

Dr. Gene Shumway Social Justice and Advocacy Paper

Social justice is a core value of social work¹ and a foundational principle to accompany the practice of social work at all levels. As an MSW student progresses through the program at BYU, he or she should increasingly embrace and learn to promote social justice in their practice.²

In honor of Dr. Gene Shumway (see next page for biography), the School has created an opportunity to recognize students who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to social justice in their academic internships during spring and summer terms. They will have chances to discuss this important social work value and how it can be applied in their field seminars during their internship. Students are further invited (not required) to share their social justice experiences with their peers and the faculty upon their return to campus in the following fall semester, by writing a paper to be considered for recognition by faculty.

Guidelines for the paper:

- **Sole Authorship:** The paper is written by a sole second year student.
- **Length & Style:** The paper should be 6-7 pages in length, double spaced, including up to one page of references. APA style is recommended.
- **Content:**
 - First, discuss the role of social justice in the history and current practice of social work, particularly as it is applied in clinical settings with vulnerable populations.
 - Next, discuss the situation or condition that raised the social justice issue in the internship setting, how the student responded or contributed to the agency's response to the situation, and the result of the social justice application (or not).
 - Finally, describe the student's reflections on the experience and some thoughts on how he/she hopes to continue to practice social justice as a professional social worker, and what the anticipated challenges and rewards may be.
- **Submission:** Please submit electronic papers to Nanci Shumpert, Graduate Secretary, by October 15th (maw@byu.edu). Awardees will be recognized at a lunch during Fall semester.

Outstanding papers will receive cash awards as follows:

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

¹ NASW (2008). Code of Ethics. Available at <http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/default.asp>

² CSWE (2015). Education Program and Accreditation Standards. Available at <http://www.cswe.org/File.aspx?id=81660>.

About Dr. Shumway



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. A great champion of social justice, he served on numerous committees and boards of agencies serving vulnerable and oppressed populations throughout the state.