

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Social Work Program

April 2016

Celebrate

**SOCIAL
WORK
MONTH!**



SOCIAL WORK

FORGING SOLUTIONS
OUT OF CHALLENGES

Oakland University Social Work Program participated in the promotion of Social Work Month by celebrating our students and alumni “It’s exciting to see so much passion our students have in celebration of social work month” according to Program Director Maria Beam.

Celebrated each March, National Professional Social Work Month is an opportunity for social workers across the country to turn the spotlight on the profession and highlight the important contributions they make to society.

Our nation’s more than 600,000 social workers have amazing tenacity and talent. They confront some of the most challenging issues facing individuals, families, communities and society and forge solutions that help people reach their full potential and make our nation a better place to live.

We celebrate the contributions of social workers during National Social Work Month in March to recognize the hard work of our students, field instructors and alumni.

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Social Work Student Leaving for the **PEACE CORPS**

The Social Work Program at Oakland University is proud to one of our students, Christopher Korneder's acceptance Peace Corps. Talking with Chris, he explains the process to apply to the Peace Corps was not as simple as he anticipated. Korneder says he was 19 years old when he first started to consider the idea of joining the Peace Corps.

"I knew I wanted to travel and experience the world in a way that would humble me," Korneder said.

With earning his Bachelor's Degree in April, Korneder explains the timing to apply and enter the Peace Corps seemed to fit just right into this period of his life.

"I felt as though I was mentally ready to apply and I was in a place in my life that it made sense," Korneder said, "I do not have a mortgage or kids, so I don't have a lot holding me here in Michigan."

Korneder discusses the application process and states it is not an easy one.

"I wish I could say it (the process) was easy," Korneder said, "the timeline is different for every applicant depending on which placement they apply for. I started to fill out the application in early May 2015. You can start the process and save your application their website, which was nice. I

finally had everything done and submitted my application on May 21, 2015. The Peace Corps says it only takes an hour but I redid my personal statement about five times and had multiple people read it. After that, it was a waiting game."

Korneder said after weeks of waiting and frequently checking his email, he received word he was under consideration on June 9, 2015.





“Everything is done by email, which can be frustrating sometimes,” Korneder stated, “A few days later, on June 13, 2015, I got an email requesting an interview. After a few email exchanges with the person that was going to interview me, we set the date for July 22, 2015. So now I had over a month to overthink and prepare for my interview. The interview was going to take place over Skype. The interview lasted an hour and a half. Now it was back to obsessively checking my email. I finally got my invitation to serve on September 11, 2015.”

Korneder also mentions even though the acceptance to the Peace Corps is pretty much official, the medical clearance can always alter it.

Korneder is proud to say he is medically cleared for service.

Korneder’s breakdown of the timeline includes:

- Applied 5/21/15
- Under consideration 6/9/15
- Interview Request 6/13/15
- Interview 7/22/15
- Invitation 9/11/15
- Medical task become available 11/27/15
- Submitted all tasks 12/10/15
- Medically Cleared 12/17/15
- Departure 6/14/16



Maria Beam, program director said, “this is a really exciting opportunity for Chris to use the skills he developed during his time in social work program.” “The Peace Corps is the perfect vehicle for students to address global and international social issues”, Beam explained.

Q&A

with

MO ROCCA

Erica Foster, communications editor for OU's Social Work Program had the privilege of interviewing *CBS Correspondent*, Mo Rocca for the Oakland University Social Work newsletter. Mr. Rocca is currently the host of several shows, including *The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation*, filmed at The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan, *My Grandmother's Ravioli*, and is a panelist on *Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!*, to name a few! In my interview with Mr. Rocca, we discussed his career and many accomplishments, along with his thoughts on US current events.

1. Are you familiar with Oakland University?

I was not familiar with Oakland University ... until I looked it up online. It appears to be a lovely place and historic, too!

2. Have you seen the national news coverage on the Flint Water Crisis? What do you think about the emergency manager law that led to it? What is your opinion on Governor Snyder's reaction to criticism concerning his role in the crisis?

Of course the news is distressing. I sound like my parents (not a bad thing at all) when I say I can't believe this is happening in the United States. I'm not informed on the politics of it, though, so I can't speculate on who specifically failed the people of Flint.

3. You host *Innovation Nation*, *My Grandmother's Ravioli* and are the correspondent for CBS [Sunday Morning](#)! What do you like best about each show?

Well The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation is special to me because I get to be part of an effort to inspire young people to, as we say on the show, "dream big and don't quit." We're all relying on the youngest generation to keep making the world a better place by innovating. (A lot of people mistakenly think of great inventions as things of the long ago past. Of course that's not true.) If this show can make even the slightest difference inspiring [tomorrow's](#) Thomas Edison or Steve Jobs, then all the better.

