan Teuscher) as they gathered data on the wellbeing of children and youth in orphanages as compared to children returned to the care of their families.

Professor Roby has also begun teaching the *Human Behavior in the Social Environment* class and states she has enjoyed learning along with her students this first term.

Dr. Ken Matheson Update



The Matheson's

Dr. Ken Matheson, who taught at BYU from 1982-2014, has certainly been kept busy since his retirement, as he and his wife have accepted a mission call for The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Originally, the call was to serve in Great Britain to officiate and administer LDS Family Services from the London Office for a period of 18 months.

However, the Lord soon had different plans for Dr. Matheson and his wife. Elder and Sister Matheson received a phone call from Church Headquarters in Salt Lake City,

just days before they were to report to the Provo Missionary Training Center, stating that there would be a change in their call. Instead of serving the people of Great Britain, they are now to be serving out of Church’s Europe Area Offices in Frankfurt, Germany, and will be officiating and administering LDS Family Services for the entire Europe area, comprised of 40 different countries.

We are excited for their opportunity to serve in this capacity and for the help and support their unique sets of skills and abilities will bring to their new area. We wish them luck in all of their endeavors in Europe!



First day at the MTC

Brown Bag Lecture

Every semester, MSWSA hosts a brown-bag lecture for students. For these lectures, professionals from the community are asked to come and present on various topics. The speaker for this past Fall semester was Collette Dawson-Loveless, LCSW, RPT. Collette is the Program Director at the Green House Center for Growth and Learning in Pleasant Grove, UT. She is also a BYU alumni.

During her presentation, she discussed basic Attachment Theory, the different attachment styles, and how problems with attachment can lead to interpersonal difficulties. She then shared principles from DBT that can be helpful in working with clients. This presentation was a great opportunity for students to learn more about Attachment and DBT principles and to meet a professional working in the community.



Collette Dawson-Loveless

New Graduate Student Orientation & Activities



Graduate students visiting booths at the fair

On September 10th, 2014, a new graduate student information fair was held to acquaint students with university services and resources. Students visited different booths and received tickets to enter into a drawing for either half or full tuition scholarships.



Rodney Brown

Later that day, new graduate students from every department across the university enjoyed a night filled with good company, food, prizes, and inspirational talks. Our 39 new 1st year MSW students

were among the 1,075 people who attended. A favored presenter, Rodney Brown, dean of the BYU College of Life Sciences, shared his insights and experiences on the path to becoming a scholar. The tuition drawing took place during dinner, and unfortunately none of our MSW students won.

Students were able to mingle with their own cohorts as well as those from different departments. "It was really neat to sit with students from other graduate departments and get to know them and their interests," said Megan Urick, a 1st year MSW student, "BYU is full of diversity, and it was fun to see some of that diversity during the dinner." Overall it was a fun and uplifting evening to kick off the new graduate students' BYU experiences.



Student leaves a "Thank You" message on their dessert plate

Ghana Project



Professor Roby, Professor Shafer, and Professor Spencer James (Family Life) joined forces this past summer to conduct a major research project in Ghana. Supported by the Hinckley Endowed Chair and a University MEG grant, this project is designed to compare and contrast the wellbeing of chil-

dren and youth in orphanages with children who have been returned back to their families (90% of the children in the orphanages they are studying, do have families to which they can return, with minimal support).

Professor Roby supervised the spring term students and Professor James supervised the summer term students. First year MSW student, Bryan Teuscher, accompanied Professor Roby to Ghana, as her research assistant and was able to help in the collection of data. The experience enabled all to better understand how to connect research completed as social workers to the individuals it benefits in the long run.

Highlights from the trip included contrasting cultural experiences. Students and professors were able to enjoy several beautiful national parks and a humbling tour through two slave castles in the Cape Coast of Ghana. They noted seeing a sobering sign posted at one of the castles, where tens of thousands of slaves were kept under unspeakable inhumane conditions, before being shipped across the Atlantic for further abuse and exploitation.



Medicaid Vigil

On the evening of Saturday, 10 October 2014, a number of students from Dr. Cox's Introduction to Social Work class and Dr. Seipel's undergraduate and graduate Social Welfare Policy classes joined several hundred community advocates at the State Capital building for a candlelight vigil. The purpose of the vigil was to call on the



Dr. Seipel and students at the State Capital

State of Utah to expand Medicaid programs for low-income Utahans. This event was part of a larger nationwide effort to bring Medicaid issues to the forefront. Similar social action events were also held on the same evening in

more than twenty states that have not as yet expanded their Medicaid programs. This event was covered nationwide by both the television and the print media.

Speakers noted that health care coverage is neither a conservative nor a liberal issue; rather, it is a moral issue of our time. They remarked that the provision of basic health care is a moral and political imperative and that no one should go bankrupt or die because they cannot afford health care. Some people in our state are literally dying for lack of medical coverage because they cannot afford to secure or access the life-saving procedures and medications they need. Individuals currently without insurance declared they live in fear every day. Several others stated that if it were not for Medicaid they could not have received lifesaving proce-

dures and would not be present to tell about it.

Attendees signed the petition to the legislature, requesting that Medicaid coverage be expanded. Several students wrote personalized notes to legislators in the hope that they will step up and pass the proposed Medicaid bill during the upcoming legislative session. Following the formal vigil, the BYU group met with several individuals to further discuss the issue, share research, and together look for workable strategies.



AmeriCorps Swearing-in Ceremony & Service Project



Along with many other students across the nation, BYU's MSW students were sworn in as AmeriCorps members (September 12th, 2014) by President Obama. The AmeriCorps network of local, state, and national service programs, connects over 70,000 volunteers in America, to

provide services to meet community needs in education, the environment, public safety, health, and homeland security.



Students creating flashcards and puppets



Students being sworn in by President Obama

The School of Social Work, within BYU's College of Family, Home, & Social Sciences, received our AmeriCorps grant

through the Utah Commission on Volunteers. The focus in our School's AmeriCorps program is on increasing the capacity of mental health agencies in our community.

Our MSW students, who qualify for the program (US citizens working for non-profit organizations), typically receive a \$1,400 educational award to apply toward their tuition following their spring/summer internship and \$2,000 following their fall/winter internship.

During the local unit of the swearing-in ceremony, students worked on a service project organized by Lauren Miller, a 2nd year MSW student, with the assistance of the BYU YServe "Service to the World" program and BYU catering. During the project, students created puppets, flashcards, t-shirts, etc. to send to children in Ukraine and African countries. Lauren reported, "I'm sure that the puppets and cards we made will bring a lot of joy to some children, in other countries."



Faculty and 1st and 2nd year students



The Center for Service and Learning (Y-Serve) provides BYU students with service opportunities in the local community. They have 56 programs, many aligned with nonprofit agencies, and each one fulfilling a specific community need. Their programs fall under these categories: children/youth, education/mentoring, humanitarian, disabilities/elderly, health/sports, and self-reliance. Their mission is to provide every student with a meaningful service opportunity. If you'd like to have a meaningful service opportunity, you can contact them at (801) 422-8686 or at centerforservice@byu.edu, or find them on the internet at <http://yserve.byu.edu>.

Global Awareness Society International



Dr. Seipel

The 23rd annual conference of the Global Awareness Society International (GASI) was held in May of 2014 at the Hilton Rose Hall Hotel in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The theme of the conference was “The Search for Peace in a Challenging Global

Environment.” Scholars, students, and policy-makers from many parts of the world attended and presented the results of their research. Dr. Seipel presented a paper at the plenary session on “Regional Challenges in the Search for Global Peace in East Asia,” and another paper on “Marriage and Family Formation in the New Era” during a break-out session.

Khamphady (Kevin) Keovongsa, a current 2nd year MSW student, presented his paper titled “Rich Laos, Poor Laos: The Effects of Globalization and Health Spending in Laos.” Many scholars showed great interest in his paper and praised him for the quality of research and the poise with which he presented. The audience in his session, as well as some of the conference participants, were particularly intrigued by his LDS beliefs and standards. They were so impressed with his work that he was invited to attend the next conference.



2nd year Khamphady (Kevin) Keovongsa

A highlight of the conference was a one-day service project undertaken by the conference participants. GASI members provided a large quantity of school supplies and cash for children in the “Mustard Seed” Blessed Assurance home for children and adults with disabilities. Participants also painted some campus housing and rebuilt the access road damaged by several Caribbean hurricanes during the year. Both men and women, ages 18-80, worked with enthusiasm and both participants and recipients had a great experience.

Kevin was able to finance all of his travel expenses through grants and scholarships. Together with Dr. Seipel, he was able to obtain funds from the School of Social Work, the BYU Graduate Student Society, the Marjorie Pay Hinckley Endowed Chair, and a Global Awareness Society International scholarship. Kevin was one of five student recipients to receive the Dr. and Mrs. Chang S. Roh, Global Awareness \$500 Scholarship.



Khamphady (Kevin) Keovongsa with other student scholarship winners

For the first time this year, a scholarship of \$1000 each was awarded to six young faculty members who are on a tenure track. It is hoped that more scholarship monies will be generated to help students and young scholars participate at this conference in future years.

Students are encouraged to submit papers for the May 21-24, 2015, GASI conference which will be held on the campus of University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. Young scholars with less than seven years of university teaching experience are highly encouraged to apply for several competitive grants for the conference. Those who are interested in participating should contact Dr. Seipel for more information, as well as consult the GASI website <http://organizations.bloomu.edu/gasi/index.html>.



Students rebuilding a road for a service project

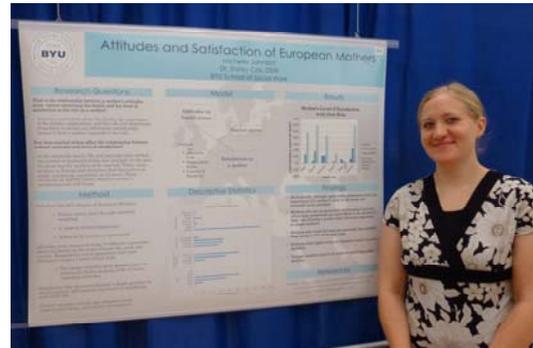
Fulton Poster Contest

Each year, the Mary Lou Fulton Chair sponsors an event for The College of Family, Home and Social Sciences and invites both graduate and undergraduate students from each department to participate in a mentored student research conference. For this conference students are required to prepare a poster illustrating the research they have done within their study abroad, service project or internship. The poster should contain the students' research hypothesis, research process, and research results. The student participates in a full day conference where they have the opportunity to present and explain their research to judges, other faculty members and students. Winners are then selected by a panel of judges from each department in the college.

Doug Wendt and Michelle Johnson (2nd year MSW students) participated in the 2014 Conference. Speaking of her participation in the Mary Lou Fulton Poster Contest, Michelle said, "It was a great experience. It was good to have the opportunity to share my research and answer questions about it. Participating in the conference gave me some ideas for improving my future research."

1st Place: Doug Wendt, With Dr. Kevin A. Shafer, presented on "Help Seeking Attitudes: Differences Between Women and Men."

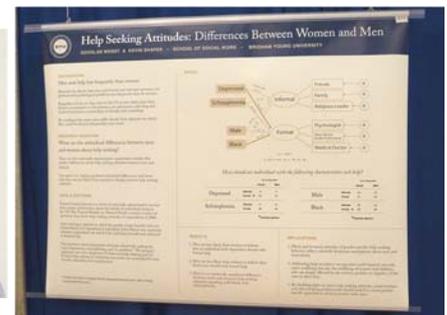
2nd Place: Michelle Johnson, with Dr. Shirley Cox as her faculty mentor, presented on "Attitudes and Satisfaction of European Mothers."



Michelle Johnson



Doug Wendt



Dr. Jorge Delva Visits

Visiting Scholar, Dr. Jorge Delva, Associate Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan, visited the BYU School of Social Work this past October, to share his research insights and experience in the areas of: the prevention and treatment of chemical dependency, drug epidemiology, and program evaluation. Dr. Delva received his PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Hawaii and he served a postdoctoral Fellowship in drug epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. His current teaching load includes: courses in research and evaluation, and addiction, and supervision of MSW, and PhD, and post-doctoral students.

Faculty and students of the School especially appreciated learning more about Dr. Delva's longitudinal study of substance abuse among adolescents and their families, in Santiago, Chile. The project seeks to identify risk and protective factors associated with illicit alcohol and other substance use.

Many students were able to interact individually with Dr. Delva during his visit and expressed that they felt "grateful

for this great opportunity to interact with him more closely." Aaron Parks, 2nd year MSW Student, said that on their way to dinner, Dr. Delva "was able to give (him) valuable feedback on a more personal level... I learned that social work permeates all aspects of Dr. Delva's life, not just his work abroad." Students also learned from Dr. Delva that although they are being clinically trained, they have the opportunity to promote social justice abroad, as much as they do locally. On the side, students exclaimed their delight with his willingness to share information regarding his personal lifetime interest in Asian martial arts and his love for learning about Asian philosophies.

Dr. Delva said that his "experience at BYU was extremely positive." He was particularly impressed with "the quality of the program and the excellent students attending [the] program as demonstrated by the students' participation, questions, and overall professional behavior." He was able to meet with students individually and stated that their "maturity and desire to make a difference in society were also impressive."

Shumway Papers



Kristin Byers, Gene Shumway, & Courtney Baker

Kristin Byers was the 1st place winner of the 2014 Shumway Essay Contest held March 28, 2014. Kristin's paper entitled "Social Justice Through Social Work," was based on her personal experience with social justice, as she sought to ensure that the members of the British Parliament understood that justice for the Scottish people, who live with Parkinson's disease, was not about being treated the same as others but about their need to be treated differently, because of their need for alternative care. Kristin reported, "The passion and power that I felt, as I sought to ensure that the members of parliament understood, changed me and made me realize the necessity of using our skills, talents, and gifts to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves."

2nd Place, Courtney Baker. Courtney's paper was entitled "The Social Worker's Role in Applying Principles of Social Justice, Dignity, Service, and Worth of Persons," describing her research into a variety of contexts and populations as social justice and change is pursued.

This publishable paper/essay contest was established in honor of E. Gene Shumway, one of the founding fathers of the Brigham Young University MSW Program. Dr. Shumway was recruited to BYU's Social Work faculty team in 1975, specifically in anticipation of the contribution he would make to the development of the new Master's program. While working at BYU, he had a great influence on the evolving design and accreditation of the program.

Kristin said of her experience, "It was an honor to win the Shumway Contest. I was delighted to be able to meet the Shumway Family and thank them



BYU School of Social Work
9th Annual

Dr. Gene Shumway Social Justice Paper Contest 2014

Eligibility: All 2nd Year MSW students

Dates: Friday, March 21st - Deadline to submit paper
Friday, March 28th - Awards Luncheon with Dr. Shumway,
Social Work Faculty and participating students

Awards: 1st place \$400
2nd place \$300
3rd place \$200

*Winners will be recognized at our April Graduation Dinner

How: Submit papers to Dr. Mike Seipel, 2164 JFSB, by March 21st.

Parameters of the papers: 12-15 pages in length, double spaced. The paper should be original and single authored. The content of the paper should be focused on the application of Social Work principles in advocating social, political, and economic justice.

Honoree Short Biography:

Dr. Gene Shumway joined Brigham Young University's Social Work Faculty in 1975. He was specifically recruited in anticipation of the Social Work Master's program due to his firm commitment to its development. Dr. Shumway remained greatly influential in the designing and accreditation processes, uniquely providing the necessary support toward the establishment of the Master's Program. Dr. Shumway maintained a personal vision for the School of Social Work and contributed in numerous ways to the program we enjoy today.

for the work that they put into making the Social Work program what it is at BYU today."

MSW Student Association

MSWSA 2014-215

Faculty Advisor:

Gordon Limb

President:

Aaron Parks, 2nd year

Activities:

Kelsey Johnson, 2nd year

Jane Hansen, 1st year

Advisory Council Representative:

Chanel Nagaishi, 2nd year

LeeAnne Lowry (Davies), 1st year

Faculty Liaison:

Carron Zullo, 2nd year

Jaclyn Kahrs, 1st year

Graduate Student Society Liaison:

Ke'ala Cabulagan, 2nd year

Phoebe Kung, 1st year

Mentor Liaison:

Lauren Miller, 2nd year

NASW Representatives:

Michelle Johnson, 2nd year

Megan Urick, 1st year



2nd year officers, from left to right: Aaron Parks, Lauren Miller, Kelsey Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Carron Zullo, and Chanel Nagaishi

The MSW Student Association has been busy this school year welcoming in the new 1st year cohort, planning activities, recruiting speakers for special presentations, and providing a line of communication between students and faculty. Aaron Parks is this year's MSWSA president. He is an excellent leader, instills excitement into the society, and is a great mentor. Kelsey Johnson is in charge of activities, with 1st year Janie Hansen assisting her. Chanel Nagaishi and 1st year LeeAnn Davies are the advisory council representatives. The Faculty liaisons are Carron Zullo and 1st year Jaclyn Kahrs. Ke'ala Cabulagan and 1st year Phoebe Kung are the Graduate Student Society liaisons. Lauren Allred is the mentor liaison. The NASW representatives are Michelle Johnson and 1st year Megan Urick.

One of the focuses of the society has been to bridge the gap between 1st and 2nd year students to create one cohesive unit. We are lucky to have two cohorts that integrate so well. Currently, the society is busy planning Social Work Month, as well as the dinner for the 2015 graduates.



MSWSA Meeting

Student Presentations

Aaron Parks – 2nd year

Last October, Aaron Parks presented his research at Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in Tampa, FL. Schools from all over the country were there, and he had the privilege of networking and reaching out to many of them. Aaron also took advantage of being close to Disney World, where he took his wife and daughter on a brief mid-semester vacation.



Kristen Carr – 2nd year

Kristen had the opportunity to present her research at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) conference in Tampa, FL. The presentation entitled "Rubric-Assisted Competency Evaluations: Increased Accuracy and Objectivity in Field Assessment" reviewed findings from Kristen's research project, assessing the level of accuracy of BYU's field evaluation rubric in evaluating student performance in their internships. The results demonstrated that the rubric effectively decreased the phenomena of grade inflation, which means that students' grades were less likely to be reported higher than their actual in-agency performance.



Chanel Nagaishi – 2nd year

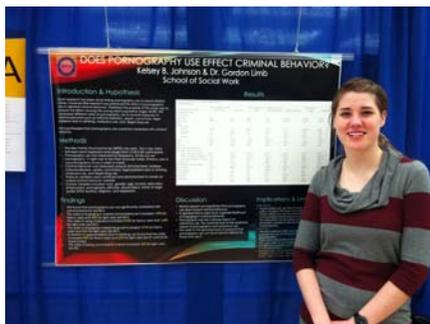
Chanel had "the wonderful opportunity of presenting" her joint research with Professor Roby at the Council on Social Work Education Conference

in Tampa, FL this past fall. Using data collected by United States Agency for International Development, they assessed how a child's likelihood of attending school across five different African countries was affected by their relationship to their caregiver and their orphan status. This work was also published in the April newsletter of the Better Care Network.

Presentation citation: Nagaishi, C. & Roby, J.L. (2014, October). Education for orphans in Africa: Predictors impacting school attendance. Paper presented at the meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Tampa, FL.

Kelsey Johnson – 2nd year

Last year Kelsey presented her research at the Fulton Research Conference among her fellow classmates. She reported, "It was a great experience! It was really fun talking about the research I had spent so much time conducting, and sharing the results with others at the Research Conference!"



Lauren Miller – 2nd year



Lauren happily reported, "I was fortunate enough to present my research with Professor Roby, at CSWE's Annual Program Meeting in Tampa, FL." Her research was focused on kinship care in sub-Saharan Africa and how this affects the amount of child labor in which they engage. The article advocates for equal access to leisure and education for children in kinship care.

Phoebe Kung – 1st year

Phoebe, having worked as an RA for a few years, presented a poster on her joint research, "A Meta-analysis of the Effectiveness of Marriage and Family Therapy," at the 2014 Mary Lou Fulton Conference. She states enthusiastically, "We plan to present another poster at this coming conference! Please look for it!"