My Grandmother's Ravioli has been a very personal project for me. I loved my grandmother and was very close to her but never learned to cook from her. I wanted to go out across the country and learn to cook from America's grandparents and, more importantly, learn about their values, what has mattered to them in life. That's exactly what I and a group of fantastically talented collaborators got to do. I will never forget the grandparents I've met, many of whom I still correspond with.



CBS [Sunday Morning](#) is like going back to college and taking only electives (which I kind of wish I'd done when I actually went to college!). Every story I do is an opportunity to stretch myself and learn something new. (I gravitate to any project where I can learn something and hopefully get smarter.) So one week it might be a story about an obscure president (I'm a big American history buff) and the next it could be a profile of Maggie Smith, the next a story about Bananas. Maybe doing this job will keep me from losing my mind. I certainly have to stay on the ball.

4. Where is the most interesting place you visited for your job?

Tough question. Fort Jefferson in the far west Florida Keys is pretty fascinating. A giant fort built after the War of 1812, abandoned soon after the Civil War. Now it's a giant military installation out in the middle of nowhere. Eerie.

5. How did you choose your line of work?

Well I try only to do those things that interest me. It's not always easy to discern that, though. I'm interested in a lot of things. And there's always the outside "noise" telling you what you "should" be doing. So it can be hard to see through the fog and make out what you really want. At least it's that way for me. But I can say that what I do now fulfills me more than what I've ever done before.

6. You're a big history buff! If you could pick one historical person to meet and interview, who would you choose and why? How do you think he/she would advise to handle today's issues, such as homeless people, immigration, security and terrorism?

I'm a big fan of Teddy Roosevelt. He was able to captivate and move people without a war to rally them to his side. That's no small feat and he's virtually alone in that. I suppose I'd ask him more generally what he thinks the role of government should be. *How much or little* the government should do seems to define a whole lot of crucial issues.

7. Throughout your career, what accomplishment are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of creating and hosting *My Grandmother's Ravioli*.

8. As a person with a physical disability, I have always dreamed of visiting New York. My question to you as how accessible do you think the city is for people with mobility issues to get around in wheelchairs? Are most buildings and attractions in New York easily accessible?

Well I should probably pay closer attention to how accessible this city is to those with physical disabilities. I'd like to think the city rates well when it comes to that, and not only because I love this city! I certainly see people with disabilities every day making their way through town.

9. From an out-of-state person's point of view, what is your opinion of the city of Detroit? What do you like most about Detroit? What do you dislike about this city?

I haven't been able to spend much time in Detroit since our shooting days in Dearborn are long. I've been to a few restaurants downtown and I've liked those quite a bit. The city seems to have a lot of pride. And if our crew is any indication, people from Detroit have great attitudes.





Oakland University's 2016 Keeper of the Dream Award Winners announced. The university's director for the Center of Multicultural Initiatives, Omar Brown-El, says, "The Keeper of the Dream awards are one way we honor Dr. King's legacy here at Oakland University each year. It is also a celebration to honor some outstanding students who reflect Dr. King's vision on our campus."

This year's Keynote Speaker was LeVar Burton. If you grew up in the 1980's or 1990's, you may remember him as the host on the hit children's television show, *Reading Rainbow* (1983-2006). Before that, Burton was most known for his role as "Kunta Kinte" on the television series, *Roots* (1977), and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1986).



One Keeper of the Dream Winner, Christina Root, says she found applying for the Keeper of the Dreamer Award to be an intimidating process but the lessons on cultural competence, diversity, and the importance of advocacy learned in her first few months being in the Social Work Program drove her to the need to apply. "I am so grateful that I did go for it because the two moments of opening my 'congratulations' letter and accepting the award on stage next to President Hynd, are times that will stay with me forever," Root says, "they will continue to serve as motivators for more accomplishments, not only just for myself, but for others as well, throughout the rest of my social work career."



Tasha Tinglan is a Oakland University Social Work student, focusing on Child Welfare. As a Saginaw, Michigan, Tinglan has experienced many social struggles that inspired her to become an advocate for the less advantaged. She has played many roles in leadership on OU's campus for University Housing and the Center for Multicultural Initiatives (CMI). Working in University Housing, it is important to Tinglan to provide an open environment for members of every social, racial and cultural backgrounds. Former coordinator of CMI CORE program, Arthur Hampton has watched as Tinglan grew into an effective leader. "I could see her passion for advocacy grow as her understanding of class, race, privilege and culture grew from experience from working with students," Hampton said. Travis Gibler, residence director says the work Tinglan presents is an example of the main goal Dr. Luther King Jr. enforced in his speech—the vision of forming relationships to encourage positive change.



Myshia Lies-Moultrie is a Social Work student. Through her experiences at Oakland University, Myshia has learned to see the world through other people's eyes. The social work major has drawn praise from peers and colleagues for her empathetic personality and strong commitment to principles of diversity, equity and inclusion. Liles-Moultrie shares her knowledge and perspectives through her roles as a student assistant in OU's Office of Multicultural Initiatives, a resident assistant in University Housing and a peer mentor in OU Pre-College Programs. She is also a member of the Social Responsibility Pillar in University Housing, which focuses on social justice and inclusion issues, and has taken part in many training opportunities offered through the Center for Multicultural Initiatives.