Student Presentations - continued

Ryan Turner – 1st year

In January 2015, Ryan gave an oral presentation at the SSWR (Society for Social Work and Research) Conference in New Orleans, LA on a paper that he is preparing for publication, in conjunction with Dr. David Wood, Aaron Parks, and Dr. Kevin Shafer. The paper is entitled "Combat Experience and Attachment Style: A Stepfamily Perspective," and it will be submitted for publication at the end of



January 2015. Despite his strong love for direct clinical practice, he states, "I can't deny that I am very passionate about certain types of research!"

Sara Gaertner – 2nd year

Sara submitted a poster, "Mother-Child Relationships and Maternal Depression," to the Society for Social Work and Research. Though her poster was accepted for presentation, she unfortunately was unable to attend the conference. However, Dr. Limb was there to present in her place.



Student & Professor Publications

* indicates student publisher

Gibbs, B. G., Shafer, K. M., & Dufur, M. J. (2015,). Why infer? The use and misuse of population data in sport research. *International Review for he Sociology of Sport*, 50(1), 115-121.

Hodge, D. R., & Limb, G. E. (2014). Spiritual assessment and Latter-day Saints: Establishing the preliminary validity of spiritual eco-maps. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 40(3), 367-380.

Jensen, T. M.*, Shafer, K. M., & Larson, J. H. (2014). Stepparenting attitudes and expectations: Implications for stepfamily functioning and clinical intervention. *Families in Society*, 95(3), 213-220.

Jensen, T. M.*, Shafer, K. M., & Larson, J. H. (2014). Differences in relationship quality measurement and covariate influence between individuals in first and second marriages: A propensity score analysis. *Marriage & Family Review*, 50(8), 636-664.

Jensen, T. M.*, Shafer, K. M., & Roby, C. Y., & Roby, J. L. (2014). Sexual history disclosure polygraph outcomes: Do juveniles and adult sex offenders differ? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(6), 928-44.

Jensen, T. M.*, Willoughby, B. J., Holman, T. B., Busby, D. M., & Shafer, K. M. (2014). Associations between family and interpersonal processes and emerging adult marital paradigms: Does adult attachment mediate? *Journal of Adult Development*, 22(1), 50-62.

Larson, J. H., Pace, G. T.*, Shafer, K. M., & Jensen, T. M.* (2014). Stepparenting issues and relationship quality: The role of clear communication. *Journal of Social Work*, 15(1), 24-44.

Limb, G. E., Shafer, K. M., & Sandoval, K.* (2014). The impact of kin support on urban American Indian families. *Child & Family Social Work*, 19(4), 432-442.

Limb, G. E., & Tobler, J.* (2014). American Indian perceptions of paternal responsibility. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 24(2), 217-229.

Limb, G. E., White, C.*, & Holgate, M.* (2014). Strengthening American Indian couples' relationship quality to improve parenting. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 24(2), 92-104.

Roby, J. L., Pennell, J., Rotabi, K., Bunkers, K. M., & de Ucles, S. (2014). Contextual adaptation of family group conferencing model: Early evidence from Guatemala. *British Journal of Social Work*, 10.1093/bjsw/bcu053.

Shafer, K. M., Jensen, T. M.*, & Larson, J. H. (2014). Relationship effort, satisfaction, and stability: Differences across union type. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 40(2), 212-232.

Shafer, K. M., Jensen, T. J.*, & Larson, J. H. (2014). An actor-partner model of relationship effort and marital quality. *Family Relations*, 63(5), 654-666.

Liko A'e Native Hawaiian Leadership Program

Hoku Kubota Chun, a 1st year MSW student, had the honor of receiving a scholarship award from the Liko A'e Native Hawaiian Leadership Program. This scholarship is offered to undergraduate and graduate students with a strong GPA and who are of Hawaiian ancestry, among other requirements. In explaining the Liko A'e program, their website says,



“Participating scholars will collaborate in mentoring, community capacity building, and service-related activities connecting them with Native Hawaiian scholars and leaders throughout the country.” Hoku expressed that what makes this scholarship special to her is that it’s not only investing in her individually, but also investing in the Hawaiian people.

She is passionate about nurturing her children and her Hawaiian community. “I want my children to grow up in our culture and perpetuate Native Hawaiian values,” Hoku said. “My heritage runs deep, and I’m connected to our land. It’s a way of life, it’s who I am, it’s who my ancestors were, and who my children will be.” She asserted further that her heritage means so much more than being able to dance hula, be friendly,

and say “aloha” before every sacrament meeting talk.

In addition to being a mother and raising her children in the Hawaiian culture, Hoku also wants to be a social worker and help “rehabilitate [her] Native Hawaiian community, one client at a time, and one family at a time.” She desires to see Native Hawaiians as people capable of surviving and thriving in the islands, and because of the high cost of living, this is oftentimes a difficult task.



Hoku and her family a few years ago

Students Connect via Facebook

Students, both 1st and 2nd years, connect via private cohort Facebook pages, which has proven to be a very helpful tool. The pages have helped students plan social events, ask questions about assignments, get caught up on missed classes, and share helpful resources. Above all, however, students are able to provide encouragement to each other



and generally bring them closer together.



The BYU School of Social Work also has a Facebook page. You can find it by searching “BYU School of Social Work.” “Like” the page to join and to receive news and updates about the school and current events.



6th Annual MSW Student Turkey Bowl

We had another great turnout for our hotly contested 6th annual Turkey Bowl game! Not only that, but it was a beautiful fall day at Rock Canyon Park as well!

This year was a little different from previous years in that the 1st and 2nd year students played on the same teams and not against each other—yes, it actually worked well! The competition was fierce, with the game running neck-and-neck the entire time. The winners ended up beating the other team by one touchdown. There was



First and Second Year Students and family members

only one casualty: shorts. The husband of Casey Wood, a 2nd year student, was de-pantsed as someone pulled his flag. He was a great sport about it. Everyone enjoyed doughnuts afterwards and had a great time doing what social workers do best: socialize!

Opening Luau

The School of Social Work's opening social, a Luau, was a great success! Many students from both first and second year cohorts came and were able to interact and get to know one another before the beginning of the school year. Among other things, the social gave the second year students a great chance to impart their knowledge of the program to a slightly stressed-out group of first year students.



Of this event Kelsey Johnson, 2nd year student, reported, "The MSW Luau was a success! It was a great way to kick off the semester. We had a great turnout with lots of food! And it was a great opportunity to meet the new cohort and reconnect with old friends."

MSW Christmas Party

The MSW Program hosted its annual Christmas Party on December 5th, 2014 and students attending found it was a great opportunity to get both cohorts together to have a little fun celebrating the Christmas season with friends and family before the stress of finals kicked in for everyone.

Kelsey Johnson, 2nd year, states, “[It] was a lot of fun! In conjunction with dinner, the talent show was exceptional. Who would have thought social workers could be so talented! Stephen Palmer



1st and 2nd year students with their family members



The girls of the 2nd year cohort

gave us a moving monologue titled ‘Men of Honor’; Nichole Conrad and Ryan Turner performed a piano and violin number, ‘Walking in a Winter Wonderland’; Ben Thornell, on the guitar played, ‘The Ol’ Guitar’; and JP Boyle performed ‘Bounding Shepard’ on the native flute. The boys of 2015 serenaded us with ‘Oh Holy Night’ and the girls of 2015 danced the night away to the music of the Spice Girls!

“Good food, good company, good show. What more would you want from an MSW Christmas party?!”

Student Baby Announcements

Becca Jacobsen – 2nd year

Becca and her husband welcomed their son Leo Emmett on September 14th, 2014. He was 8 pounds 11 ounces. He was in the NICU for a week and then on oxygen for another two weeks. She expressed her deep gratitude for her MSW cohort for their support and prayers. She said the cohort saved her and that she has never felt more loved.



Cameron Palmer – 1st year

Cameron and his wife welcomed their second child, a boy, into their family in late November 2014. They have so much love for their new addition.

Erik Wells – 1st year

Erik and his wife had their second daughter, Ocienne Grace, on August 28th, 2014.



Karen Salisbury – 2nd year

Karen has welcomed 3 grandsons since the beginning of the MSW program. Grandbabies 8 and 9 joined her family on June 27th, 2014.

They are seven months now and weigh 18 and nearly 19 pounds. Grandbaby number 10 is coming this August!



Kory Camp – 1st year

Kory and his wife are expecting their first baby in April 2014. They are having a boy and haven’t decided on any names yet, but they are very excited!

Stephen Palmer – 2nd year

Last summer, Stephen had another little boy named Ian. He and his older brother Benjamin are 15 months apart. They get along pretty well, even though Benjamin still gets jealous at times.



Student Marriages & Engagements

**Angela Nelson – 1st year**

Angela met her husband when she was 14 at a youth conference in Orlando, FL. She waited for him while he served his mission in Des Moines, Iowa. Upon his return, he began school at BYU last January. Angela and her husband became engaged in April and were married in the Manti Temple on June 6th, 2014. She said this past year has been the best year of her life!

Anne Nelson – 2nd year

Anne and her fiancé got engaged over New Years. They met in Provo, UT last April, and he moved to Maryland for a job, so most of their dating has been long distance. They are planning on getting married this May and plan to live in Maryland.

**Cassandra Lopiano – 1st year**

Cassandra and her husband Ryan were married on August 15th, 2014 in the Logan Utah Temple. They met in February 2014 through a mutual friend. On their first date, they went to a milkshake shop where her husband accidentally spit milkshake in her face. Later, they went to an improv show and he accidentally kicked her foot, breaking her toenail. She said even through the mishaps it was the

best date she had ever been on.

Emma Wood – 1st year

Emma and her husband were married on May 24th, 2014 in the Mount Timpanogos Temple.

**Kelli Nixon – 1st year**

Kelli and her husband Anthony were married in the Salt Lake Temple on May 9th, 2014. They grew up together, less than a mile apart in West Jordan, UT. Kelli said Anthony “is the sweetest, kindest, and most hilarious human she has ever met!” They both love sports, with their favorite being

football (go Broncos!). “Being married is the best!”

Kenzie Esplin – 1st year

Kenzie married her high school sweetheart in March 2014 after dating on and off for 8 years. They were married in St. George, UT, where they are both from.

**Lauren Miller – 2nd year**

Lauren and her husband began dating at the beginning of her MSW program. They were married in the Mount Timpanogos Temple in August 2014. He surprised her with a trip to Bermuda for their honeymoon!

Phoebe Kung – 1st year

After graduating with her bachelor’s degree, Phoebe planned on going on a mission. She was accepted into the MSW program at BYU, but deferred because of her plans to serve beginning June 2014. At the same time, she met and began dating her future husband. The week before she planned to report to her mission, her now husband said he wanted to marry her. Phoebe was “happy to embrace this new change,” and they were married in the Salt Lake Temple in August.

**Ray Forrester – 2nd year**

Ray and his wife Cara were married on September 27th, 2014. They began dating in September 2013, and “she went home after their first date thinking ‘I am not going to date him.’” Perseverance and faith...

Ryan Turner – 1st year

Ryan became engaged to his longtime girlfriend Kari on December 19th, 2014. They dated for a year and a half before she left to serve her mission in Slovakia. They are getting married in the Mount Timpanogos Temple on April 24th, 2015. Ryan is “excited beyond measure to devote himself to the success and happiness of their relationship and marriage.” (The picture is from their first date in October 2011!)



Internship Experiences

Aaron Parks

Aaron interned in one of the Utah State Hospital forensic units this past summer.



He said, "It was epic." While his initial experience was quite jarring, complete with violence and medical emergency codes, he states he "...would not trade his time spent on a forensic unit for anything else." He learned a great deal about working with an interdisciplinary team, debriefing appropriately with coworkers in a healthy environment, and following strict agency/government policies and procedures. He reports that "since the Utah State Hospital is so tightly managed by the government, there are rules for everything. Learning how to work under such a system and still keep the patients' best interest in mind is a valuable skill." Further, Aaron saw all sorts of chronic mental illness; "If you want to see how bipolar disorder interacts with borderline personality disorder, this is the place for you. If you want to see how someone with schizophrenia deals with someone else with schizophrenia, look no further." He appreciates that he "got to watch all these interactions play out and more and would not change a thing about it." "Yes," he adds, "...challenges surround work with a chronically and criminally mentally ill population, who have countless restrictions. However, you can learn so much from the team, as well as what you have to offer as a social worker."

Alex Johnson

Alex had a wonderful experience at the Utah State Prison, working in the Conquest program (the prison's substance abuse treatment program). He states he "thoroughly enjoyed working with the men at the prison, providing

support and help to those trying hard to overcome their addictions and helping them to prepare for re-integration into their families and society."

Alex initiated and ran a gender-informed group for men, which he states "was the highlight of my internship."



Anne Nelson

Over the summer, Anne interned at Vantage Point, an agency which provides crisis

residential services for teens, who are considered ungovernable or at risk of becoming runaways, or those who have been living in an environment of serious parent-child conflict. It also provides temporary placement for youth in DCFS custody, removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, or those who have had a disruption in a foster care placement. She reported, "I enjoyed this placement because I like working with youth and there was a lot of variety." She participated in daily staff meetings, helped run groups, and provided individual and family therapy. Anne had "great supervision and learned a lot from this placement."

Becca Jacobsen

Becca completed her internship at the Utah State Hospital, in the Mountain View Adult Unit. She loved working on an interdisciplinary team and



seeing the various roles of many health professionals. Mountain View makes it a priority to help each student feel important and "they let me know that I was a valuable member day one." Becca worked with patients diagnosed with bipolar, schizoaffective disorder, paranoid schizophrenia, and Borderline Personality Disorder. She said, "It was quite a ride! I gained a ton of experience writing thorough case notes and performing individual and group therapy and LOVED my experience!"

Chanel Nagaishi

Chanel stated, "I absolutely loved the experience I had interning



at the Children's Justice Center (CJC) this past Spring/Summer." The CJC is a homelike facility that serves child victims of sexual abuse, providing intervention and treatment services. As part of her duties, Chanel was able to provide individual therapy to victims of sexual abuse, help facilitate children's and teen's groups (regarding boundaries, body safety, and sexuality), and follow up on clients who utilized the CJC's services. She summarized, "Not only did I learn a great deal about trauma, but I also discovered the field of social work that I am passionate about working in."

Colette Meek

Colette's spring/summer internship was in New York City with LDS Employment Services. She had an incredible experience and had the opportunity not only to live in a fabulous city, but also to work with a



hugely diverse client population. She had great colleagues and enjoyed the chance to work closely with her supervisor and learn from her throughout the intern experience.



JP Boyle

JP worked with “an incredible population at the Clubhouse program for Wasatch Mental Health.” He reports that working with people who have severe mental illnesses taught him a lot about himself. He realized that “we have to work with people at the level they are at, if just getting out of bed in the morning is all they can do, that’s ok, it’s a place to start.” JP also learned how hard it is to plan and run a successful fundraising 5/10k race and was proud to be part of that process. The money raised went directly to programs and services for the mentally ill community.

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Karen Salisbury

Karen had the privilege of working at Provo Canyon Behavioral Hospital for her Spring/Summer internship. She agreed that “It was a great fit for me.”



She loved the fast pace and enjoyed helping clients progress from crisis, to stabilization, and then to planning for their aftercare. Karen said, “The free lunch was great as well.”

Kelsey Johnson

Kelsey is currently working at the Utah State Prison. She states it has been quite an eye opening experience for her! She works primarily on the mental health team, in the men's general population. Her responsibilities

are facilitating group therapy sessions and conducting individual therapy, on a weekly basis and on a short time basis. She also answers crisis calls. Within the walls of the prison, Kelsey has had the opportunity of working with the spectrum of mental illnesses, from depression and anxiety all the way to schizophrenia and dissociative identity disorder. Kelsey is grateful for this experience. It has challenged her in ways she did not expect and has pushed her to sharpen her skills as a therapist.



Kristen Carr

Kristen’s spring/summer internship was at a VA clinic in Orem, where she worked as a medical social worker, assisting veterans’ access to community resources and coordinating hospice, respite, and nursing home care. She was also exposed to the VA’s treatment protocols for PTSD and reports she has been able to use the concepts learned there, in her work with other clients. Kristen learned “so much about issues unique to this population that I would not have learned at any other placement.” She now has a passion for working with veterans and hopes to return someday!

She was also exposed to the VA’s treatment protocols for PTSD and reports she has been able to use the concepts learned there, in her work with other clients. Kristen learned “so much about issues unique to this population that I would not have learned at any other placement.” She now has a passion for working with veterans and hopes to return someday!

Lauren Miller

Over the summer, Lauren interned at the Deseret Industry agency in Provo. She considers she



was “fortunate to work with an incredible team and learned a great deal about vocational rehabilitation.” She added that she loved participating on her interdisciplinary team and learning about different perspectives of poverty. In addition, Lauren learned how to administer several different vocational assessments and gained invaluable case management skills in the process.

Rachel Baird

This past summer Rachel worked at the Utah State Prison, in the Men’s Mental Health unit. She reports, “I really enjoyed working there because I



was treated like actual staff and not just the ‘intern’... They expect you meet with clients, run groups, and handle crisis calls.” She initially wanted to do this internship because it would really put her out of her element and challenge her to work with a population that generally has a negative image in society. Rachel didn’t know quite what to expect the first week and found it was hard to get used to the atmosphere and culture of the prison. However, she states that she “really learned to be assertive and set strong boundaries with clients while also practicing empathy.” She thinks she learned more about herself and her own personal biases while doing therapy with clients, than she did about actually learning how to do therapy. Overall it was a good experience and she would highly recommend it to anyone.

Ray Forrester

Ray interned at Midwest Academy in Keokuk, IA, a residential treatment center for adolescents



Internship Experiences - continued

aged 12-18. It was a short 20 minute drive from Nauvoo, IL and Ray reported, it was fun to be out there during the buzz and excitement of the Nauvoo pageant and to be able to call the Nauvoo temple "mine." "It was a dream internship being able to work one on one, run groups, meet and visit with parents of students, plan activities, and see change and progress in not only the students, but myself as well."

Sara Gaertner
Over the sum-



mer, Sara served as an intern at Watsch Mental Health's Provo Family Clinic. She worked in the Stride program as well as at the outpatient clinic. She reports, "I have no desire to work with little kids but thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Stride program." Sara learned a great deal about children and the struggles they have. She reassures future students that her supervisor was "incredibly helpful," and she felt comfortable bringing up her concerns with her.

Stephen Palmer

Stephen worked over the summer, at Deseret Industries in American Fork.

He states, "I really enjoyed my time there." He worked with the "associates"

to help them achieve vocational and personal goals in their lives. He was also able to provide brief therapy to help with personal issues they were having. Stephen stated, "I really enjoyed the all-around experience." The picture above is of him in a training meeting with three of the job coaches.



Social Work Month

The National Association of Social Work is celebrating their 60th anniversary in March of 2015. In celebration of this landmark, throughout the month of March and throughout the year, NASW will seek to educate the public about how social workers and the association have brought about major positive social changes, improved the lives of individuals and families, and will continue to do so in the future.

In celebration of this event, the BYU School of Social Work MSW Student Association is hosting a lecture series to be held in the BYU Wilkinson Center on Friday, March 27th. Faculty, students, and the community will be pleased to hear from three highly recommended speakers. Marilee VanWagenen, BYU School of Social Work Field Liaison, will be speaking on "What is Mental Health?" Greg Hudnall, a leading expert in the Provo Educational community, will present on "Suicide Prevention." Lisa Leavitt, a representative from BYU Counseling and Psychological Services, will speak on "Skills for Student Stress Management."

MARCH IS...