Congratulations to all the winners!

SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS RESPOND TO THE FLINT CRISIS

Flint, Michigan is currently experiencing a water crisis. The emergency was declared October 2015 after many residents of the city reported the water having “unusual” tastes and smells. To top it off, many pediatricians reported test results in children showing lead in their blood after consuming water. Genesee County soon advised residents not to drink or bathe with the water unless it passed fully through a confirmed filter. Flint has been facing this issue since 2014, when the Flint water source was switched from the Detroit River to the Flint River. This corrosive water destroyed the pipes causing the water to be contaminated with lead causing serious health issues for its residents. Many doctors reported up to 12,000 people with very high levels of lead in their blood, due to consuming and bathing in the water. Additionally this change in the city’s water is potentially linked to the deaths of at least 10 people suffering from Legionnaire’s disease and affecting 77 others. The city was declared to be in a state of emergency on January 5, 2016

Oakland University Social Work program is doing our share to help the residents of Flint in their Water Crisis and encouraged students to participate in our donation. Donations were accepted at Varner Hall on Oakland University’s main campus or at the Anton/Frankel Center at the Mount Clemens Campus.

DONATE WATER to the RESIDENTS OF FLINT

The Social Work Program

**is accepting BOTTLED WATER
DONATIONS!**

**Drop off sites: 512B Varner Hall on main campus or at 105 Anton/
Frankel Center in Mount Clemens until February 19th**



*Thank You
for Your Support!*

Dave Sexton has been an asset to Oakland University's Social Work Program since he began in 2014. He is a “dedicated student who consistently achieves high grades”, said program director, Maria Beam.

Maria added “Dave is a role model to his fellow peers as he embodies professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm toward this profession”. Often he provides a supportive ear to fellow students as they navigate through their own classes and field experiences. Moreover, he is passionate about advocacy, supporting individuals with disabilities and fighting for social justice.



Dave is an active member of the social work club and is committed to serving his community. Currently, he is interning at Affirmations and hopes to attend Wayne State University for his MSW in the community development and leadership.

Dave was honored at a special award program to be held on Thursday, March 24, 2016, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the University of Michigan School of Social Work.



NASW

STUDENT OF THE YEAR



CAPS

Community Action Poverty Simulation

Heather El-Khoury, LMSW, Coordinator of Field and Support, says she is excited to be bringing the CAPS (Community Action Poverty Simulation) to Oakland University. El-Khoury explains about CAPS. “It is a tool used to educate about the daily trials of a low-income family,” she says, “it is not a game, but a simulation that participates role-play life of low-income families by engaging in a number of exercises and then a debriefing at the end to share their feelings, experiences, and talk about what they learned about people in poverty.” According to El-Khoury, the concept of CAPS is to educate those working with poverty stricken families to understand and be able to empathize with this reality.

In November, El-Khoury attended a training on how to facilitate the training, and intends to provide this opportunity to students in the future.

To request a poverty simulation at your agency contact Heather El-Khoury at 248-370-3914

RETHINK POVERTY.

Oakland University is offering a **CEU PROGRAM**

In Summer 2016, the Oakland University Social Work Department will be offering a Continuing Education Units (CEU) Program. All licensed social workers are required to complete 45 hours of CEU by the state of Michigan every three years. CEU is not limited to just social workers but is available to everyone else who is interested in the presented topic.

In 2015, the sessions were held at the Anton/Frankel Center in Mt. Clemens.

- Topics presented at CEU in 2015 were:
- Impact of the Internet and Social Media on Mental Health and Social Functioning
- Cultural Competence: A Journey from Self-Awareness to Practice.
- Helping, not "saving": The Social Worker's Role in Empowering Intimate Partner Abuse Survivors

Heather El-Khoury, LMSW, Coordinator of Field and Student Support, says both students and professionals in the community attended the CEU sessions.



FIVE SPRING/SUMMER CEU SESSIONS

- April 26, 2016, 10am-12pm "Effective Grant Writing with a Well-Designed Proposal" Katharine Morgan 2 CEUs
- May 10, 2016, 9am-12pm "Conflict Resolution in the Digital Age" Janet Joiner 3 CEUs
- May 18, 2016, 9am-12pm "Online Memoriam: Coping with Grief, Loss & Anger in Cyberspace" Janet Joiner 3 CEUs (1 in Ethics)
- May 24, 2016, 10am-12pm "How to Recruit and Retain Effective Staff" Katharine Morgan 2 CEUs
- July 15, 2016, 9am-12pm "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder; Making the Invisible Visible" Amy Park-Goeddeke 3 CEUs

For more information contact Heather El-Khoury 248-370-3914.