Social Work Month

Sponsored by BYU MSWSA & BYU FHSS AmeriCorps Program

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM

FRI, MAR 27 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | LITTLE THEATRE | WILK 3380

<p>9:00 am: What is Mental Health? Marilee VanWagenen, LCSW Field Liaison BYU School of Social Work</p>	<p>Almost 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. has a mental illness.* Learn what that means and how to help.</p>
<p>10:00 am: Skills for Student Stress Management Lisa Leavitt, PhD Associate Clinical Professor of Psychology Psychologist at BYU Counseling and Psychological Services</p>	
<p>11:00 am: Suicide Prevention Greg Hudnall, EdD, MEd, MSW Adjunct Professor, BYU School of Social Work Executive Director of HOPE4Utah</p>	



*National Institute of Mental Health, 2014

New Student Cohort - Class of 2016



MSW Class of 2016

The 36 students of the MSW Class of 2016 (27 women and 9 men) come from many different backgrounds. Thirteen students received BSW degrees from CSWE accredited programs and the remaining students received degrees in Psychology, Sociology, Human Development, Exercise Science, Political Science, Theatre Art Studies, History, Family Life, Behavioral Science, Spanish, Family Studies, and Linguistics. Schools attended include BYU (20), BYU-Idaho (6), Weber State University (4), Utah Valley University (3), BYU-Hawaii (1), University of Utah (1), and University of South Florida (1). Languages, in addition to English, spoken among students in the cohort are: Spanish, German, Mandarin, Danish, Cantonese, ASL, French, Malay, and Japanese. All but 2 students are from the United States: one student is from Hong Kong, China and another student is from Colombia. Approximately 58% of the students are married, with 2 students engaged to be married. Collectively, students have 23 children and “1 on the way.”

Following you will find some interesting facts and experiences from the MSW Class of 2016:



Angela Nelson

Angela reports she is from “the land of theme parks and what (she)

call(s) paradise, Orlando, FL.” She received her undergraduate degree in psychology at BYU and is excited to receive her Masters of Social Work degree, so she can “one day do therapy.” Angela recently picked up a new hobby, knitting. She also enjoys “photography, films, and anything

crafty.”

Annie Edwards

Annie is a single mother of 3 “amazing human beings!” She graduate from BYU in Human Development and is thrilled to be part of BYU’s MSW program.

She chose social work because she always knew she wanted to help people and be a therapist. When she learned about social



work, she fell in love with “the many options it gives you to bless people’s lives.” For fun. She likes to hang out with her family and friends. She loves to travel and see new places, as well as going back to old places that are special to her. She lived in Germany for 6 years and would love an excuse to go back and spend time in Europe.

Brittany Fuez

Brittany is from outside of Detroit, MI, but she also grew up in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts and considers the east coast “home.” She completed her undergraduate degree in human development at BYU. She

Class of 2016 - continued



states she “began college with a desire to go to pharmacy school after completing a degree in

chemistry or exercise science.” However, she found herself being curious about social work. She took the Introduction to Social Work course from Dr. Cox and volunteered at Foothill, a residential treatment facility, working with people struggling with addictions. After this experience, she immediately changed her major to Human Development in order to complete the MSW prerequisites. Brittany completed an internship with Utah’s Division of Child and Family Services working with teenagers, who were getting ready to age-out of the foster care system. She reports, “I have loved the opportunities social work has given me to meet such incredible people.” In the future, she wants to focus on clinical work in the area of “substance abuse, particularly among the adolescent population.”

Brittany Rigby



Brittany began the MSW program in fall 2012 but then left for 18 months to serve in the Denmark Co-

penhagen Mission. She is from Spokane, WA, and completed her undergraduate degree at Weber State University in social work, with a minor in dance performance. Brittany states she has “worked in the areas of outpatient

acute mental health, domestic violence, children in grief, and would love to work with active military members and their families.” She chose social work because she loves to help people and because it is exactly where she knows “Heavenly Father wants (her) to be.”

Cameron Palmer

Cameron reports he is from “the little Southern Utah town



of Blanding.” His pursuit of education brought him to BYU, where he received his Bachelor’s degree in sociology. Although he realizes that he knows “very little” about social work and has minimal experience, he hopes to return to Southern Utah after graduating from the MSW program to do social work in that rural setting, and possibly in some capacity with Native Americans. He states he is confident that he will find his “niche under the social work umbrella” and looks forward to a future of helping people. He and his wife have been married for nearly 4 years and have two children. Cameron considers himself to be pretty active. He enjoys the outdoors “in every possible way” and loves participating in sports of any kind.

Cassandra Lopiano



pursue clinical practice while complet-

Cassandra is from Thornton, CO and completed her undergraduate degree in psychology at BYU. She states she chose social work because she “wants to be able to help people” and plans to

ing her LCSW hours. Recently married (in August, 2014), Cassie states she is “loving it.” She, also, reports she loves the outdoors and doing things such as hiking and camping, reading, active sports, traveling, singing, watching movies, spending time with family, Zumba, and ballroom dancing, in which she has been “active for about 3 years now.” A fun fact about her is that she is “half French.”

Emma Wood

Emma is from Dillsburg, a small town in south-central Pennsylvania. She attended BYU for her undergraduate degree and majored in Family Life, with an emphasis in Human Development.



She chose to pursue an MSW degree in social work because she was interested in the helping professions and “social work offered a lot of flexibility as far as what you can do with it.” She enjoys yoga, scrapbooking, rock climbing, being outside in general, and spending time with her husband.



Erik Wells

Erik is from North Carolina and received his under-

graduate degree in Spanish and Linguistics. He currently works at the Utah State Hospital, as a Senior Psych Tech but his MSW internships will be at ScenicView Academy and Alpine School District. Erik wants to be a

writer someday. He loves photography and spending time with his family.



Jessica Spencer

Jessica's most important interest right now is social

work and it is consuming all of her time. However, she still loves expressive art, such as theatre, film, dance, and music. Her part-time job on campus is, she states, "tedious, repetitive stuff" that leaves her time to enjoy "the luxury of listening to hours of whatever I feel like listening to...and instead of choosing something academic, like a podcast or lectures online (or all those headline news stories out there related to social work), I choose to listen to fantasy and sci-fi audiobooks. I feel a little bit guilty about not being a scholar in my spare time—just a little though. I'll still use my writing background to analyze these stories and I'm even starting to do something like a bio-psycho-social-spiritual assessment on characters without even thinking about it."

Kali Hall

Kali was born and raised in Orem, UT. In 2012, she received her Bachelors in Behavioral Science with an emphasis in Social Work from Utah Valley University. She states she was married "to her awesome husband the Manti Temple 3 years ago" and they don't have kids yet. She chose to pursue an MSW degree because it fits with her values and perspective goals of empowering people. She currently works as a Case Manager at ScenicView Academy, within an employment unit. In the past, Kali interned at Community Action Services and Food Bank, where she was able to see the tediousness of navi-



gating state-run programs. She loves playing the piano and singing, as well as running and playing sports. She also likes cooking and baking when she has time.

Kelli Nixon

Kelli is from West Jordan, UT. She completed her undergraduate degree at Utah Valley University in Social Work where she served her undergraduate internship at the Utah State Hospital in the forensics unit. She has no idea what area of social work she "wants to end up in," but is hoping her internships will help her decide. For fun she likes to do anything outdoors: hiking, swimming, skiing.



Kenzie Esplin

Kenzie grew up "for the most part in St. George, UT." She completed her undergraduate degree in psychology at BYU in April 2013. What drew her to social work most was "the many different things you can do with the degree." She eventually wants to work in private practice, working with families with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Kenzie has worked at Telos RTS and is currently working for Kids on the Move doing in-home ABA therapy with children with ASD. She states she "used to be interested in black and white photography... loves reading, playing games, camping, and traveling." Kenzie has been married "for almost a year."



Kevan Baker

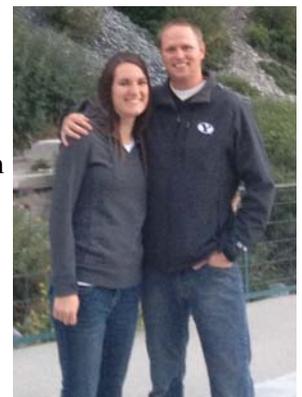
Kevan was born in Brighton, CO but moved to Utah, when he was 10.

He and his wife moved back to Colorado in 2005, and he considers himself a Coloradan. He converted his entire family to be Broncos fans by taking each of his children to a Broncos game when they turned 5 years old. They try to go to at least one game a year for those in the "5-and-older-club." Kevan has been married to his "wonderful, patient, and forgiving" wife for 21 years. Together they have 6 children, ages 4 to 17. Kevan believes social work chose him. He has worked as a master electrician since he was 16 years old, and briefly worked with disabled adults where he experienced real "job satisfaction." He returned to electrician work and then started his own business, but "never felt the joy and satisfaction that came from serving others less fortunate." In 2011, he left his electrical life and started on the path that lead him to the MSW program. Kevan doesn't care what field of social work he ends up in; he is just looking forward to strengthening and helping others.



Kory Camp

Kory is from Venice, UT. He received his BSW from Weber State University, where he chose to major in social work because he enjoyed working with mentally disabled children. He also enjoyed his undergraduate internship with a Hospice company. Kory states, "I want to be a voice for minorities..." and "Every day, I want to be able to share with others a



Class of 2016 - continued

piece of happiness I experience.” He doesn’t know yet in what field he wants to work, following his graduation from the MSW program. He and his “beautiful wife, Heather, are expecting (their) first baby.” Kory enjoys sports, both playing and watching. He loves to be in the outdoors and especially enjoys going on scooter rides.

Lauren Cousin

Lauren completed her undergraduate degree at BYU-Idaho, where she came to love the social work field. She states she received “a great education there” through the program and internship opportunities. Once she began taking classes, she found that she no longer identified just as a student in a social work major, but rather as a social worker. She became more invested in her education because she was enthusiastic to learn to help others. She worked for Idaho Department of Health and Welfare on an Assertive Community Treatment Team working with individuals, who suffered from a severe and persistent mental illness and participated in Mental Health Court. She reports she “loved interacting and working with the clients.” Lauren grew up in the Salt Lake Valley “in a great home with three siblings, two brothers and a sister, and her parents.” She reports her family is very close and have always liked spending time with one another. They like traveling, especially road trips around the United States. She has “two adorable nephews” with whom she loves to play whenever she can.



ents. Her undergraduate internship was at Family and Children Services (FACS) in Idaho Falls, ID. After Leslie graduated, she worked for

FACS in Twin Falls, ID as a case manager for 3 years. She is passionate about working with children and is also open to new experiences. She comes from a family of 6 girls, and she is very close to her family. She likes to water ski, snow ski, read books, watch movies, go hiking, and play group games.



Megan Urick

Megan hails from “beautiful Colorado Springs, CO.” She received her undergraduate degree in social work from BYU-Idaho. While working on her BSW, she interned for a juvenile probation officer and a school social worker and states she chose social work because she is



“very passionate about working with children.” After completing her MSW, Megan’s desire is to work in a clinical setting with abused children. She has been married for two and a half years to “the love of my life.” She enjoys adventuring with her husband, finding new places to eat, practicing yoga, and an occasional Netflix marathon. Her dream place to travel is Alaska and she wants “to take a picture in front of every State sign.” Her life goal is “to have 8 children (cue eye-roll), live on several acres of land near the mountains, own a small ranch (good thing my husband is from Montana and can do all the work), and bask in the goodness of my family.”

Lindsay Powell

Lindsay had “a somewhat nomadic life growing up.” However, “moving every few years” helped her enjoy making diverse friends. Most of her childhood was



spent in Washington but she attended high school in Utah. She reports, she is “excited to work for Alpine School District this fall,” as she saw firsthand the serious, and sometimes hidden, problems students face in that school district. For the past four years, she and her husband have lived in Florida, where she received her Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of South Florida. They loved the beautiful beaches, warm weather, and unique cultures in Florida. They are also happy “to be back by the mountains” and following their dreams. Lindsay has always loved hearing people’s stories and helping others overcome life’s challenges, so “social work was a natural fit for me!”

Leslie Bingham

Leslie is from Jerome, ID and received her BSW at BYU-Idaho. She chose social work because it felt like the field that best fits her personality and tal-



Phoebe Kung

Phoebe was born in the busy city of Hong

Kong and was quickly immersed in education, which became her top priority. She states, “My childhood was hard and I never felt the joy of being a kid because of the pressure to succeed.” Because of this, her parents decided to move to Laie, Hawaii so Phoebe, her siblings, and they could live happier lives and have better opportunities. Transitioning from a ho-

mogeneous, familiar city like Hong Kong to a peaceful, diverse, and grassy land of Hawaii was a shock and it took years for the family to adjust. Her father found he needed to work at two or three low-paying jobs when he decided to give up his career as an electrical engineer in Hong Kong to join his family in Hawaii. Though living a new life can be difficult, Phoebe feels “greatly indebted to my parents’ tremendous sacrifices for us.” Because of them, Phoebe strives “to work hard in America to gain a good education and also enjoy the wonderful experiences of life.” She received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from BYU but chose the path of social work because she sees the need “for people who can advocate, love, and serve those who are vulnerable.” Most of Phoebe’s experiences have been working with the elderly, as she interned in nursing homes and hospice agencies. She wants to continue working with this population, as well as with immigrant families.



Ryan Turner
Hailing from Wyoming, Utah, Kentucky, and Chicago, Ryan reports he enjoyed moving and getting to know different types of people and places throughout his

life in a military family. He received his undergraduate degree in Sociology and Spanish at BYU but states he “nigh majored in piano performance” because he is extremely passionate about piano and percussion. He still plays frequently. Ryan’s other hobbies include the Rubik’s Cube, piano tuning, reading dystopian novels, and exercising. Social work is his passion because it allows him to participate in the process of helping people cope with problems of living and improve the quality of their life. That a shift in one’s perception can lead to a healthier

lifestyle is fascinating to him.



Troy Young
Troy grew up in Salt Lake City, UT and raised her children in Mapleton, UT. She and her husband have been married for 27 years and have

7 children: 4 biological children and 3 stepchildren. Theirs has been “an adventurous life blending children with an age range of 24 years.” Currently they are “challenged with keeping everyone interactive, maintaining close relationships although they live in different areas of the US.” Troy is excited to learn more about social work, particularly the Family Systems approach of helping each other through the challenges of life.



National Association of Social Workers

The National Association of Social Workers wants YOU!

NASW is making a continued effort to recruit BSW and MSW students, graduates and social work professionals.

This is a great opportunity to have an influence on national program planning and policy development.

By becoming a member, you take part in an organization that is instrumental to your profession.

For membership information visit the Utah Chapter of NASW’s website at www.utnasw.org or call 801-583-8855

Alumni Updates

We are so pleased to offer you updates on the lives of the following alumni, thanks to their willingness to share with us and for modern technology for making it easier for us to connect.

Remember to “like” the BYU School of Social Work Facebook page to receive updates, connect with classmates, and network.

Class of 1972



Jann Smith (Janice Wendelboe) (BSW, 1972)

Jann lives in Calgary, Alberta and has 5 children and 9 grandchildren. She has used her degree for over 40 years, and is currently

working as an in-home support worker for parents with cognitive delays or disabilities. She has been involved in the Alberta Foster Care system and done adoption home studies through LDS Family Services. She is a Registered Social Worker from the Alberta Association of Social Workers. Her favorite memory from BYU is of the kind-hearted, knowledgeable professors.

Class of 1975

Sandy Curtis (BSW, 1975)

Sandy lives in Coalville, UT with her husband. They have 6 married children and 25 grandchildren. She hopes more are yet to come! Sandy is disabled with Lyme disease. She is enjoying retirement: traveling with her husband, being with her family and animals, and doing crafts. Sandy's favorite memories from BYU are dating and being able to become “who I really am.”

Class of 1978



Denise Butler (BSW, 1978)

Denise lives in Clinton, TN with her husband Lane. She is a homemaker and grandma.

They have 5 children and 20 grandchildren. Her husband is working on retirement, after which they hope to move out west to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Through her experiences at her internships, she felt it was her life's mission to make sure her own children had sufficient time and effort given to them,

and therefore did not work outside her home. She tries to stay current on the profession and thinks social work is valuable.

Kevin Theriot (BSW, 1978)

Kevin and his wife have 5 children and “12 grandkids.” He lives in Sandy, UT and works as a program manager at LDS Family Services. He is involved in AMCAP and NASW. His favorite memory from BYU is the BSW program.

Class of 1979

Lara Holden Caughman (BSW, 1979)

Lara lives in Signal Mountain, TN. She is a Director of Program Services at Make-A-Wish East Tennessee.

Susan Gardner Josephson (BSW, 1979)

Susan has been married for 23 years and has 1 son, who is now 22-years-old. She lives in Dickinson, ND and works as a Social Service Director at a 154-bed skilled nursing facility. She is also a regional representative for the Long Term Care Social Workers Association. Her favorite memory from BYU is Family Home Evening with her roommates and the rest of the FHE group.

Dennis Perkins (BSW, 1979)

Dennis lives in Kaysville, UT and is a Regional Manager for Missionary Services at LDS Family Services. He has 5 children, 4 who are married, and 8 grandchildren. His favorite memories from BYU are “having Eugene Gibbons as a teacher and getting married and having a child while attending BYU.”

Class of 1981

Cynthia Van Dam (BSW, 1981)

Cynthia lives in New Orleans, LA and is working as a part-time tutor and serves in church. She taught English in middle and high school for 7 years. In her retirement, Cynthia enjoys family history, visiting grandchildren, and travelling. Her favorite memories from BYU are walking on the paths on the side of the hill by the old Joseph Smith building and looking at architecture with her husband, as well as

“singing a solo without any singing talent.”

Class of 1983

Barry Glum (BSW, 1983)

Barry lives in Bismarck, ND and works as a Customer Service Specialist for Job Service North Dakota, Skill Development Unit. He is married with 2 daughters and has 4 grandchildren, 2 boys and 2 girls. Barry currently serves as the Sunday school president, the 11-year-old scout leader, gospel doctrine teacher, stake auditor, and temple worker. He also assists with the employment needs of members of the Stake. He enjoys stamp and coin collecting, reading, writing, singing, and history. Barry's favorite memory from BYU is hiking the “Y.”



Jamie Ottesen (BSW, 1983)

Jamie lives in Windsor, CA and has 3 grown sons: two are serving missions and one is attending BYU-Idaho. She is currently updating her LCSW and taking

continuing education classes. She plans to start a private practice or work in the field of eating disorders. Jamie reclaimed her health and lost 100 pounds! Her favorite memory from BYU is having Dr. Gibbons for some of her social work classes.

Leslie Thompson Jenkins (BSW, 1983)



Leslie lives in Bountiful, UT and serves on the Corporate and Community Development Board at Primary Children's Hospital, raising funds for charity care. Leslie has also helped extensively with the charity

Eyes4Zimbabwe,

providing clothing, eyeglasses, and fully packed suitcases for missionaries called from Zimbabwe and Mozambique. She has kept her license current and feels as though she is a social worker; however, she

doesn't get paid for any of the work in which she is involved. Leslie has 5 children, all of whom have graduated from BYU. Her youngest child is currently on a mission in Hawaii. Her favorite memories are learning from great professors, spending 5 months in London and another month in Europe, and feeling the spirit every Tuesday at devotional.

Class of 1987

Christine Seiter Gigena (BSW, 1987)

Christine is a clinician in private practice in Ashburn, VA. She is a member of the local chapter of the Association of Mormon Counselors and Psychotherapists (AMCAP).



Christian D Yeates (BSW, 1987)

Christian lives in Orem, UT with his wife of 30 years. He has 4 children: a daughter working as a registered nurse, another daughter attending

UVU, who is on the women's golf team, and 2 sons in high school, one a senior and one a sophomore. Christian is the owner (COO) at Stonehenge Care, LLC. They own and operate 4 skilled nursing facilities and an Assisted Living facility in Utah. His favorite memory from BYU is being able to graduate from such a fine university. (The picture is of him and Senator Orrin Hatch, when he visited Stonehenge of American Fork in 2014).

Class of 1988

Richard Hatch (MSW, 1988)

Richard lives in American Fork, UT with his wife of 29 years. He has 4 daughters; the youngest is currently serving in the Kobe Japan Mission. Richard is working with Wasatch Mental Health. He previously worked for 25 years at Valley Mental Health.

Class of 1989

Richard Whiting (MSW, 1989)

Richard lives in Rexburg, ID and is a professor at BYU-Idaho. His oldest daughter and her husband live in Lehi, UT and have 3 children, ages 6, 4, and 2. His son lives



in Connecticut with his wife and their first child, almost 1-year-old. His youngest daughter just returned home from serving her mission. Richard is involved with CSWE. His favorite memories from BYU involve Dr. Seipel and Dr. Shumway.

Class of 1990

Lisa Benson Hughes (MSW, 1990)

Lisa lives in Mapleton, UT with her husband. They have 3 daughters, ages 20, 18, and 14; their oldest is serving a mission in Moscow, Russia. Lisa has a private practice called LBH Counseling in Springville, UT and sees about 10 clients a week. Her favorite memory from BYU is of the people she met who are still friends. She shares an office with Sylvia Rios Davis.

Class of 1991

Amy Thompson (BSW, 1991)



Amy lives in Boise, ID and is a Manager of Clinic Operations and Programs for Warm Springs Counseling Center. She has 25 clinicians, 3 psychologists, and 1 physician providing behavioral, mental, and emotional health care to children and families. It is a private non-profit organization that provides services regardless of ability to pay. Her favorite memory from BYU is of the great social work classes, with wonderful people and friends.

Class of 1992

Wendy Brame (BSW, 1992)

Wendy lives in Sioux City, IA and currently teaches sociology and criminal justice at a small Catholic college. She went on to get a JD and PhD. Her favorite memory from BYU was of Family Home Evening.

Bridget Brown Wilson (BSW, 1992)

She is happily married with 3 children, ages 16, 13, and 9. She lives in Turlock, CA and is a social worker for Family Connections Christian Adoptions in Modesto,

CA. She received her MSW from CSU Stanislaus in 1997.



Paul Roberts (BSW, 1992)

Paul lives in Rexburg with his wife and 7 children, ages 7 to 23. He also has 1 grandchild. Paul teaches in the BYU-Idaho social work program. He also volunteers on the Be-

havioral Health Crisis Center Advisory Board in Idaho Falls. The BHCC is intended to reduce medical and law enforcement costs related to mental health and substance abuse crisis situations.

John Stewart (MSW, 1992)



John lives in Spanish Fork, UT and is the Executive Director of New Haven, which is an adolescent female residential treatment center heavily focused on parent involvement in the healing jour-

ney of families. John has 3 sons, a daughter-in-law, and 1 grandson. He says, "It's great to be a grandpa!" He has a son serving a mission in San Diego, CA. John is a Bishop and is grateful for BYU and his work experience for preparing him for difficult situations. His favorite memory from BYU is being with a great group of classmates. He hopes everyone is doing well.

Class of 1993

Jill Jeppson Johnson (MSW, 1993)

Jill has been married for 13 years and has 3 sons, ages 11, 9, and 6. She lives in Beaverton, OR and is a crisis worker at Kaiser Sunnyside ED. She loves doing crisis work and working with an interdisciplinary team, providing safety assessment for children, adults, and the elderly. Her favorite memory of BYU is having a small MSW class of students and she longs to have a reunion with the class of 1993.



Alumni Updates - continued

Class of 1993 (cont.)



Laura Lockwood (BSW, 1993)

Laura lives in Wadsworth, OH with her husband and 2 teenage sons. Her daughter is serving a mission in the Philippines. As of February 2014, Laura works as a counselor in private

practice for the largest private practice office in Ohio. Her favorite memories of BYU are dorm life at DT, devotionals, religion classes, ward activities, and jogging around campus at night with her boyfriend. She loved BYU and is getting involved in the local alumni chapter!

Annette Proctor (BSW, 1991; MSW, 1993)

Annette lives in Sandy, UT and works as a Medical Social Worker. She and her husband have 3 children, one who is currently serving a mission in Mexico. She is a part of the National Association of Perinatal Social Workers. Her favorite BYU memories are of the close-knit MSW program and having to go to the Standards Committee one summer because she had corn rows in her hair.

Nancy K. Skanchy (MSW, 1993)



Nancy lives in Logan, UT and retired from clinical social work in October 2013. She has 4 grandchildren. Now retired, Nancy is enjoying travelling, hiking in Cache Valley, playing Pickleball, and fixing up an old home. Her favorite memories of BYU are learning and meeting awesome people. A piece of advice she offers is "self-care is more important than others' care."

Class of 1994

Kerrie Witbeck (BSW, 1994)

Kerrie lives in Las Vegas, NV with her husband of 25 years. Her oldest son attends BYU, another son is serving a mission in Norway, and her daughter plays volleyball in high school. She is a Li-

censed Social Worker for the Department of Family Services working in the adoption unit. She served on the Independent Living Committee and the DREAMR committee. Her favorite memory of BYU is walking on campus when it was snowing.

Class of 1996



Nathan Gibbons (MSW, 1996)

Nathan lives in Cedar Hills, UT and has worked at LDS Family Services for almost 19 years. He works as a counseling manager and therapist at the Provo Missionary Training

Center. Nathan's wife works as an RN at the American Fork Hospital. He has a son who just entered the mission field in the Laoag Philippines mission. Nathan's favorite memories of BYU are his wonderful friends and colleagues and the professors who shaped his profession. He enjoys rubbing shoulders with past professors from time to time. His favorite memory was being able to share this profession with his father, Eugene Gibbons.

Taralee Rasmussen Neve (BSW, 1996)



Taralee lives in McKinny, TX and is a stay-at-home mom. She has 4 children, ages 7 to 14. She recently ran a full marathon. Taralee's favorite memories of BYU involve being on the Ballroom and Folk dance teams.

Class of 1998



María Florenxia Bellittieri (BSW, 1998)

Maria lives in Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina with her husband of 14

years and their 3 children, ages 13, 9, and 6. She works as an educational advisor.

Maria's favorite memories of BYU are the library, the mountains, the snow, and the colors of autumn.

Class of 1999

Gina Purcell Hales (BSW, 1997; MSW, 1999)

Gina lives in Provo, UT and is married with one child. She does contract work with a local educational training program. She is currently working on a PhD in Education.

Class of 2001

Sarina Begay Otero (MSW, 2001)

Sarina lives in Chandler, AZ and has 3 children aged 5-years-old and under. She works as a mental health professional in a correctional setting. (If anyone is interested in corrections or forensic works, her employer is always looking for very qualified professionals.) She enjoys being able to have a career, as well as being a mom. Sarina's favorite memories of BYU are spending time with classmates.

Callie Rippon (MSW, 2001)

Callie lives in Murray, UT. She has two adult children and her favorite memories of her time at BYU are being able to pray before all her classes and the Music Department.

Russell Salyards (MSW, 2001)

Russell lives in Boise, ID with his wife and 4 children, all of whom are doing well in their "teenagerdom." He works as a Clinical Social Worker for the Health and Welfare Disabilities Court and Crisis Related Services Team. He primarily works with individuals with developmental disabilities and conducts court-required evaluations for things such as competency, guardianship, or commitment. Russell also works with people who are in crisis, to get them stabilized in the community and to avoid hospitalization or incarceration.

Class of 2002

Angela Howcroft Biesinger (MSW, 2002)

Angela is married with 3 children ages 5, 7, and 11. She lives in Sandy, UT working as an LCSW part time for LDS Family Services, where her focus is working with



women's issues, especially women who were sexually abused as children and wives of pornography addicts. However, Angela reports she "spends most of my time with my children." Her favorite memories of BYU are going to football games and firesides on Sunday nights.

Class of 2003

Kirk Huntsman (MSW, 2003)

Kirk is married with 4 children living in Washington, DC. He is a Hospital Administrator in the United States Air Force. His favorite memory from BYU is meeting his spouse.

Kendra Goering Ratnapradipa (MSW, 2003)

Kendra lives in Carbondale, IL with her husband and 4 children, ages 6 to 10. Her husband teaches at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Kendra is in her first year of the doctoral program in Public Health Studies-Epidemiology at St. Louis University. She works as a graduate research assistant, examining cases involving colorectal cancer.

Class of 2004

Elijah Nielson (MSW, 2004)

Elijah lives in South Jordan, UT with his wife and children. He is a social work PhD student, a crisis worker at the VA hospital, an attorney, a research assistant, and a social work adjunct teacher. His favorite memory from BYU is meeting his wife.

Class of 2005



Julie Goddard Christensen (MSW, 2005)

Julie lives in Chino, CA with her husband and 2 sons, ages 2 and 6 months. She works as a clinician and quality assurance liaison to the clinical staff in a mental health agency. She primarily works with

adults, and her agency is drastically growing and creating new programs to address mental health at various stages. She was lucky to reduce her full-time hours to part-time when she had her sons, in order to be a mom and social worker. Julie's favorite memories of BYU are receiving her acceptance letter to the MSW program, the friendships she made, and the knowledge she gained as a student.

April Hart (BSW, 2005)

April lives in the DC area, specifically in Maryland, and is expecting her 4th child at the end of February. She is a stay-at-home mom. Her favorite memory from BYU is of the social activities like the Spring Fling.

Jana Roberts (BSW, 2005)

Jana lives in Las Vegas, NV with her husband of almost 11 years and her 3 children, ages 5, 3, and 7 months. She is currently not working, and is going back to school to finish her Masters Degree at UNLV in the fall.

Allison Walsh-Day (BSW, 2001; MSW, 2005)

Allison lives in Wiesbaden, Germany. She and her husband are both active duty Army officers. She has 16- and 13-year-old stepsons. In the Army, Allison is an active duty Army social worker. Her favorite memories from BYU are her involvement with other students.



Bethany Weed (MSW, 2005)

Bethany lives in Boise, ID with her husband of 12 years and 4 children, ages 11, 9, 5, and 2. She has a super busy position called "mom," and though the pay isn't very good, the benefits are.

Class of 2006



Ami Moffitt (BSW, 2006)

Ami is living in Phoenix, AZ with her husband and 2-year-old daughter. She is pregnant with twins due

July 5th! She is a contract worker for an adoption agency in Scottsdale, AZ, conducting post-placement visits and writing court reports. Ami also works part time for a senior home care agency as a medical social worker. Her favorite memory of BYU is "springtime when everyone was out on the grass and in the quad."

Laura Wright (MSW, 2006)

Laura Wright is a stay-at-home mother living in Rexburg, ID. She has 2 children ages 3 and 2 and is expecting a boy in May. Her favorite memory from BYU is being accepted into the MSW program.

Class of 2007

Lauren Andrews (BSW, 2007)

Lauren lives in Eagle Mountain, UT with her husband and 3 children, ages 7, 5, and 3. Her husband is a firefighter paramedic with Salt Lake City fire department. Lauren is an owner of and caseworker for Utah Adoption Specialists, providing adoption casework and pre- and post-placement studies. She is also a licensing specialist for the State of Utah, Office of Licensing.

Class of 2008

Jennifer D (Johnson) Adkins (MSW, 2008)



Jennifer lives in Hood River, OR with her husband and 22-month-old son. She is expecting her second baby in April. She currently works as a hospital/

outpatient clinical social worker. Her favorite memories of BYU are graduation day, hanging out as a cohort, and Dr. Spaid's blue hair.



Brynn Bell (MSW, 2008)

Brynn lives in St. George, UT with her husband and 3 children (and one on the way, due this September). She is a Mental Health Therapist and Behaviorist

Supervisor for Utah Behavior Services, LLC. She is a member of Utah Applied

Alumni Updates - continued

Behavior Analysis and the Association for Positive Behavior Support. Brynn just completed the Florida Institute of Technology courses toward her becoming a Certified Behavior Analyst and will be taking the board exam soon. Her favorite memories of BYU are meeting so many wonderful people.



Daniel Furse (BSW, 2006; MSW 2008)

Daniel lives in Willard, UT with his wife of almost 10 years. They have 2 children, 1 and 4

years old, whom they adopted from Kansas. He states, "They are the joys of our lives." He is an independent contractor for mental health services for the Masters Senior Services Program of Valley Behavioral Health in Salt Lake City, UT. He sets his own hours and the number of clients he sees. Daniel currently works with adults (55 years and older) at his office, and in the community. He is involved in Families Supporting Adoption, an organization that helps adopting couples and families learn more about adoption, where he provides support and resources, and educates the community about adoption. His favorite memory of BYU is attending devotional every Tuesday.

Class of 2009

David Slack (MSW, 2009)

David lives in Ogden, UT with his wife. They are expecting their first child in April! David is a medical social worker at McKay-Dee Hospital Center and works in the NICU. His favorite memory from his time at BYU is of all the study groups; the actual studying for the tests was not the fun part but rather, the interactions with fellow classmates.

Lindsay Newbold Studebaker (BSW, 2009)

Lindsay is married with a 1-year-old daughter. She lives in Sandy, UT and is a homemaker and works part-time doing customer service for a scrapbooking company. Her favorite memory of BYU is the

friends she made her freshman year.

Class of 2010



Marta T. Casbeer (MSW, 2010)

Marta lives in North Pole, AK with her husband and their 3-year-old son and newly adopted

daughter. She is a clinical social worker in the Army. Marta loves her social work degree—she has lived in 4 states since 2010 and has easily found jobs regardless of their constant moving. Her favorite memories of BYU are the wonderful friends she made, the professors, and the knowledge she gained.



Devon Lawrence (MSW, 2010)

Devon and his wife have been married for 20 years and have an 18-year-old son and a 17-year-old daughter. They

live in Lakeside, AZ. Devon works as a social worker at PineView Hospital, a 16-bed sub-acute care psychiatric facility. He develops inpatient treatment plans and crisis/safety plans for patients, as well as leads a clinical group and conducts family meetings. His favorite memory is going to devotionals.

Tiffany Mason (Mak) (MSW, 2010)

Tiffany and her husband live in Sandy, UT. She is a research assistant at LDS Family Services headquarters. Her favorite memories of BYU are about the people she got to know.



LaDawn Park (MSW, 2010)

LaDawn lives in Gilbert, AZ and works as a seminary teacher for the LDS Church. She is in the process of heading-up a local non-profit involving the

education, prevention, and early intervention for pornography addiction.

Class of 2011

Richard Alboroto (MSW, 2011)

Richard lives in Honolulu, HI and is working on his PhD in Social Welfare. He is "single and looking for that special someone." He works part time with Consuelo Foundation, which supports programs in Hawaii and the Philippines that prevent and treat abuse, neglect, and the exploitation of children, women, and families. His favorite memories from BYU are the school spirit and great professors. He is grateful for the opportunity he had to study at BYU.



Sam Denton (MSW, 2011)

Sam lives in Davis Junction, IL with his wife and 5 children, the last of which

arrived last August. He works for Deseret Industries as a Development Counselor in the Chicago office. He recently joined the Social Enterprise Alliance. His favorite memory of BYU is getting to know his great cohort and professors.



Tiffany Statham (MSW, 2011)

Tiffany and her husband are almost empty nesters!

They have 5 children: two of their daughters are married, one teaches at Frontier Middle School and one is a pet groomer;

another daughter is serving her mission in Novosibirsk, Russia and will be home in 3 months; their youngest daughter is graduating from high school this year; and their son is studying at UVU and staffs Westlake High School's marching band. Tiffany and her husband live in American Fork, UT, and Tiffany works as a mental health therapist at UVRMC Inpatient Psychiatry. Her favorite

memory from BYU is when she was studying in the Wilk and over the intercom someone said, "It's 10:10 on 10/10/10!" It happened again the following year. Tiffany loved receiving her education at BYU and thanks all the professors and staff.

Jennifer Johns Widdison (MSW, 2011)
Jennifer lives in Horn Lake, MS with her husband Ryan. She is a medical social worker at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Class of 2012

Rosey Bassett (MSW, 2012)
Rosey lives in West Valley City, UT and works as a "team lead" at Valley Behavioral Health in Tooele, UT where she supervises the Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse programs. She also continues to mentor a child in foster care through the Safety Net Mentor Program. Rosey reports she "is single and looking for a husband!"

Rebecca Bishop (BSW, 2005; MSW, 2012)
Rebecca lives in Provo, UT and is a school social worker and is part of the Junior Hope Squads & Medical Coalition. Her favorite memories of BYU are her figure skating class and the friendships she made. She appreciates not only the education and experience she gained from BYU, but also the life changing things she learned there.

Colette Dalton (MSW, 2012)
Colette currently lives in Boise, ID and is working as a Development Counselor at Deseret Industries. She is excited about receiving her LCSW! Her parents are serving a mission in Brazil.

Ron Squire (MSW, 2012)
Ron and his wife live in Springville, UT with their 2-year-old son. His is a clinical therapist at a residential treatment center called Maple Lake Academy, working with adolescent boys on the autism spectrum and other students with a variety of learning disorders, as well as with their families. His favorite memories of BYU are the class discussions especially from Dr. Maret's classes. Ron works with residential staff who are looking into graduate school, and he always encourages them to apply to BYU's MSW program because of

the training, education, and experience he gained there.

Jessica Williamson (BSW, 2009; MSW, 2012)



Jessica and her husband live in Sandy, UT and are new parents to a baby boy. She works a few hours a week at LDS Family Services in Riverton, UT, specializing in work with children and adolescents. She also works as a

director at Aspiro Adventure Wilderness Therapy doing program development and family therapy. Jessica sits on the board for Utah's chapter of the International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals, which facilitates ongoing education, professional networking events, and community awareness of eating disorder treatment. One of her favorite memories from BYU is carpooling with Jessica Woodbury and Katie Barber during the MSW program.

Class of 2013

Zachary Duvall (MSW, 2013)



Zachary lives in Provo, UT and works at LDS Family Services, in the Riverton office. He reports that he has "a brother on a mission, two siblings coming to BYU soon, a sister working as a student secretary for the BYU MSW program, and just got a new niece last year." Zachary further states he is "still searching for his spouse!" His favorite memory from BYU is creating wonderful friendships with his classmates.

Ricci Howell (MSW, 2013)

Ricci lives in Orem, UT, with a potential move in the future, depending on her husband's graduate school decision. They have an 18-month-old daughter and are expecting their second baby this summer. She is a full time mom and a part-time

medical social worker for Intermountain Healthcare. Her favorite memory from BYU is creating a wonderful bond with her classmates.

Garrett Pace (MSW, 2013)



Garrett lives in Plainsboro, NJ with his wife and 2 children. He is a research specialist at

Princeton University and an adjunct lecturer at Rutgers University. One of his favorite memories of BYU is sitting in long classes in the basement of the Clark building with his classmates—the cohort made those long days enjoyable.

Julie Lutz Potter (MSW, 2013)

Julie lives in Pleasant Grove, UT with her husband and new baby, Sofie, born October 14 last year. She works full time at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center on the Med/Surg and Medical Oncology floors, as a medical social worker. Her favorite memory of BYU was the 2011 white elephant Christmas party.

Paul Shelton (MSW, 2013)



Paul lives in Orem, UT working for Deseret Industries and LDS Employment Center as a development counselor. He has two children: a daughter and a son. He

works with people who have mental illnesses, physical disabilities, substance abuse problems, and poverty mentality to help them become as self-reliant as possible and gain employment. His favorite memory of BYU is learning his craft.



Alumni Updates - continued

Class of 2014

Kristin Byers (MSW, 2014)

Kristin lives in Wake Forest, NC working as the supervisor of an Intensive In-Home Therapy treatment team, which provides services for 8 families whose children are at risk of being removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect or behavioral concerns.



Kami Huff (MSW, 2014)

Kami lives in Alpine, UT, but is building a home in Bluffdale, UT. She and her husband just adopted a little boy

named Archer. The adoption is final in May and they will go through the temple in July! Kami is a medical social worker float at IMC in Murray, UT. Her favorite memory from BYU is being "attacked" by Dr. Marett in Crisis Intervention.

Alice Nielsen (MSW, 2014)

Alice lives in Pleasant Grove, UT with her husband. She is working full time as an adoption caseworker and conducts home studies while her husband attends BYU. Her favorite memories of BYU are graduation and hearing different stories and experiences from classmates. She reports that she "loved the program and misses you all!"



Chelsea White (MSW, 2014)

Chelsea and her husband live in Provo, UT, where her husband works as a computer

programmer and she works at the Utah State Hospital. She reports she "specifically works with teen girls with severe mental health struggles and does a lot of Trauma Focused CBT and DBT." Chelsea and her husband recently got a cat, who is full of energy and loves to sleep cuddled next to her head.

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